



A GUIDE FOR NEW PUPILS AND PARENTS

2026

Brownedge St Mary's
Catholic High School

Headteacher
Mrs Nicola Oddie BA (Hons) NPQH



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3 - Mission Statement



Let Your Light Shine

If we love others, we live in the light (1 John 2:10)

Inspired by our Gospel Values we have a shared responsibility to

- create an environment of welcome, love and respect for each member of our learning family.
- develop the unique God-given gifts and talents of all, striving for excellence in everything we do.
- live out our commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community.
- nurture the journey of faith and discovery for all.
- celebrate and reflect on the love of God which is at the heart of all we are.

4 - Headteacher's Welcome

Choosing your child's secondary school is an important decision, one that will have taken a lot of consideration, and we are pleased that you have chosen to join our school community here at Browndedge St Mary's.

What amazes me most about our school is the way staff go beyond the ordinary to ensure children not only do well, but have an enriched experience of life. As a Catholic school, we are proud to base our ethos and principles on the example of Christianity, and work hard to ensure that the whole child is nurtured. Our Mission Statement: "Let your light shine" captures our belief that all children have talents and gifts, and that these talents should be developed and shared with others so they "shine".

We maintain a happy and disciplined environment, where achievement in and out of the classroom is encouraged, and standards are high. Since staff know the potential of each of our pupils, we can ensure that skills are carefully developed, and full potential is achieved.

Good results require tremendous effort and commitment. Staff not only deliver excellent results but find time to run an amazing variety of trips, extra-curricular activities and clubs. The relationship between staff and pupils is a powerful link to success - forging strong bonds, which Ofsted has described as 'outstanding'.

One of the most important things you can do as parents is to encourage your child to take part in the wider life of school. Our house system provides even more opportunities for our children to develop and share their talents. We look forward to your children being part of our community.

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher



5 - Key Staff

Headteacher	Mrs N Oddie
Senior Deputy Headteacher	Mrs C Godbold
Deputy Headteacher	Miss T Mault
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs A Crew
Assistant Headteacher/Transition Lead	Mr M Crusham
Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo	Miss J Oldham
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Miss C Mellor
Transition/Admissions Officer	Mrs V Chester
Deputy SENDCo	Mrs M Tyrer

Heads of House

Bosco	Drexel	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa
Mrs Bland	Mrs Canfield	Mr Sankey	Mr Heraty	Mr Hayhurst

6 - Meet the Team



Mrs Oddie, Headteacher

Hello, and welcome to Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School. My name is Mrs Oddie, and I am privileged to be the Headteacher of our fantastic school. I cannot wait to welcome you into our family and watch you flourish as you let your light shine. I have worked at Brownedge for all of my teaching career, and throughout that time I have witnessed first-hand just how special and welcoming our school community is. I look forward to seeing you on your first day!



Mrs Godbold, Senior Deputy Headteacher

Welcome to Brownedge. My name is Mrs Godbold, and I am the Senior Deputy Headteacher at school. I also teach Science, so hopefully we will get the chance to do some experiments and make some discoveries together! I promise you will be well looked after at our school as we help you develop your God-given talents. If you ever need to find me, my office is in front reception next to Mrs Oddie.



Miss Mault, Deputy Headteacher

Hi, I'm Miss Mault and I am Deputy Headteacher at school. I also teach History, which means I love discovering things about the past! I look forward to sharing that passion with you when you join us. I also oversee the Careers work we do in school alongside Mr Richardson, so if you ever have a question about jobs, colleges or the future, we are the people to ask! I wish you all the very best as you begin your Brownedge journey.



Miss Oldham, Assistant Headteacher/SEND Co

My name is Miss Oldham. My office is in the ELC, which is the building separate from the main school building, and I will always be there to support any pupils who need some additional help and guidance. I love hiking, spinning and the outdoors. I also love reading and my favourite book collection is Harry Potter. I look forward to seeing you soon and welcoming you to our school.



Mr Crusham, Assistant Headteacher/SLT Lead for Year 7

Hi, I'm Mr Crusham. If you are joining us in Year 7, I have already visited many of you in your current primary schools and am really looking forward to you starting your journey with us in September. If you are joining us later in your school career, I am equally eager to welcome you to our school. I promise you will be well looked after and cared for. I can't wait to see you all flourish and grow in the image of our house saints and school values, by continuing to 'Let your Light Shine' in all you do.

7 - Meet the Team



Mrs Crew, Assistant Headteacher

Welcome to Brownedge! I am Mrs Crew, and I am Assistant Headteacher. I also teach English. I love reading, and I look forward to helping you develop your reading and writing skills in the coming years. Reading is truly one of the greatest things you can do to expand your knowledge of the world, and it is something we really champion at Brownedge. If you ever need to find me, my office is at the bottom of the English stairs, next to R3.



Mr Banks, Curriculum and Assessment Manager

Hi, I'm Mr Banks, and I am the Curriculum and Assessment Manager at Brownedge. I am in charge of putting together your timetables, and while they may look daunting at first, I assure you you'll learn your way around school very quickly. I also look after exams in school, so when you come to do your GCSEs, I will be the person to provide you with all the information you'll need when preparing for those. I teach Computing and Business Studies, I am a big Preston North End fan.



Miss Mellor, DSL/Mental Health Lead

Hi, my name is Miss Mellor and I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school. My job is to make sure you are all safe, in and out of school, and to also help anyone struggling with their mental health. I will work to ensure the right support is in place where needed, so if you are worried about anything, are at risk of harm, or just need someone to talk to, please come and find me!



Mrs Chester, Admissions and Transition Officer/Head's PA

Hello, welcome to Brownedge. My name is Mrs Chester and I look forward to seeing you on your first day. I have already been working on getting to know you as I have been compiling all the application forms and admitting you to our wonderful school. I have spoken to many parents answering lots of questions and I will continue to look after you when you arrive. I can usually be found in the main office.



Mr Burrows, School Business Manager

Hi, and welcome to our school. I am Mr Burrows, and my job is School Business Manager. I work with the Senior Leaders in school to make sure everyone at Brownedge has what they need to let their light shine. My children have been pupils at Brownedge, so I know as a parent just what a fantastic community this is to be a part of. I wish you all the best for your time with us.

8 - Meet the Heads of House



Mrs Bland, Head of Bosco House

Welcome to all new pupils joining Bosco House. We are proud of our house and its values and I am proud to be your Head of House. St John Bosco is my favourite Saint as he had a great love and compassion for the young particularly those that needed it the most and that is what we strive to achieve together.

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



Mrs Canfield, Head of Drexel House

St Katharine Drexel is my favourite Saint because she was always willing to help those that were less fortunate and stood up for racial injustice continually striving for unity. All pupils in Drexel will warmly welcome you and together we can make a change for good.

"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



Mr Sankey, Head of Kolbe House

Kolbe House are eagerly waiting to welcome you. As your Head of House, I can't wait to see you all flourish and grow in the image of our House Saint, demonstrating qualities such as courage, hope, justice, patience and kindness on your journey to becoming full members of our Brownedge family.

"A single act of love makes the soul return to life" - St Maximilian Kolbe



Mr Heraty, Head of Romero House

As Head of Romero House it is my honour to represent and support all our pupils in the light of Oscar Romero's example. He is a wonderful example to us all as he courageously stood up for those who were less fortunate in the face of adversity and persecution at the risk of his own life. I am looking forward to welcoming you to our Romero family.

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

– St Oscar Romero



Mr Hayhurst, Head of Teresa House

Pupils in Teresa house are guaranteed a warm welcome and a friendly face to help you settle in to your new school. I understand how daunting this may be, but I will support you in every way possible. I love Mother Teresa as she demonstrated great generosity and humility in giving to her community and was fearless in everything she did.

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." - St Teresa of Calcutta

9 – Browndedge loves Challenge!

As your son or daughter starts at Browndedge, you will naturally want them to meet their potential and have high aspirations for what they will achieve. We agree with you! We want to focus developing the talents of every child.

We will be helping your child to develop key skills such as determination, self-reliance and persistence. These skills have been shown to have a positive impact on future career progression and will help your child to find out the right future career path for them. We call this the “Growth Mindset”. We will work on challenge and academic goals; when they progress to the upper years we focus on ‘getting the mindset’ that they will need for the next stage of their education.

Just because we are an 11-16 school, doesn’t mean that we don’t talk to pupils about universities. Around 36% of pupils nationally go on to university, and foundation degrees are a great entry point for those who feel that university might not be for them. We have strong links with Liverpool Hope University and UCLAN, and are involved in helping pupils gain that really important experience of going to university through trips and residential visits as well as summer schools. We also focus on guidance, information and advice; giving individual pupils specific support for aspirations for higher education. And there is no need to worry about financing university: we cover all the financial aspects of higher education, and show pupils how their increased earnings will mean they are better off if they study for a degree. We also talk about apprenticeships, and organise visits to local employers. We want our pupils to aim high, and everything we do together as teachers and parents will be about helping them to grow and fulfil their potential.

Your son/daughter will have many opportunities to get involved in both universal and targeted activities – for example, university & apprenticeship visits which are focused on activities, and learning in the specific subjects your child is interested in.

We start these activities from Year 7, and do not wait until Year 10 to start thinking about careers. It’s never too soon to start thinking about the next stage of education.

We use our Pupil Premium Funding (this is money the government gives us for children who qualify for free school meals) to help pay for these activities. If you have been eligible for free meals in the last few years, please do tell us, as we can claim more money to help your child. (This also applies to children who have ever been in public care or whose parents or carers are/were in the forces.)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



10 - SRE at Browndedge St Mary's

The full Sex and Relationships policy document is available on the school web site:

We believe all young people are part of God's creation and need to be valued and affirmed. We believe parents have a vital role to play in helping their children grow and mature, and we aim to work in partnership with them. Sex and Relationship education at St Mary's is rooted in the Christian faith and is founded on Christ's example of self-giving love. Respect is a core value to be shared by all participants in SRE lessons. We recognise that our pupils come from varied social, family and faith backgrounds and we respect this diversity. We believe that the ideal family life is one which provides unconditional love, commitment and security, and this is the ideal we hope to promote through our teaching. We recognise that everyone should be free to express themselves through love without fear of discrimination, no matter what their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Research shows that pupils who receive effective Sex & Relationships education tend to enter into sexual relationships later than those who do not. We aim to provide pupils with the values, knowledge, skills and understanding to respect themselves and others.

We have therefore planned a programme of Sex and Relationships education from which we hope your child will benefit. The Key Stage 3 programme includes sessions on the following topics: looking after their bodies & personal hygiene, internet safety, feeling positive about entering adulthood, recognising stress and how to deal with it, making safe choices, being assertive, the biology of reproduction, and the core values of family life in all its forms.

Parents play a crucial and primary role in helping their children grow and the school aims to complement their role. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex & Relationships Education programme provided by the school, except for those parts included in the Statutory National Curriculum.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Godbold, Assistant Headteacher.

11 - Uniform requirements

BOYS

- School branded blue blazer with embroidered school badge
- Black school trousers
- Blue School shirt
- Plain Black socks
- School branded house tie (Please be aware that School ties can only be purchased directly from school at a cost of £6 each.)



GIRLS

- School branded blue blazer with embroidered school badge
- School branded black skirt embroidered with school badge (Skirt lengths MUST BE NO higher than 5 cm above the knee)

OR

- Black tailored straight school trousers
- Blue School shirt / blouse
- Plain Black socks / tights with no patterns
- School branded house tie (Please be aware that School ties can only be purchased directly from school at a cost of £6 each.)

** Trousers must be plain black, full-length, tailored, straight-leg school trousers. They should be made from traditional woven trouser fabric with a waistband, zip and/or button fastening. Leggings, jeggings, lycra/stretch fashion trousers, flared or bell-bottom styles, and sportswear-style or elasticated-waist trousers are not permitted. The Headteacher reserves the right to determine whether trousers meet the school's uniform expectations.



Our recommended supplier for school uniform and PE kit is:

Justs Clothing, 53 Pope Lane, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9BY, Tel: 01772 743807

Top One Uniforms, 39 St John's Centre, Preston, PR1 1FB, Tel: 01772 828616.

*Please be aware that School ties can only be purchased directly from school at a cost of £6 each.

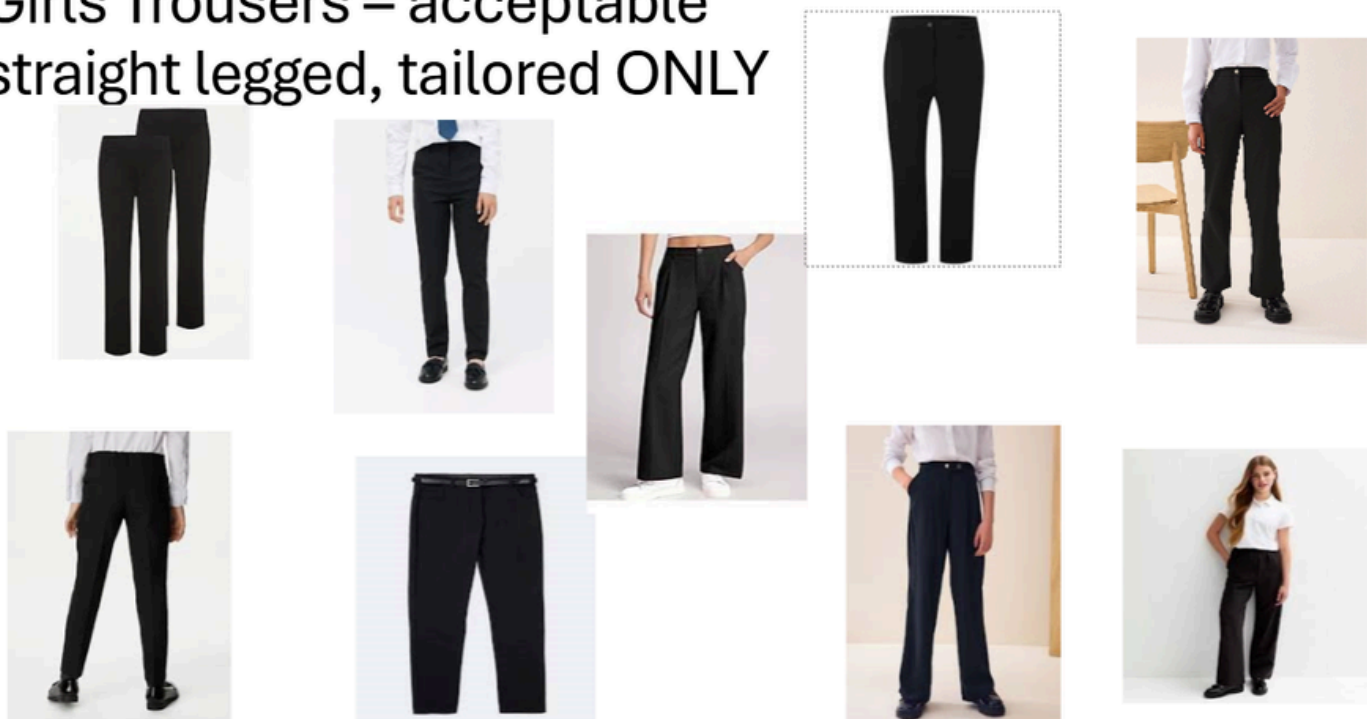
Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked, especially on uniform items, PE kits and outdoor coats.

Lost Property is taken to the Pupil Reception Office and can be collected during break/lunch times.



12 - Girls trousers examples

Girls Trousers – acceptable straight legged, tailored ONLY



Girls Trousers – not acceptable



** Trousers must be plain black, full-length, tailored, straight-leg school trousers. They should be made from traditional woven trouser fabric with a waistband, zip and/or button fastening. Leggings, jeggings, lycra/stretch fashion trousers, flared or bell-bottom styles, and sportswear-style or elasticated-waist trousers are not permitted. The Headteacher reserves the right to determine whether trousers meet the school's uniform expectations.

13 - Footwear examples

**These styles of shoes
are allowed**



**These shoes are
not allowed**



14 - Sports Uniform & Equipment

In order to protect their everyday clothing and in the interests of personal hygiene, pupils will require a full set of PE kit. It is essential that all pupils have the correct PE kit, which they will use in lessons and when representing the school at various events.



GIRLS

Compulsory:

- School branded sky blue short sleeved PE top
- Unbranded/plain navy shorts/skort/leggings
- Navy PE socks
- Trainers
- Shin pads

Optional:

- School branded navy shorts/skort/leggings
- School branded navy $\frac{1}{4}$ zip performance top
- School branded navy tracksuit pants
- Gum shields (highly recommended)
- Football boots (highly recommended)

BOYS

Compulsory:

- School branded sky blue short sleeved PE top
- Unbranded/plain navy shorts
- Navy PE socks
- Trainers
- Shin pads

Optional:

- School branded navy shorts
- School branded navy $\frac{1}{4}$ zip performance top
- School branded navy tracksuit pants
- Gum shields (highly recommended)
- Football boots (highly recommended)



- Appropriate Astroturf trainers are required for use on the Astroturf.
- Outdoor trainers and / or marking soles are not allowed in the Sports Hall.
- No jewellery of any kind may be worn in PE. This includes body piercings.
- The use of shin pads and gum shields are highly recommended when taking part in activities such as rugby, hockey and football.
- All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name so that in the event of loss, items can be returned to the pupil.

15 - PE shorts examples

PE Shorts (Unbranded)- Acceptable



PE Shorts (Branded)- Not Acceptable

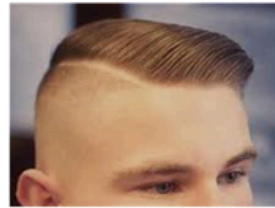


16 - Hairstyles not allowed

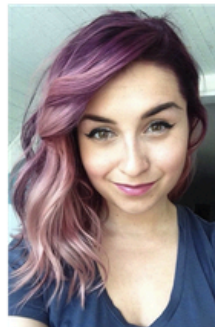
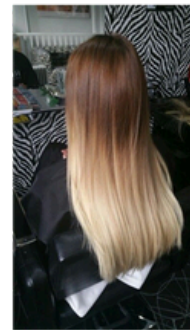
“Extreme hair styles are not allowed” such as: shaved too short at the sides, tramlines, other shapes cut into hair.



Minimum shave grade 2



“Extreme hair styles are not allowed” such as: bright colours, shaven hair sections, extensions, holiday braiding etc.

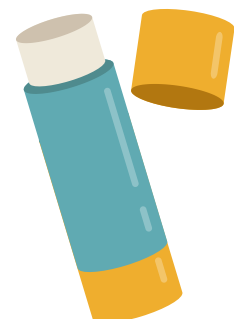
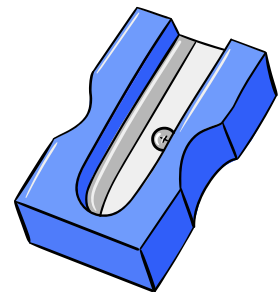
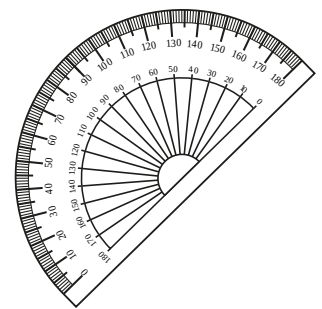
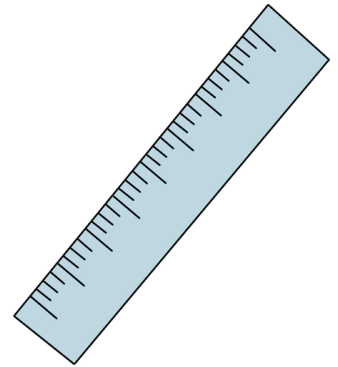


17 - Books and Stationery

Please provide your child with the following equipment.

Tick item when purchased:

Black ball-point pens	
Ruler	
Pencils	
Pencil sharpener	
Pair of compasses	
Protractor (small, clear plastic)	
Set square (small)	
Scientific calculator (e.g. Casio FX-83GTPLUS)	
Useful:	
Coloured pencils	
Glue stick	
Highlighter pen	
Dictionary	



Text books will be issued on loan, but remain the property of the school. They must be cared for. All exercise books, too, belong to the school, and must be treated carefully. Any which become damaged may have to be replaced at the pupil's own cost.

18 – School Rules

General Rules

1. Treat others with respect and dignity remembering that those who have less than you are valued just as much as those who have more.
2. Make sure that your words and actions are always positive and that your own behaviour never prevents others from learning. (See Anti Bullying Policy)
3. Wear your uniform fully and with pride. You belong to a good school and you show your belonging by how you dress and how you behave.
4. Arrive at school, on time, ready to learn with all the books and equipment you need for your learning.
5. Travel to and from school safely and responsibly using the Pedestrian and Zebra Crossings on Station Road.

Specific Rules

1. Full uniform must be worn at all times, including to and from school.
2. Uniform should be worn in accordance with the expected standards of the school.
3. Trainers, leather jackets, denim jackets, “hoodies” and coats with prominent logos are not allowed. Coats, which should be plain and dark, should not be worn inside the building. Leggings, jeggings, lycra/stretch fashion trousers, flared or bell-bottom styles, and sportswear-style or elasticated-waist trousers are not permitted. Shoes must comply with the published list of acceptable footwear.
4. Extreme hairstyles, dyeing hair an extreme colour, extensions, braiding, tramlines and shapes cut into the hair or hair shaven down to the scalp are not permitted. For reasons of health and safety, long hair should be tied back in practical lessons (see school website for images for further guidance).
5. Extreme makeup, false eyelashes, false nails and nail-art, including nail varnish, are not permitted.
6. No jewellery may be worn in school. The only exception is for Year 11 who can wear a single plain stud in the lobe of the ear. This includes clear retainers/studs.
7. Mobile phones, if brought into school, MUST be secured in a Yondr Pouch for the duration of the school day. Pupils found with a mobile phone outside of a secured Yondr Pouch will receive sanctions in accordance with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. (See the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.)
8. Valuable objects are not allowed in school. School is not liable for the loss of valuable objects brought into school.
9. All food and drink must be consumed in the dining room, hall or canopy. No food or drink can be taken on to the Astroturf and tennis courts. (In the summer term, when the weather is fine, hand-held food can be eaten outside as long as pupils keep the site tidy.)
10. Always put all litter in the bins provided
11. Walk, sensibly and quietly. Follow the school’s one way system when appropriate.
12. Chewing gum is not allowed in school.
13. No pupil is allowed out of school at break or lunchtime unless they have special permission agreed by the Head Teacher.
14. Smoking is strictly forbidden on school premises and whilst travelling to and from school. This includes all electronic cigarettes/vapes. (See Drugs Section in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy)
15. The possession, supply or taking of psycho-active drugs, or other illegal substances and items are strictly forbidden. (See the Drugs Section of the Behaviour and Discipline Policy). This includes drug paraphernalia.
16. The malicious use of the Internet (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram, texting, TEAMS etc.) against members of the school community will not be tolerated. This includes use out of school time. (See eSafety Policy)



19 - Attendance & the School Day

Absences: In the case of an unavoidable absence, parents should telephone the school by 9.30 am on **every morning** of absence. Pupils returning after a period of absence must bring a note from parents. Where the school is not contacted on the first day of absence, the school attendance officer will try to contact the pupil's parent or carer. Frequent unexplained absence will result in the parent and pupil being called to attend an Attendance Panel Board Meeting as well as an increased level of monitoring.

There is a school expectation for every pupil to achieve at least a 97% attendance rate. Achieving this will enable your child to access termly reward trips (other criteria may apply).

Lateness: Punctuality is key in any working environment. Persistent lateness will be dealt with by the Head of House. Should a pupil be late to school they should enter via the pupil reception gate located on the staff car park via Collins Road. This will prevent unnecessary phone calls to parents. Pupils who are late to school are automatically added to a daily detention.

Appointments: In the case of medical appointments, an appointment card needs to be brought to school or a letter, signed by the parent or carer showing the date and time of the appointment. This needs to be shown to the form tutor and pupil reception when signing out. Any appointments taken without an appointment card or letter from parents or carers may lead to the absence being recorded as unauthorised. Parents should pick up/return pupils via the pupil reception gate located on the staff car park via Collins Road.

The School Day

8.30am - 8.55am	Form Time Registration and Daily Reading
8.55am - 9.55am	Period 1
9.55am - 10.55am	Period 2
10.55am - 11.15am	Break
11.15am - 12.15pm	Period 3
12.15pm - 1.15pm	Period 4
1.15pm - 1.50pm	Lunch
1.50pm - 2.50pm	Period 5
2.50pm - 3.00pm	Form Time
3.00pm	Home Time

Please note that start and end times of the day will not change, however the school reserves the right to amend in-day timings to suit curriculum delivery.



20 – Additional Information

Insurance

Inevitably, in a bustling community of 780+ youngsters, things are lost or mislaid, sometimes in unfortunate circumstances. It is not a bad idea to approach your home insurance company to discover whether the loss of articles of clothing etc. can be covered by your home contents insurance policy. In most cases, this is possible with the payment of a small premium.

Articles of Value

The wearing of jewellery in school is not allowed for a number of reasons, including safety and possible loss. Apart from a watch, pupils may not wear any jewellery. The school cannot accept responsibility for the personal money and property of pupils, so the following rules should be strictly observed:

- Mobile phones, if brought into school, MUST be secured in a Yondr Pouch for the duration of the school day. Pupils found with a mobile phone outside of a secured Yondr Pouch will receive sanctions in accordance with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. (See the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.)
- Articles of value not required in school should be left at home.
- Large sums of money should not normally be brought to school. If it is necessary to do so, such money should be left with the school office for safety.
- At the beginning of P.E. lessons, watches and valuables must be deposited with the teacher.

Lockers

Lockers are available in school and the cost is attributed according to the year group. Pupils keep their lockers for the entire time at school and the amount paid will cover them until they leave at the end of Year 11 with no further payments required. Year 7 pupils have first option to purchase a locker at the start of the autumn term. Further details will be provided in September.

Bicycles/Scooters

Bicycles must be roadworthy and left locked in the cycle racks in the bike shed. Pupils should wear a helmet and bring their own bike lock. Bicycles should be post-coded. Cycling on school grounds is not permitted. Bicycles are parked at your own risk. School is not responsible for damage or theft to bikes or scooters. Electric scooters and modified electric bikes are strictly forbidden.

Home Learning

A Home Learning Timetable is produced for all pupils at the start of the school year and is set on MS Teams. All children have access to a Teams account and many download the app onto their devices. Home Learning will be set according to our 4R's; Recall, Revision, Research and Reflection. More information is available on our school website, as well as a link to Teams via Office 365.

Pupils who do not complete home learning activities will receive sanctions from their class teacher, Head of Faculty or SLT according to the Strike system which operates across school and the amount of home learning that has been missed. Pupils will also receive a sanction or may be asked to repeat work which is not of the appropriate standard expected from the pupils.

Home Learning Club operates (free of charge) in school Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 5pm. Please see Mr Hunt for more information.

21 – Additional Information

ParentPay (Trips/School Events)

The school uses a cashless system called ParentPay. Once your child starts school with us, you will be given a unique ParentPay username and password; this will enable you to pay for activities, events and trips.

For lunches, students entitled to free school meals will have their account automatically credited with money. All other students will have to credit their account using ParentPay or they can put cash into the machines located in the dining hall.



School Shop

This is where you can purchase items such as school ties, revision books and calculators via the school website.

Free School Meals

Currently, pupils eligible for Free School Meals receive £1.50 per day for breakfast (must be purchased during Breakfast Club before school starts), and £2.50 for lunch. Money is automatically credited to pupils' accounts daily. Unspent money from Breakfast Club does not roll over into lunch time. Snacks at break time are not covered under the Free School Meals allowance - money must be added to pupils' accounts via ParentPay if they wish to purchase these.

From September 2026, the government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals, which means that more families may now qualify for support. If your family receive Universal Credit, your child will be entitled to Free School Meals. If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you do not need to reapply. If you are not receiving Free School Meals and think you may be entitled, you can apply by visiting lancashire.gov.uk/schools and clicking on 'Free School Meals'.

If you require further information, please email: FSM.South@lancashire.gov.uk



22 - Enrichment

There is so much to get involved with at school, there really is something for everyone. Every pupil is encouraged to participate and develop their skills and talents outside of the classroom as this is where lasting memories are made.

Our comprehensive CASEO (Curriculum After School Enrichment Activities) program of clubs and activities is designed to foster a wide range of pupil interests and talents. We believe that learning outside the classroom is incredibly valuable and have excellent extra-curricular activities that are designed to broaden and develop the mind and body. During the school day pupils have regular opportunities to experience guest speakers and go out of school to visit cultural places of interest, exhibitions and theatres. In addition to this we run longer residential trips within the UK and abroad.

Here are just a few of what our vibrant school offers:

- History club
- Trampolining
- CAFOD group
- Equality and Diversity group
- Choir
- Science club
- Football
- Rounders



23 – Reading for Life

Reading is the most important thing your child can do during their school years. We have a lot of things going on in school to help students find books they enjoy, from World Book Day, to Book Week, to our incredibly successful author visits, to book swaps, to library sleepovers. To get your child off to a flying start, here are some ideas we think they will enjoy!

Suggested Reading List 2026-27

English

The Lie Tree - Frances Hardinge

Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Jen Mah

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time - Mark Haddon

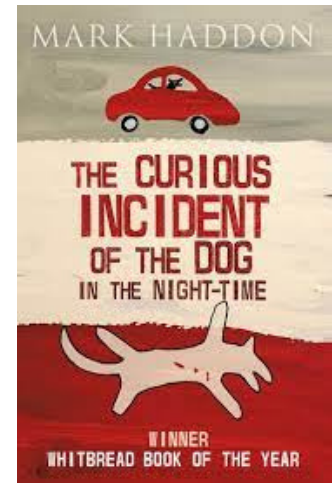
The Book of Dust - Phillip Pullman

After Tomorrow - Gillian Cross

The Book Thief - Marcus Zusak

The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank

War Horse - Michael Morpurgo



Maths

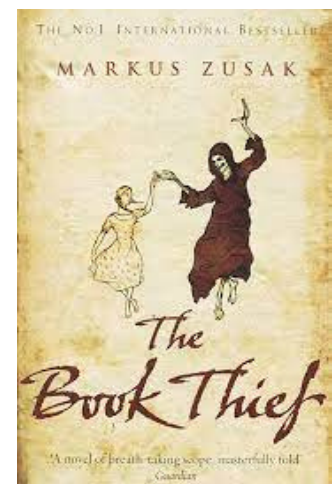
How to Lie with Statistics - Darrell Huff

Longitude - Dava Sobel

Murderous Maths - Kjartan Poskitt & Rob Davis

The Number Devil - Hans Magnus Enzensberger

The Planiverse - A K Dewdney



Science

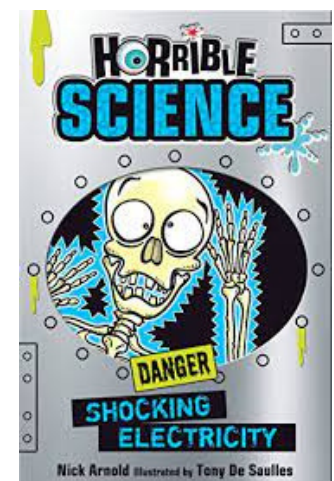
Does Anything Eat Wasps? - Mick O'Hare

How to Fossilise Your Hamster - Mick O'Hare

Why is Snot Green? - Glenn Murphy

Horrible Science - Nick Arnold

Blood, Bones and Body Bits - Nick Arnold



History

Horrible Histories - Terry Deary

Horrible Kings and Queens - Tony Robinson

Worst Children's Jobs in History - Tony Robinson

Ethel and Ernest - Raymond Briggs

War Boy - Michael Foreman

Remembrance - Theresa Breslin

24 - Reading for Life

Physical Education

Biographies of sporting heroes e.g. **A Book of Heroes** - Simon Barnes

Religious Education

River Boy - Tim Bowler

Over Sea, Under Stone - Susan Cooper

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe - C S Lewis

Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman

The Bible

The Philosophy Files - Stephen Law

God: A Brief History - John Bowke

The Problem of Evil - Peter Vardy

Music

Alicia's Gift - Jessica Duchon

ICT

Wings - Terry Pratchett

Lost in Cyberspace - Richard Peck

Bully - Patricia Polacco

Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code - Eoin Colfer

The Computer Nut - Betsy Byars

The Softwire: Virus on Orbis - PJ Haarsma

The Homework Machine - Dan Gutman

Modern Languages

Le Petit Prince - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Le Petit Nicolas - René Goscinny

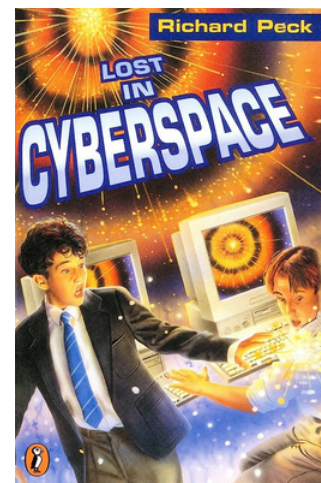
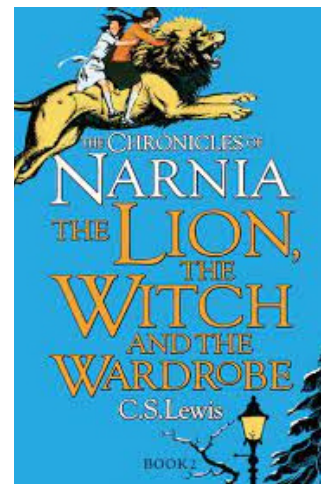
Websites for Languages magazines

www.parismatch.fr

www.équipe.fr

www.lemonde.fr

www.bunte.de



25 - Frequently Asked Questions

How much homework will I get?

You will be set homework on Teams by your teachers to support your learning in lessons. You can expect up to 1 piece of homework for each subject every week but spread across the week. Do not worry, we will ease you in over the first term to get you in to good habits.

What if I get lost?

It is common that new students will get lost and struggle to find a lesson. Again, this is completely normal. You will not get into trouble if you are late because you were lost, just explain to your teacher that you were lost. You can ask any member of staff or another student where to go if you forget where a classroom is, and they will be happy to help.

What type of food is available?

We have lots of different types of food available in the canteen. Our daily food service starts with our amazing breakfast club that is open to all pupils. At break time, you can purchase toast, bagels, crumpets and lots of other breakfast snacks. At lunchtimes, you can purchase a variety of hot and cold meals. Food at Brownedge is brilliant! You can also bring a packed lunch should you wish to.

What if my child feels unwell or needs some first aid during the day?

We have invested in our pupils services by opening a full time pupil reception that caters for pupils daily enquiries. This reception is also staffed by a qualified first aider who deals with minor incidents and accidents. Across school we have a team of first aiders, however where possible pupils should report to Pupil reception in the first instance.

Pupil Reception also keeps a 'red box' for pupils to access any period products they may need.

Who do I speak to if I have a problem?

You should always try to speak to your form tutor or head of house in the first instance if you have a problem. We also have a worry box in the ELC as well as the 'I am Worried' link on our school website.



26 - Frequently Asked Questions

My child gets a free school meal, how much can they spend and do they have to buy particular food?

All pupils in receipt of a free school meal are able to spend £1.50 at breakfast club (8.00am-8.30am) and £2.50 at lunch time. Money is automatically credited to pupil accounts daily. Unspent money from breakfast club does not roll over into lunch time, and cannot be used at break time.

Do you offer any trips?

We are so proud as a school to offer a wide range of trips and experiences. We offer rewards experiences at the end of every term as well as offering trips to other countries such as France, Iceland and Canada. Pupils love exploring the World and we are delighted to offer so many opportunities to do so. Keep your ears peeled and sign up when the chance comes along.

Our contact details have changed, who should I tell?

Having up-to-date information is vital in case of an emergency and we ask that if any of your contact details change such as your home address, mobile number or email address, you inform the school via email - info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk

My child takes regular medication, who will monitor this?

Medical information is usually shared from your child's primary school, but you should let school know if anything changes. Parents/carers are responsible for informing school of any medication requirements and may need to complete a medication form. Students can leave medication (such as EpiPens, insulin etc) in the Pupil Reception office.

How does school communicate with parents?

We use a system called Firefly which is used to send emails, notifications and appointments for school events. New parents will be registered on Firefly using the email address from your application form. You will receive an email with registration details once this has happened. Should you have any issues with Firefly, please contact Mr Banks at school.

27 - Term Dates for 2026-2027

Autumn 2026

INSET DAY - Tuesday 1st September 2026

INSET DAY- Wednesday 2nd September 2026

School Reopens - Thursday 3rd September 2026

Last Day of School for Half-Term 1 - Friday 23rd October 2026

School Reopens for Half-Term 2 - Monday 2nd November 2026

Last Day of School for Half-Term 2 - Friday 18th December 2026

Spring 2027

School Reopens for Half-Term 3 - Monday 4th January 2027

Last Day of School for Half-Term 3 - Friday 12th February 2027

School Reopens for Half-Term 4 - Monday 22nd February 2027

Last Day of School for Half-Term 4 - Thursday 25th March 2027

School Reopens for Half-Term 5 - Monday 12th April 2027

Summer 2027

Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2027

Last Day of School for Half-Term 5 - Friday 28th May 2027

School Reopens for Half-Term 6 - Monday 7th June 2027

Last Day of School for Half-Term 6 - Friday 16th July 2027

INSET DAY - Monday 19th July 2027

INSET DAY - Tuesday 20th July 2027

INSET DAY - Wednesday 21st July 2027

We regret we cannot authorise pupils going on holiday during term time, and, in general, pupil absence from school will not be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances.



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
'Let your light shine'



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