

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

19 September 2023

Dear Parents

## Newsletter 1 2023

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to the start of our 2023-24 academic year. I hope you all have had a restful, relaxing and safe summer break, ready for the start of a busy but exciting year. A very warm welcome too, to all our new students and parents – we are looking forward to welcoming you to our Brownedge family and building a partnership with you to support your learning journey in our fabulous school community. The pupils have settled in extremely well and look keen and eager to enjoy high school. I also offer our love, very best wishes and thanks to all our students who have now moved on from Brownedge at the end of the last academic year. We hope they move on from their success of their last year and build on their fantastic results on their new adventures. Our GCSE 2023 results was a record year for our students scooping grade 9, 8 and 7 grades and a good measure of how we push our brightest students to do their best. And it wasn't just our able students that made good progress. The hard work and commitment put in by many students paid off! Staff as always, worked so hard to ensure students did well. There was no secret formula for success this year. This is a real message for students in school now: **Keep working hard, learn from mistakes and try, try again.**

We are in for an exciting year! We are continually moving forward as a school and always look at how we develop new, creative and innovative ways of working. This year will see the roll out of iPads for all Year 7 pupils and staff are currently making sure they are planning the best use of them over the coming months. We hope to continue this initiative in future years and work towards embracing new technologies across school. We are also developing our resources for our students in terms of new classrooms, corridors and catering facilities. Our science and history areas are currently involved in building work and pupils are being asked to move around school following a diverted one-way system. 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.

### Staffing Update

As we welcome students back, we also welcome new staff who join Brownedge this year. Miss Clarke joins us as Head of PE, Mr Bridges as teacher of music, Miss Close as teacher of maths, Mrs Bowes as teacher of RE and Miss Casement as teacher of English. We have also extended our Technologies Faculty with the appointment of Mrs Pendreigh as 2<sup>nd</sup> in Technologies (Business) and Mr Sankey as teacher of Computing. We have also extended our SEND support with the appointment of Miss McNally and Mrs Greeney. We wish them the very best as they join our Brownedge family.

### Uniform is important

Whilst the vast majority of our students have returned to school in correct uniform, in order to continue our drive towards excellence we are ensuring that all pupils are issued with a uniform card. This will allow 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. As we move forward into October and the colder months, may I remind you that hooded tops are **not** 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 only.** 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

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

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.

## **Open Evening Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September: early school closure**

This takes place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm. As in previous years school will close at 1.00pm 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. Pupils entitled to Free School Meal 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 3.00pm 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.

## **Charity**

In September 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 that next Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our annual Cancer Awareness Coffee Morning, supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. We will be returning to holding a Community Coffee Morning starting at 9.30am, open to all family and friends of Brownedge. Our new Year 7 pupils will be serving coffee and cakes baked by our pupils - we would love you to join us for a cake and a chat. Then at 10.50am, we will hold a whole school coffee morning. Please support us by helping your child bring in cakes and biscuits, sweets or snacks. Pupils will be selling cakes and drinks in their House groups to all the school and be entertained whilst they eat, drink and fund raise as a school community so an extra few pounds in their pocket on that day to purchase 'goodies' would be appreciated.

## **Attendance Matters**

As we recover from potential lost learning, pupil attendance at school is more crucial than ever. Every pupil in school has been set a target of 97% attendance which in simple terms equates to no more than 6 days absence of the course of the entire academic year. Achieving this target will be important for your child to be eligible for our end of term rewards. As always, taking of holidays during term time is highly discouraged and unless there are extenuating circumstances, which are reviewed case by case, it is unlikely that any holiday request will be authorised. All our holiday patterns link with our local primary school and they can be found on our website for 2023-24 and next week we will publish our 2024-25 patterns, which we hope you find helpful in your planning. Should you require further information regarding attendance at school, please contact Mrs Carrera, our Attendance Manager.

I look forward to working together in this new academic year 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. I wish you a good Autumn term and will be in touch with any further updates on school issues.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher