

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your  
light shine

15 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## NEWSLETTER 12 – END OF 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

What a year! Can I begin by firstly thanking parents and carers for their continued support over such a challenging year. This year has been one of the toughest. Yet, paradoxically, it could be considered to be one of most successful on many measures. Perhaps this is not a paradox at all; sometimes the biggest challenges bring out the best in a school. And there have been many challenges; new technologies to contend with and our remote learning platform BSM@home to drive forward, mass Covid testing with no medically trained staff, GCSE grading for pupils and staff to navigate their way around, pupil bubbles and masks to keep school safe and as risk free as possible to name but a few. As a school we have remained committed to serving those in our care – our family. We have championed new ways of learning, supported pupils' mental health, celebrated diversity and continued to support our pupils' spiritual development using creative and innovative ways to pray and sustained our unwavering dedication to supporting others who need our help. We have been determined, over the last two weeks of term, to try and maintain activities and celebrate with pupils by maintaining our Year 11 Valedictory, Year 7 Castlerigg Retreat, Sports Day, Rewards Day and Learning for Life activity days. How have we managed to get through it? The answer lies somewhere in the magic that is woven in Brownedge every day by pupils, staff and parents working together. I thank everyone for their part in it.

### September 2021 Start of Term Arrangements

The Department for Education will shortly set out more detail and publish new guidance for arrangements in schools from step 4 (July 19<sup>th</sup>) and therefore, for our Autumn term in September. I have changed our start of term plans to try and accommodate this proposed new guidance in anticipation of having to test pupils once more on their return in September for Covid. Please note these plans are subject to change and we ask parents to be vigilant on their Parentmail emails and the school website where any changes will be communicated. Please note – pupils do not need to wear school uniform on their testing day. Our plans currently are:

	Testing	Start of Term
Year 7	During Summer School and Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September at 8.50am
Year 8	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 10am	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 10am
Year 9	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 10am
Year 10	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 10am
Year 11	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 8.50am	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September after testing

### Staffing Changes

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to staff who are leaving this year. Mrs Thompson, Mr Hickin, Mrs Evans and Mr Booth all leave us for new adventures; either promoted positions, retirement, new pathways or permanent positions. Between them they have served the school for over 51 years! On behalf of all our Brownedge family, I wish them good luck and send love and best wishes to them all. In September we will be joined by Miss Smith, in a new Head of Technologies Faculty position, Miss Thompson and Miss Simpson, both joining the Maths Faculty and Mr Heraty joining the History Faculty. I look forward to introducing them to you in the new academic year.

### Senior Prefect Appointments

Our prefects are such an important part of our school and the leadership role they engage in is essential in promoting our ethos and supporting the smooth running of school. In June we appointed 82 prefects and

Station Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6PB

[info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

Tel: 01772 339813 Fax: 01772629236

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

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they have been superb in being positive role models for the other pupils in school, who should aspire to be one in Year 11. On Friday I will announce our senior prefect positions including Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Girl, House Captains and Senior games captains. Watch our live Teams stream to find who they are. Well done to all and I look forward to working with all Year 11 in 2021-22.

## **Prize Giving**

Our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Prize Giving took place on 25 June. It will stand out from the rest as it was the first, and hopefully the last, such event to be primarily virtual in nature. We look forward to this ceremony every year and usually enjoy being able to welcome many family members to the Church. Despite this, it was fantastic to be able to recognise and reward all the pupils for their superb efforts and the significant contributions they have made to our school community this year. They are a credit to you and to our school community. The video of the event can be accessed using the link below, which also showcases some of musical talent we have in school. Finally, our guest speaker, Rob Bridge, also shares his reflections on his time at Brownedge St. Mary's and offers some gems of wisdom to pupils as they continue their journey through the school. <https://vimeo.com/573021855/a29b911529>

## **Uniform, Haircuts and Shoes**

As the Summer holiday is nearly here, I would like to remind parents of the school rules in terms of uniform and haircuts and style in preparation for our return in September. If you are unsure as to our school rules on uniform, appropriate school shoes, hairstyles, piercing etc please look at our school website for images and full information. Pupils breaking rules on their return in September will be placed in our internal exclusion unit, the POD.

## **South Ribble Borough Council Support**

Over the holidays South Ribble Borough Council have developed several initiatives to support families in the area. These include a school uniform shop, holiday and food programme and holiday lunch club. Please see the attached leaflet for more details.

## **FSM Vouchers – Summer Holidays**

We can confirm that, following a further grant allocation from the Covid Local Support Grant, we have are able to utilise the LCC funded Edenred account to order summer holiday vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £90 voucher to cover the six-week summer holiday period. Vouchers will be issued as a one-off allocation of £90. If the system works as it should, these will be distributed before the end of Friday 23rd July.

We end the school year, as we always do, with a liturgy and final celebration assemblies. This will be streamed on our BSM\_Chaplaincy Instagram. Please do join us as we say thank you and goodbye to pupils. Wishing you and all our Brownedge family a restful and pleasant Summer. God bless and enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Headteacher