

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

14 June 2024



*Let your
light shine*

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter 11

I usually introduce this newsletter quoting how glorious the weather is and how great it is that the sun shines on us. Not this year! Will the sun and warmth ever come this June? Regardless of the weather, the Brownedge family continues to emit our own rays of sunshine with pupils going above and beyond to serve our community both in school and further afield. Watch out for our next Shining Lights magazine at the end of this term for more about the busy activities all our young people are participating in.

All half terms are busy, although none more so than this one! I've outlined some school matters below to update you on.

Summer Examinations

Good luck to all our pupils sitting their end of test summative assessments over the next 5 days. Year 10 pupils started their assessments yesterday, with Year 7-9 joining our older pupils on Monday. These assessments are very important as they assess what your child understands and remembers from their work this year. With GCSEs now more demanding, this is an important way of preparing them for their futures. A revision booklet was published for each separate year group to support you and your son/daughter with their revision. Please support us by ensuring your child brings revision materials to school to use during their identified revision sessions. If you require more information or support, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#), Senior Deputy Headteacher responsible for Teaching and Learning.

Refugee Week

Once again, at the end of our assessment week, we will be celebrating our School of Sanctuary Award and raising awareness of the plight of refugees and the importance to us of supporting the associated Catholic Social Teachings this work brings. We are privileged to be joined by the Compassion Project, who will speak to Year 7 to 9 about how we can turn our compassion into action and the Internal Rescue Committee who will run a workshop with our Mental Health Champions. Numerous other activities will take place across school including pupils participating in Preston City Council's "Peace Wall" project, creating messages of hope, harmony and peace to children affected by the war conflict around the world and activities in lessons and in Register and Read time. There will also be a cake sale, baked by our Chaplaincy and GIFT team, inspired by the Refugee Week 'Share a Meal' campaign. Please support this by giving your child cash for that day. The money raised will go to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

Prize Night 2024

Congratulations to those pupils who have been recognised for their hard work across the large array of subjects taught in school and for achievements in Form time. Our annual Prize Night will take place on Thursday 27th June at our beautiful parish church of St Mary's, Brownedge at 7pm. We look forward to seeing our pupils and their parents at this joyous event. Whilst it is important to acknowledge our prize winners, it is important to recognise that many pupils may not be recognised. We could double, if not triple, the length of this evening if we awarded prizes to all who are eligible. We do, however, award prizes all through the year and hope we catch every deserving case. I am sorry for any we have missed.

Prefects

Year 10 students have been busy applying to be our key role models by acting as prefects over the last few weeks. Our first round of naming our prefects will begin next week and those selected can wear a white shirt week beginning 1st July, signalling their new status as the senior student group in school. If parents and pupils wish to wait until September to purchase a shirt, this is more than acceptable and please do so if preferred. As they start their apprenticeships as prefects, many of them will be awarded Senior Prefects status at Prize Night on the 5th July. Congratulations to those selected and good luck in your new role in school. Those who have

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not yet been named, pleased 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 [Mrs Crewe](#) or [Hayhurst](#) for further guidance. *Let your light shine*

Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

We have already shared with you the new legislation that comes into force in August 2024 relating to attendance and changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence and lateness in term time. [Mr Crusham](#) is available to answer any questions stemming from this new initiative introduced by the Department of Education. We ask all parents to ensure that these new guidelines are followed especially due to the increase in fines. I still receive too many requests for holidays in term time that I cannot approve. I must follow direction issued to me by our school Governors to ensure that our rigorous systems are applied, meaning that I am unlikely to grant any request submitted.

Beauty and the Beast School Production

Rehearsals are well under way for the Brownedge production of the musical Beauty and the Beast. School productions are big events and bring staff and pupils working together to pull off nights of great fun and entertainment. [Mrs Bland](#), Head of Expressive Arts, will write to you soon with details of how to get your tickets but please note the dates and time: July 10th, 11th and 12th starting at 7.30pm.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child wears their full uniform properly and smartly. Most students arrive smart, stay smart and leave the school smart. Where there are issues, they tend to be around the same areas: skirts and shoes. We have a constant battle on our hands in terms of skirts – they must not be rolled up and should sit naturally just above the knee. Shoes need to be within the published guidelines on the school website which can be found in the Information section. We keep a bank of school shoes in school and will issue these to pupils who come in wearing inappropriate footwear. Before we break for the summer in July, I will write to you again illustrating which shoes are allowed, including rules on hair and jewellery ready in preparation for our new term in September. If you have any questions or requests for support in this area, please contact [Miss Mault](#), Deputy Headteacher responsible for Behaviour and Pastoral Care.

Parent Views

Working with parents is an important aspect of the work we do to make sure OUR school serves the needs of OUR young people. Only by working together can we make sure our children enjoy school and develop the skills and knowledge they need to build successful, happy lives. To that end, I will be introducing Parent Forums with an opportunity for parents and carers to help shape the future of school through sharing ideas and concerns. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#) via email and she will be in contact with further details.

Many thanks for your continuing support. Let's hope the sun comes out very soon!

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher