

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

22 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter 8

It is with great joy that we have all our students back and we are once again more than a building, but a community working and learning together. With our young people back at school, there is hope. Hope that we are now moving forward and a sense of optimism that safely, as Spring moves into Summer, life will return to some sense of normality.

As we approach the end of this Easter term, I would like to update you on school life.

Easter Celebrations

Easter is a special celebration in our school's liturgical calendar. We would normally end this term together in church. However, whilst we are still under Covid restrictions, we will continue to use new technology to share with our students and yourselves our Easter Liturgy. Please visit our fantastic [Chaplaincy Instagram](#) and [Chaplaincy Twitter](#) pages to see our amazing students lead our celebrations.

Steps for Sanctuary

For our charity work this Lent, we will be supporting a group from St. Mary's Brownedge Parish, who are currently fundraising to allow a refugee family to find a home and a place of sanctuary in Bamber Bridge. We will be raising money for this cause through our 'Steps for Sanctuary' event in PE this week. This event will be open to Year 7, 8 and 9 and led by our CAFOD and Duke of Edinburgh leaders. We have asked students to donate £2 for this event. They will be able to come into school in their own **appropriate** activewear, which they can wear for the whole day, and will take part in a sponsored walk around the school grounds during their PE lesson. [To donate via parent pay, please follow this link.](#) A ParentPay account is not required for any purchases through the shop as payment details are entered at the checkout stage and the shop accepts all major credit/debit cards. We will also be selling wristbands for this charity this week, which all students can purchase for £1.

Covid Testing

The testing operation for students on their return to school was a great success in the way our team organised and coordinated 1957 tests. The testing team, made up of existing staff members and a small number of volunteers, have done a fantastic job over the last few weeks and we thank them for their hard work. We are also grateful that the level of consent offered by parents was extremely high; we thank you for this exceptional level of support for all within our community. In total we detected four asymptomatic cases, who would otherwise have been infectious without knowing it. Pupils have now been issued with boxes of self-tests and our testing site has been dismantled. We ask that tests are undertaken every Sunday and Wednesday at home. The results should then be reported to the NHS and school (details of which were supplied with the packs, including via a QR code). Pupils should now have received self-tests to last over the Easter break. Further packs will be available for students to collect as needed. **Households and support bubbles of secondary-age pupils can also now order free rapid lateral flow test kits to be sent to your home.** [Please click here for more details.](#)

High expectations for uniform

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our high standards of uniform are maintained. I understand that it has been difficult during lockdown to source uniform at times and we hope our 'pop up' uniform shop has helped in this regard. We will continue to do this for the first two weeks in April. We have been flexible in terms of footwear since coming back to school post lockdown 3. However, when we return to school in April, we will no longer accept inappropriate footwear and in particular trainers. It is also essential that correct PE uniform is worn on days where students are to wear this for their PE curriculum lesson. We will have a supply of shoes and PE uniform that students can borrow until they are able to provide their own. If you are unsure of school expectations in terms of uniform or

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school rules for jewellery, makeup and hair, please visit our school website or [click here for more information](#). If you need financial assistance in purchasing uniform, please email myself (head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk) and I will try to support where possible.

New class groupings for the Summer Term

To support our Covid efforts in October, we changed our class groupings so that the impact of any pupil self-isolation requirements meant minimum disruption to students. However, as we move into our final term this academic year, we will be amending our class groupings to ensure that our students benefit as much as possible in the remaining months and maximise their learning. This may not affect all students and may only affect one or two classes that your child is assigned to. However, we believe that this change will allow us to close any gaps in learning and support curriculum progression models to ensure that our students continue to get the best education possible. Your child will be made aware of any changes and they will be available for you to see on our Home-School portal INSIGHT by looking at your child's timetable from Friday 9th April.

After School Club/Home learning Club

After Easter we will reopen our After School Club for **all** pupils. Years 7 and 10 will continue with their provision in the ELC. Years 8, 9 and 11 will now use Room 20, one of our ICT Suites, to support their home learning opportunities. Both clubs will operate Monday to Thursday from 3.00 – 4.30pm. Students can sign in on any day they wish, and we will monitor its use and re-evaluate our provision moving forward.

End of Term Arrangements

We finish on Friday for the end of the Spring term. Year 7 and Year 10, will finish at 12.35pm and for Year 8, 9 and 11 at 12.55pm. There will be no school dinners served on this day, but the usual food will be available at break. We reopen on Monday 12th April at the same timings for our school bubbles as we have this term. I will write to parents to inform you of any changes in government guidelines in terms of face coverings for the Summer term or with anything else that may come about during the break.

The last three weeks have been extremely busy, not to mention the activities that took place during lockdown. Take a look at our March 2021 issue of Shining Lights to see what has been happening over the last 11 weeks. As always, it will be published in the last days of the school term and will be sent to you electronically through Parentmail.

I would like to express my thanks once more for your continued support over the last three months. I believe our young people have been absolutely amazing and the engagement they have shown has been superb. Through our well-developed remote learning platform BSM@Home, they have shown their true determination and resilience and will continue to go from strength to strength because of it.

Wishing you a very happy and restful Easter

Kindest regards

Mrs Nicola Oddie
Head Teacher