

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## **NEWSLETTER 2 – October 2020**

I am writing to express my thanks for your support over this first challenging half term. The pupils have responded so positively to the significant changes that have been put in place and I am very proud of the way they have risen to the challenge and worked with us to ensure that our school community is safe.

As a school, we are constantly evaluating how we can ensure that pupils are gaining the very best learning opportunities during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This involves reviewing both the learning taking place in the classroom and across our remote learning platform Microsoft Teams. We are currently trialling more live learning on this platform to support the explanation of difficult terms, concepts and formulae for pupils; a vital aspect of learning that some pupils missed out on during the lockdown period earlier this year. We plan to continue reviewing our approach to blended learning in the coming weeks and months.

To further support pupils' remote learning, we are pleased to announce that you, as parents, will now receive a weekly update of your child's engagement in learning activities. We know that with your involvement and support together we can maximise the learning for all pupils in these difficult times. In addition to this, you can access resources and details of what your child has been asked to do by teachers in the weekly 'channel' for each subject on Microsoft Teams – your child should now be able to show you where this is on the platform.

In terms of our school environment, our Year 7 and 8 pupils are working well in their class groupings and to date haven't been negatively affected by COVID-19 cases in school. In Years 9, 10 and 11, to reduce further any potential impact of possible future positive COVID cases, we have taken the bold decision to review our class groupings. This will mean that, as much as practically possible, pupils will remain in the same groups for their RE, English, Maths and Science classes. This should not impact what your child is being taught or how your child is taught, and your child will remain on the same pathway. GCSE options will not be affected. Taking this step will allow us to reduce the number of pupils asked to self-isolate should a positive case be experienced in school. Reducing the potential number of pupils having to self-isolate hugely supports your child's wellbeing. This move is crucial, as we know being in front of a teacher is the best way for your child to make progress. We feel this is the right time to make this move, with a natural break in current groupings over the half term holiday and especially now pupils have settled back into the rhythm of daily school life and their

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increased understanding of the need to protect their safety and wellbeing. Your child's new groupings have been explained to them and the motives for these movements. We are confident this is the right thing to do for their long-term benefit.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy half term break. I hope our pupils use it as a safe way to recharge their batteries, ready for the run up to the Christmas season. We look forward to welcoming them back into school on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher