

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

10 June 2025



*Let your  
light shine*

Dear Parents/Carers

## Newsletter 11

After an exceptionally busy and exhausting term 2, here we are full of energy and enthusiasm for the last term of the academic year. The Browndedge 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.

As discussed previously, we are waiting for the formal published OFSTED report from the inspectors visit in early May. I anticipate this will arrive very shortly, and as soon as it does, I will publish it for all to read. I know it will be a great picture of our fantastic school community, working together to support each other and as a family allow ALL to let God's light shine in us and through us. WATCH THIS SPACE!

### Summer Examinations

Wishing all our pupils the very best as they begin their end-of-year summative assessments in the next few weeks. These begin in the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> June. These assessments play a key role in measuring what students have learned and retained over the academic year. With GCSEs becoming increasingly challenging, this process is an essential step in preparing them for future success. To support your child with their revision, we've provided a dedicated revision booklet for each year group. We kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring your child brings their revision materials to school for use during scheduled revision sessions. If you need further information or assistance, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#), Senior Deputy Headteacher responsible for Teaching and Learning.

### Prize Night 2025

Well done to all pupils who have been acknowledged for their dedication and achievements across the wide range of subjects taught in school, as well as for their efforts during Form time. Our annual **Prize Night** will be held on **Thursday 26th June at 7pm** at the beautiful **St Mary's Parish Church, Browndedge**. We look forward to welcoming our pupils and their families to this joyful occasion of celebration and recognition. While this evening highlights the achievements of selected prize winners, we fully recognise that many more pupils show commitment and excellence each day. That said, we are proud to celebrate pupil success throughout the year and strive to ensure that all who deserve recognition are acknowledged in some way. We sincerely apologise if anyone has been unintentionally overlooked.

### Parental Communications Policy

We would like to inform parents and carers of our updated Parental Communications Policy, which now includes the introduction of our new school telephone system. This advanced system features the latest technology designed to improve efficiency and enhance communication. One of its key functions is the ability to record telephone conversations, which helps ensure clarity, accuracy, and accountability in all interactions. We encourage all families to familiarise themselves with the updated policy, which is available in full on the school website.

### Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

We would like to remind all parents and carers that, in line with government legislation, holidays during school term time are not permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Every school day counts, and regular attendance is vital for your child's education and wellbeing. As per the national framework introduced in August 2024, schools are required to issue a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) without authorisation. Fines are issued per parent and currently stand at **£80 if paid within 21 days**, rising to **£160 if paid within 28 days**. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within a three-year period, it will automatically be charged at the higher rate of £160. After two fines, further legal action such as a parenting order or prosecution may be considered, with court fines reaching up to **£2,500**.

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## Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child wears their school uniform smartly and correctly. The vast majority of our pupils arrive at school looking smart, remain so throughout the day, and leave in the same manner. Where uniform issues do arise, they are typically linked to two areas: **skirts and shoes**. Skirts should not be rolled up and must sit naturally just above the knee, in line with our uniform policy. Footwear should also meet the school's published guidelines, which can be found in the **Information section** of our website. To support with consistency, we hold a supply of appropriate school shoes and will issue these to any pupils who attend in unsuitable footwear.

Ahead of the summer break in July, I will write again with a clear guide on acceptable footwear, along with reminders about expectations for hair and jewellery as we prepare for the new term in September. If you have any questions or would like support in this area, please contact **Miss Mault**, Deputy Headteacher for Behaviour and Pastoral Care.

## Prefects

Year 10 students have been busy applying to be our key role models by acting as prefects over the last few weeks. Many have begun their duties and are doing them incredibly well. Congratulations to those selected and good luck in your new role in school. Those who have not yet been named, please do not be disheartened. There will be numerous opportunities throughout Year 11 to be awarded the honour and those not selected at this point have all had personalised targets set to support future appointments. If any pupil has any questions, please contact [Mr Hayhurst](#) for further guidance.

## Buzzing with wonder

This week we are excited to welcome a new colony of honey bees to our school! The installation of beehives will not only benefit our local ecosystem but also provide a hands-on learning experience for our students, thanks to our partnership with professional beekeepers. This initiative ties into our ongoing efforts to teach students about living sustainably and responsibly, while caring for God's creatures. To celebrate, we've launched an inter-house competition to design the bees' new homes. We can't wait to see the final creations and watch our bees settle in!

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher



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## Our Brownedge St Mary's Commitment to Communication



### BROWNEDGE ST MARY'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATION



Communication is a fundamental aspect of school life and we recognise the importance it plays in creating a positive and safe environment for the 800 pupils, 1500 parents, 150 staff and governors and the many external agencies that make up our wonderful Brownedge community.

We believe that working together to ensure communication is effective is in the best interests of our pupils. Through regular, positive interactions, we can continue to support your child throughout their time in school.

#### School Hours

Our business hours are 8.00am - 3.45pm. Staff are not expected to be available in the evenings or weekends. We recommend using the schedule send function outside of these hours to stop staff being prevented from marking and planning, or spending time with their families.



#### Response Time

We want our communication to be timely as this is in the best interests of our pupils and will aim to respond to parents/carers in 3 working days. The greatest challenge we face is the high volume of communications we receive. We will prioritise communications based on need, but must stress that we cannot operate as an emergency service.

#### Language

There is no place for aggressive behaviour or threatening language. Those who adopt this manner, or are rude to staff, will not receive a response. Any visitor to school who adopts an aggressive tone will be asked to leave the premises.



#### Appointments

This is to avoid disappointment. Our staff will be teaching during the school day, and may be in meetings or supervising pupils after school. Anyone arriving to reception unannounced will be advised to request a meeting via the [Contact Us](#) page on the school website.

[www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)



### PARENTS/CARERS, HOW CAN YOU HELP?

#### Which communication method is best?



Some conversations are best face-to-face, whilst others, given their nature, may be quickly resolved over the phone or via email. Telephone calls may be recorded if deemed appropriate by a member of staff.

We encourage all parents/carers to use the Contact Us form wherever possible - this can be found on our website. This will allow us to monitor and manage all communications.

#### Social Media

It is important to note that our social media platforms are used to celebrate achievements and publicise school events, and should not be used to contact us with any concerns or queries. Any comments made must adhere to the guidance within our communication policy.



#### Talk first



We would appreciate the support of parents/carers in not raising issues on social media before contacting school and giving us an appropriate amount of time to reach a resolution. Taking problems to social media rarely results in beneficial outcomes for anyone, and can often make it more difficult to solve the issue.

#### You make all the difference

We greatly value the role you play in our school community. Support with home learning, revision and school events are massively appreciated by all staff. However, most importantly, your listening ear, knowledge of your children and desire to work with us are invaluable.

Sometimes, it can be easy to forget to celebrate the positives. We lead busy lives and simply put, there often isn't time. However, if you have a few moments to spare, our staff always love to hear about what is going well in school!

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