

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

13 September 2022

Dear Parents

## Newsletter 1 2022

I would like to wish all our school community a very warm welcome back for the academic year of 2022-23; both existing families and new families beginning their Brownedge partnership journey. I trust you have enjoyed the beautiful summer sunshine and had a restful and relaxing break. I am looking forward to another incredible and productive school year. Our hardworking and dedicated staff spent two INSET days planning and preparing for your child and I know they are looking forward to working together this year to develop your child to become the best version of themselves.

### Welcome Year 7

We have opened our doors and Christ's love to our new Year 7 intake, another full year for the third year running. I am impressed with the way they have settled into our family life and their enthusiasm and energy is infectious. When I asked if any would be interested in showing off their new school on Open Evening, a huge sea of hands was raised in eager support of their new community. A brilliant sight to see and great sign they feel safe and belong in our family. I look forward to many years of partnership with our families and promise to make your child's high school experience an inspiring learning experience.

### Farewell Year 11

Congratulations to our Year 11 leavers. I send on behalf of all our school community our love and very best wishes for their future endeavours. They have shown their true determination and resilience, particularly over the last 3 years and the hard work, from them and our staff, has resulted in some fantastic results. I hope they move on from their success of their last year, build on talents to their true potential and go out into the world to be good stewards and make a difference.

### Update on buildings and staffing

Each year begins positive change, in terms of additions to our teaching staff and our school site. As school came to a close last academic year, we started our building project to enhance our school environment. This work is nearly complete and as we move into 2022-23 more improvements are planned to enhance our pupils' school experience; both in terms of building work and creative and innovative ways of learning. In October we begin the transformation of a new dining area, technology classroom and as we head towards 2023 we will be launching our new technologies drive to ensure our new Year 7 are equipped with the latest technology to enhance their learning experience. More about this in the very near future. Whatever changes we make, rest assured we will continue to uphold the high standards and expectations we have for our students, both in terms of behaviour, attitudes, personal development and their academic progress.

We have four new staff members joining us this year. Mr Bolton joins us as Assistant Headteacher, leading on pastoral support in school. Mrs Doughty (Head of Faculty) and Miss Hindle join us in the RE Faculty. Miss Warburton joins us in the Technologies faculty, with specialism of Business and Computer Science. In continuation of the work we began last year to support our Covid recovery plans, Miss Simpson joins in Maths and Mrs Birchall in English.

### Uniform is important

Thank you for your support in ensuring our high standards of uniform are maintained. It is essential that we continue our work on this and as the colder weather begins, we must insist that hooded tops are not used as part of the school uniform. More than a few students have chosen to wear a hooded top under their blazers like a jumper. This is not allowed during school hours. **Pupils are allowed to wear their PE zipped fleece under their blazer.** Last year we began a Uniform Card system whereby all pupils, parents and staff were able to track our high expectations in terms of

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uniform. I am very pleased to say that this system has been very effective; allowing us to reward students who consistently present themselves excellently, whilst ensuring all strive towards our high standards following school uniform rules, such as appropriate skirt lengths, shirts being tucked in and no jewellery. We know that we are preparing students for future employment and rules that they will need to adhere there. Following rules is an important element of our students' education –and I thank parents for their continued support on this. Can I reiterate my offer to support any parent that may require financial support in ensuring that their child's uniform meets our high standards, please get in touch and we will do all we can to support you. I would also like to ask if any families have any old school uniform they wish to donate to children in our school who may be suffering from financial hardship. Any second-hand uniform can be handed into our Pupil reception.

## **Charity**

We continue to live out our commitment to service in the local community through our normal fundraising activities. With this in mind, we are very happy to announce therefore on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our annual Cancer Awareness Morning. If students could bake or donate cakes, sweets or snacks, we will open our Main Hall up at break time for fun, food and frivolity to support charities close to our community's heart. Please support us in this worthwhile morning.

## **Open Evening**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September we will be holding our annual Open Evening event. This event is so important in our school calendar, allowing an opportunity for parents to come and experience our fantastic school and the outstanding relationships that make us so special. As in previous years, school will close at 12.30pm on this day to allow the school to fully prepare for this important evening. There will be no dinners served on this day but there will be more substantial snacks available in the mid-morning break. Students entitled to Free School Meals can draw down their allowance at morning break on this day. If you have a younger child in the school and this presents you with a problem, please let me know in a brief note and I will ensure your child is supervised in school until 3.05pm as normal. In the next few days, we will be asking for volunteers and do hope lots of students will come into school on the evening to show how proud they are of our school. Many students have already volunteered to help which is fantastic.

## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

There is a currently a vacancy for a Parent Governor and so, if you have a child in school, please consider serving as a Governor. It is a fantastic way to shape the direction and success of our school and I would really appreciate any support from parents. You would attend three full governing body meetings a year and three more as part of a sub-committee. Meetings tend to be early evening and are a mixture of remote and face-to-face. I understand it is a time commitment, however, it is such an important job and such an exciting time in our school development. If you are interested in putting yourself forward for election, please send me an email: [head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk) and we can discuss further what the role entails and begin the election process.

Sadly, last week we received the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The staff and children have been reflecting in their thoughts and prayers and have had the opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Following information from the Department for Education, the official date of the State Funeral for Her Majesty is 19th September. This day will be a bank holiday and settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day as a mark of respect. This will include Brownedge St Mary's so we will return to school next Tuesday 20th September.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher