

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

10th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Newsletter 1 2025-26

Welcome to the start of an exciting new school year at Brownedge! September always brings a unique energy—a mix of anticipation, curiosity, and possibility—and this year is no different. Whether you are a family returning to us or joining our community for the very first time, I want to offer you the warmest of welcomes. The corridors are once again alive with laughter, the classrooms are filled with the promise of new discoveries, and our staff are ready with passion and dedication to guide and inspire every child. A new academic year is like the opening of a blank book, waiting to be filled with stories of learning, growth and achievement. Together, as a community, we have the privilege of shaping those pages with experiences that will challenge, encourage and celebrate each child as they discover more about themselves and the world around them. I have every confidence that 2025–26 will be a year where our pupils not only shine in their studies, but also grow in character, resilience and joy.

A particularly special welcome goes to **our new Year 7 pupils**, who have made such a positive start to their Brownedge journey. Looking so smart in their uniforms, full of smiles and eager to take on the challenges ahead, they have already shown great enthusiasm and spirit. It has been a joy to see how well they are settling in, and I know they will continue to grow in confidence and flourish in the weeks and months ahead.

Open Evening Wednesday 1st October: early school closure

Our Open Evening will take place on **Wednesday 1st October at 5.30pm**, a highlight of our school calendar and a wonderful opportunity for parents and visitors to experience first-hand the warmth, energy and outstanding relationships that make Brownedge so special. To allow us to prepare fully for this important event, school will finish at **12.30pm** on that day. There will be no lunches served, but pupils will have an extended mid-morning break with more substantial snacks available. Students entitled to Free School Meals will be able to access their allowance at this time. We understand that an early finish may cause difficulties for some families with younger children; if this is the case, please simply send a short note and we will ensure supervision is provided until the usual finish time of 3.00pm. As always, we look forward to many of our pupils returning in the evening as volunteers, either in subjects or as Tour Guides—something that has always been a source of great pride for us. Already, a number of students have put themselves forward, and we are excited to see so many keen to showcase the very best of our school to future families.

Update on staffing

A new academic year always brings fresh faces and fresh energy to our community, and this September we are thrilled to welcome a number of new staff members who will enrich both teaching and school life at Brownedge. In the classroom, we are joined by **Miss Kellett, Mr Kiernan, and Mrs Sabino** in the Maths faculty and **Mr Cooper** in Geography. Beyond the classroom, we are equally excited to welcome **Mr Tetlow** as our School Operations Manager. Each of them brings enthusiasm, talent and a commitment to our young people, and we are confident they will quickly feel at home as part of the Brownedge family.

Farewell Year 11

We are so proud of our Year 11 leavers and all that they have accomplished during their time at Brownedge. They leave us having shown not only great determination and resilience, but also the kindness, spirit and character that truly make them shine. Their commitment, alongside the dedication of our staff, has led to outstanding GCSE results—our best ever! As they now begin the next stage of their journey, we send them forward with our love, prayers and very best wishes. May they build on the strong foundations they have laid here, continue to develop their talents to the fullest, and step into the world with confidence and hope. Above all, we hope they use their gifts well—to bring light, goodness and change wherever life takes them.

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Home learning

As we start the new academic year, we'd like to remind you about our home learning expectations. All tasks, for pupils in Year 7 up to Year 11, are set on MS Teams, with suggested completion timetables available [on our website](#).

Home learning, as a means of being independent and self-managing, really does positively impact progress, so we thank you in advance for your parental support in ensuring this can happen. Parents will be notified via Firefly if home learning is missed. We always wish our pupils to complete work to the best of their ability and for it to be something they are proud of. Therefore, we will be celebrating a weekly *Home Learner of the Week*, shared on social media and our website. If you haven't received our introductory parent letter or would like more details about our home learning policy, please contact [Mrs Crew](#).

New Technologies

We continue to go from strength to strength as we enter the 3rd year of our digital strategy here at school. As part of our long-term strategy, years 7 to 9 will have access to a personal iPad throughout the day, allowing them to integrate and develop their skills every day thus preparing them for a rapidly changing technological world. The continued success of this scheme has seen requests from our year 10 parents who would like to also enrol on the scheme. We are delighted to be able to offer this and welcome year 10 to purchase an iPad which they can use in school and/or home. We will continue to support Year 10 pupils not on the scheme, through our class banks of iPads when necessary. The advances we have made as a school to embrace the use of this technology is positively impacting the teaching and learning in school. Pupils readily access much of the benefits of apple technology, from augmented reality experiences and personalised learning through to assessing progress of pupils; the possibilities really are endless. If any parents haven't yet signed up for this scheme and would like it, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#) for more details.

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 on Friday, 26th September we will be holding our annual Cancer Awareness Coffee Morning, supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. We will also be 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. 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.

Foundation Governor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Foundation Governor and so, if you are a practising Catholic, please consider serving as a Governor. It is a fantastic way to shape the direction and success of our school. 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, please send me an email: head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk and we can discuss further what the role entails.

The start of a new school year always feels full of promise, and I am excited for all that lies ahead. Already the school is alive with smiles, energy and the unique spirit that makes Brownedge feel like a family. With the enthusiasm of our pupils, the dedication of our staff and the support of our families, I know this term will be one of growth, joy and achievement. Thank you for the part you play in making our community so strong. I wish you and your children every happiness as we journey through this Autumn term together.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher

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Key Dates for your diary

Macmillan Coffee Morning	Friday, 26 th September 9.30am
Open Evening	Wednesday, 1 st October 5.30pm to 8.30pm Pupils finish school at 12.30pm
Year 7 Mass of Welcome	Wednesday, 8 th October 7pm
Year 10 & 11 GCSE Information Evening	Wednesday 15 th October
End of Half Term 1	Friday, 24 th October
INSET 3 – Pupils not in school	Monday, 3rd November Pupils return on Tuesday, 4th November at 8.30am
Year 11 PPE 1 start	Monday, 10 th November
Year 7 Information Evening	Thursday, 13 th November 7pm
Leavers' Certificate Evening	Monday, 1 st December 7pm
Christmas Markets	Friday, 5 th December
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Wednesday, 10 th December 4.00 to 7.00pm
Carol Service	Monday, 15 th December 7pm

[All key dates for our school calendar can be found on our school website.](#)

By subscribing to this calendar, it can be added to your personal calendar.