

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

25 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 10

As we enter this final week of this half term, we begin to enjoy some sunshine and take the opportunity to start to look forward to holidays ahead of us in July. Even though we have a week left, it is a busy one; filled with celebrations and preparations for our last six weeks of the academic year. Our efforts recently have been with our Year 11 pupils. GCSE exams have started and our Year 11 pupils have put a huge amount of effort into their revision and preparation. We are very proud of each and every one of them and wish them all the very best over the next few weeks; please do keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

School Day Timings 2023-24 and beyond

You will be aware that changes to our school day timings will take place from September 2023. This was first highlighted in January and recently we have been consulting with staff and pupils about proposals. I am aware that this will hugely impact parents. It is important to try to take into consideration numerous factors in deciding these new timings. These include supporting families where our pupils are involved in picking up and dropping off siblings at primary schools and supporting transportation home for pupils, especially those who travel distances on public bus services. Consultation with parents is now open. If you would like to have your say, please click on the following link and complete the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/School_Day_2023_Parent_Survey

Mary Day - Friday 26th May

As per my email sent out earlier this week, tomorrow the Year 7 to 10 pupils will participate in a day of House-based sessions on Mary, our patron saint. The theme of the day will be 'Our Mary, our badge' where pupils will look at our school logo of Mary and learn how she is depicted in this to show the fantastic role model she is to us all. The day will be fun-filled and give pupils an opportunity to work and learn together, participate in team building activities and tasks developed to enable them to explore their own spiritual journey. **Pupils will finish school at 2pm; should this time be an issue or if any pupil has difficulty in getting home at that time, please inform school and we can make arrangements for them to stay in school until the end of the normal school day. Pupils must attend school in full school uniform.**

Whole School Exams – commencing June 15th for Year 10 and June 19th for Years 7, 8 and 9

Summer examinations will take place beginning on 15th June for Year 10 and 19th June for Years 7, 8 and 9 and will finish on 21st June. Summer exams are a test of how much pupils know and understand from the work they have done all year. It is vital that pupils learn to revise well. To support pupils and to support you in helping your child prepare for these exams, a revision booklet for each year group has been produced. This booklet includes topic lists for all subjects, the exam week timetable and tips and strategies for effective revision. In preparation for this, all regular written homework will cease after half term to allow your child to consolidate their learning through revision.

New Technologies in 2023 and beyond

Since the pandemic, we have been capitalising on our learning gains in how we use technology to enhance the teaching and learning of our pupils. Much work has taken place on how we use MTeams and web technologies across the curriculum. Our intention is to develop this further, and in September 2023 we will be loaning all Year 7 pupils an iPad to support their learning in lessons. We are funding this initial project to ensure that it is successful, before contacting parents in later years to engage in a iPad ownership scheme. We are excited to be leading the way in promoting digital learners for the future.

Rewards Trips and Prize Giving

Heads of House are currently planning rewards trips for the end of the Summer term to ensure that pupils are rewarded for their hard work. The criteria for the trips has already been shared with pupils and is attached to this newsletter for your information. Heads of Faculty and Subject Teachers are also deciding who will receive prizes at our annual Prize Giving. This event will be held in Church on Thursday 22 June and will celebrate those pupils who have shown resilience, determination and commitment.

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Confirmation

Towards the end of the summer term, Year 8 pupils will be invited to take part in the Sacrament of Confirmation programme at Browndedge St Mary's church. During Confirmation, candidates receive the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens through the anointing with chrism oil and the laying on of hands. With the Holy Spirit at their side, they are strengthened to be witnesses of Christ in the world and gifted with comfort, hope, inspiration, and peace. More details to follow!

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support with ensuring our uniform standards remain high. It is usually during the final term that uniform standards begin to dip and whilst I appreciate that pupils are ever-growing, this must not impact on our high expectations. We will continue to provide uniform to any pupil who does not wear their uniform correctly. Should any parent require financial support in ensuring that their child's uniform meets our high standards, please get in touch and we will do all we can to support you.

FSM Vouchers – May Half Term

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order May half term vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £15 voucher to cover the one-week holiday period. Please contact Mr Burrows, our school Business Manager if you have any questions.

New Governor Appointments

I am delighted to report we have 3 new governors joining the governing body this term; Mrs T O'Hagan (parent governor), Mr M Williams and Mr A Wygladala (foundation governors). We very much look forward to welcoming them on board!

Key dates

For your information, I have outlined below some key events taking place next half term.

Event	Time and Date
Whole School Exam Week	Thurs 15 th June to Weds 21st June
Prize Night	Thurs 22 nd June
Refugee Week	w/c Mon 19th June
Sports Day	Fri 30 th June
Year 10 Reports home	Tues 11 th July
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Weds 12 th July 4pm-6.30pm,
Year 11 Valedictory Dinner	Weds 28 th June
Trip Week	w/c Mon 17 th July
Y10 Work experience week	w/c Mon 17 th July
Reports home for Years 7-9	Fri 14 th July
Finish for Summer	Fri 21st July at 1.30pm

Many thanks again for your ongoing support.

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher