

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

16th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 10

What a busy 4 weeks we have had! I feel I say this at the beginning of every newsletter, but this half term has topped all others!

Firstly, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the parents, extended family members, and friends of the school for your incredible support of our recent school production. Your encouragement, time, and enthusiasm—whether through attending performances, helping behind the scenes, or simply cheering on our students—made a meaningful difference. Your partnership and generosity helped bring our school community to life, and we are truly grateful.

You will be aware school underwent an OFSTED inspection earlier this week. During their time with us, the inspectors observed a wide range of lessons, engaged in conversations with staff and pupils, and held discussions with members of our governing body. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the parents and pupils who took the time to complete the questionnaires. Your feedback was both valuable and informative, and it played an important role in helping the inspectors build a well-rounded view of our school. Many of our pupils also spoke directly with the inspection team, and I was immensely proud of the way they represented the school—with confidence, honesty, and a genuine passion for their experience at our vibrant school. At this stage, we are not yet able to share the outcome of the inspection, as it is currently undergoing OFSTED's internal quality assurance process. However, please rest assured that I will communicate the findings with you as soon as we are officially permitted to do so. We anticipate this will be shortly after the half term break.

Year 11

Our Year 11 pupils started their GCSE exams last week. I'm sure you will join me in extending our very best wishes to them as they prepare for and sit their upcoming examinations. This is a significant and often emotional time, as they not only focus on their studies but also begin to look ahead to the next stage of their journey—whether that be further education, training, or employment beyond their time with us at Brownedge. In the weeks and months ahead, we remain fully committed to supporting them—academically, emotionally, and practically—to ensure they feel well-prepared for their exams and confident in taking their next steps. We are very proud of 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.

Interfaith Week – early finish on Friday 23rd May at 2pm.

Next week we will be celebrating Interfaith Week—a valuable opportunity to recognise and honour the rich tapestry of faiths and beliefs that make up our school community. As a Catholic school, our foundation is built on respect, compassion, and understanding, and this week provides a powerful way to live out those values in practice. Through a variety of activities, discussions, and moments of reflection, pupils will be invited to explore different religious beliefs, reflect on the shared values that connect us all and strengthen the inclusive spirit that lies at the heart of our school. We will finish the week with a celebration of Mary, our Patron saint. The theme of the day will be 'Step into Hope' where pupils will look at Mary as a pilgrim of hope for 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. **On Friday pupils can wear their own clothes and 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.**

Whole School Exams – commencing 16th June

Summer examinations will take place beginning on 16th 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. A copy of the booklet will be emailed home and a paper copy given to the pupils next week. 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.

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Rewards and Prize Night

Heads of House are currently planning the Rewards Day for the end of the summer term to ensure that pupils are rewarded for their hard work. Heads of Faculty and Subject Teachers are also deciding who will receive prizes at our annual Prize Night. This event will be held in **Church on Thursday 26th June** and will celebrate those pupils who have shown resilience, determination and commitment. There will be more about this in my next Newsletter.

Prefects and School Leadership

In keeping with an established tradition, our Year 10 students have had the opportunity to apply to become a Prefect. We have received a huge number of applications showing what an amazing year group they are. Next week pupils will find out if they have been selected and will be able to wear a white shirt signalling that they are part of our school leadership team. The Senior Prefect positions will be announced at our annual Prize Night on 26th June. For those not named next week, DO NOT be disheartened. There will be numerous opportunities throughout Year 11 to be awarded the honour and if any pupil has any questions, please contact [Mr Hayhurst](#) for further guidance.

Uniform

While I understand that pupils continue to grow—particularly as we approach the end of the school year—this should not affect our high expectations around uniform. It is often during the final term that we begin to see standards slip, and we are committed to maintaining consistency. We will continue to provide uniform items for any pupil who is not wearing the correct attire. If any parent or carer is experiencing financial difficulty in meeting our uniform expectations, please do not hesitate to contact us—we are here to help and will do all we can to offer support. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to upholding the high standards we set for our school community.

Writing Mastery Workshop

With our resident author, Ruth Eastham, twenty eight year 8 pupils had the experience of a Writing Mastery workshop on Tuesday this week. It was a fantastic occasion, where pupils used stories about Ancient Egypt, as well as Ruth's recent travels, as stimulus to inspire their own creative pieces about exploring uncharted tombs and caves. Ruth read everyone's work, and they also had the chance to perform and showcase their ideas to the rest of the group. We really appreciated Ruth's time and it was another event to exhibit the reading and creative writing talents of our pupils. Well done to all involved!

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.

Dates for Your Diary

11th June	Year 11 Leavers' Mass
16th – 20th June	Whole School Exam Week
19th & 20th June	Refugee Awareness
19th June	Valedictory Dinner
26th June	Prize Night
2nd & 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Days and Evening
8th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
w/c Monday 14th July	Year 10 Work experience week
18th July	School breaks for Summer

As always, many thanks for your ongoing support.

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher