

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your  
light shine

05 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

## Newsletter 11

The final half-term of the school year always has a unique feel. The examination season is well underway, plans are being made for transition and celebration events, and the school calendar remains as busy as ever. Yet it is also a time to pause and recognise just how much our pupils have achieved over the course of the year. Every day, our young people let their light shine through their achievements, leadership, service and the kindness they show to others. They continue to embody the values that sit at the heart of our Brownedge family and make us immensely proud.

The weeks ahead will provide many opportunities to celebrate these successes and create lasting memories. As you will see throughout this newsletter, there is much to be proud of and much to look forward to as we approach the end of another successful academic year. A more detailed celebration of the many achievements, experiences and successes of our pupils this full term will be shared in our next edition of *Shining Lights*, published at the end of term. Please look out for this on Firefly and across our social media channels.

### Prize Night 2026

One of the highlights of our school year is our annual Prize Night, which will take place on **Thursday 18th June at 7.00pm** in the beautiful setting of **St Mary's Parish Church, Brownedge**. This special evening gives us the opportunity to celebrate the achievements, commitment and contributions of pupils across all year groups and to recognise those who consistently embody the values of our school community. We are delighted to welcome pupils and their families to what is always a joyful occasion. Whilst a number of pupils will receive individual awards, Prize Night is also an opportunity to celebrate the collective success of all our young people. Every day, pupils at Brownedge demonstrate determination, resilience, service and kindness, and we are immensely proud of all they have achieved throughout the year.

### Summer Examinations

As our Year 11 pupils continue their GCSE examinations, we wish our younger pupils every success as they prepare for their end-of-year assessments. Year 10 assessments begin on 11<sup>th</sup> June, with Years 7, 8 and 9 starting on 15<sup>th</sup> June. These assessments provide an important opportunity for pupils to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the year, whilst also helping them to build effective revision and examination techniques that will support them in the future. Revision materials and guidance have been provided to all pupils, and we would be grateful for your continued support in encouraging regular revision at home and ensuring that revision resources are brought into school when required. Timetables for the exam week will be distributed next week to pupils. If you need further information or assistance, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#), Senior Deputy Headteacher responsible for Teaching and Learning.

### Mobile Phone Pouches

In my last newsletter, I shared that we are reviewing our approach to mobile phones in school and exploring whether the introduction of secure phone pouches could further support learning, wellbeing and positive social interaction throughout the school day. As part of this process, it is important that we listen carefully to the views of parents, carers and pupils before any decisions are made. Whilst schools across the country are increasingly adopting tighter mobile phone restrictions, we recognise that families may have questions, suggestions or concerns that should help shape our thinking. I would therefore be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our short consultation survey using the link below. Your feedback will play an important role in helping us evaluate the potential benefits, identify any concerns and ensure that any future approach reflects the needs of our school community. [Parent Consultation: Mobile Phone Pouches – Fill in form](#). Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views and support us in ensuring that Brownedge remains a calm, purposeful and positive environment in which all pupils can flourish.

### Trips and Enrichment Opportunities

At Brownedge, we firmly believe that education extends far beyond the classroom. Educational visits, enrichment activities and wider opportunities play a vital role in developing the whole child, helping our young people to build confidence, broaden their horizons and gain the cultural capital and lived experiences that will support them throughout their lives. This term will see a variety of exciting opportunities taking place, including our end-of-year

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Rewards Trip in July. The criteria for this trip has previously been shared with pupils and parents, and we hope that as many pupils as possible will qualify. It is always a pleasure to recognise and reward those pupils who consistently uphold our values and serve as excellent ambassadors for our school community.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to be expanding our programme of educational visits even further. Opportunities available during 2026-27 include our Geography trip to Iceland and a Sports Tour to Madrid. Further ahead, in 2027-28, pupils will have the opportunity to visit Rome and Paris. These experiences create memories that last a lifetime whilst enriching pupils' learning and understanding of the wider world. Further information about all trips can be found on our website, and families are encouraged to look out for letters and information as opportunities become available.

## **Water and Safety Awareness**

As we move into the summer months and pupils spend more time outdoors with friends and family, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of staying safe around open water and railway lines. Sadly, there have been recent incidents within our wider community that serve as a powerful reminder of the risks associated with these environments. We ask parents and carers to take a few moments to speak with their children about making sensible choices, respecting safety barriers and warning signs, and never entering open water or railway property where it is unsafe or prohibited to do so. What may appear harmless or adventurous can quickly become extremely dangerous. The safety and wellbeing of our young people will always be our highest priority. By working together and reinforcing these important messages at home and at school, we can help ensure that all our pupils enjoy a safe, happy and memorable summer.

## **Uniform**

As previously communicated, we have reviewed our school uniform requirements in line with updated government guidance designed to reduce the cost of school uniforms for families. From September 2026, the only compulsory branded items will be the school blazer, school tie, girls' skirt and PE t-shirt. Other branded PE items, including the ¼ zip fleece, shorts, skirt and leggings, will remain available to purchase but will no longer be compulsory. We are pleased to be able to offer families greater flexibility and choice whilst maintaining the high standards of appearance that are such an important part of our school culture. Ahead of the summer break in July, I will write again with a clear guide on acceptable footwear and trousers, 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.

## **Attendance and Holidays in Term Time**

As we approach the summer period, I would like to remind parents and carers that holidays should not be taken during term time unless exceptional circumstances apply. Good attendance remains one of the most significant factors in supporting academic achievement, wellbeing and positive engagement with school life. Every lesson matters, and even short periods of absence can have an impact on learning and progress. Parents should also be aware that schools are required to follow the national attendance framework introduced by the Government in August 2024. Under this guidance, a penalty notice may be issued where a pupil has accrued 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent to five school days) within a specified period. Penalty notices are issued per parent and further information regarding attendance expectations and penalty notices can be found on our website or by contacting the school's Attendance Team. We greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that pupils attend school every day, arrive on time and make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. The weeks ahead promise to be both busy and exciting as we celebrate the many achievements of our pupils and prepare for the end of another successful academic year. We look forward to sharing these moments with you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher