

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

01 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers



*Let your
light shine*

October 2023 – Newsletter 2

Where have the last seven weeks gone?! This first half term has been such a busy time in school, with celebrations of retreat days, feast days and much more. All of this will be reported on in our December issue of our Shining Lights Newsletter. Please make sure you read a copy, it's always full of examples of how our pupils live out our Gospel Values in school and put their faith into action in the wider Brownedge community and beyond.

As we end this first half term, I would like to update you on key information since the start of term.

Attendance and Punctuality

This half term we will continue with our push on attendance and punctuality. We have high expectations and make no apology for this as we know the large impact attendance has on improving pupil progress. Whilst we would like every student to achieve 100% attendance, we aim for all our students to be at 97% or over. Since we introduced the late to school and late to lesson detentions during the last academic year, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of pupils that are late to either school and/or lessons. To further reduce this number and continue our success, after October half term we are going to add 30 minutes to each detention. This will mean the pupils will serve the number of minutes late to school or the number of minutes late to lesson plus an additional 30 minutes. A parent mail will be sent to each parent stating the number of minutes late/owed and the day/date of the detention. In addition to this we are going to introduce a new stepped approach system for pupils that are late to school. The steps are listed below, and this will start after October half term.

- **1st Time-** Parents will receive an email and pupils serve the standard detention.
- **2nd time-** Parents will receive an email and pupils serve the standard detention.
- **3rd Time** Parents will receive an email. Heads of House will invite parents in for a meeting plus pupils serve the standard detention.
- **4th Time-** Parents will receive an email, SLT to meet parents and pupils. Pupils placed in the POD for one day. Home visits by attendance team maybe conducted at this point.
- **5th Time-** Parents will receive an email, pupils will serve two days in the POD. Parents and pupils will be asked to attend a Governor panel meeting.

Charity Work

Pupils have been busy this half term in their charity work, showing their commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community. An amazing amount of money was raised at our recent McMillan coffee morning and cake sale so thank you to everyone who donated cakes and all the parents/carers and families who came along for a coffee, to join in and support us on the day. Our Mental Health Champions have been raising money for the Trussell Trust by doing a sponsored walk through September. The amount of money raised from these two events totalled £735 which is absolutely amazing. THANK YOU!!! We will continue this work for St Catherine's Hospice and the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal in the lead up to Christmas celebrations.

Mobile Phones

As the darker nights draw in, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate again our mobile phone rules in school. Our school rule states that mobile phones, if brought into school, MUST be handed into the Form Tutor in morning registration to be locked in the mobile phone safe. Pupils caught with phones (whether they are on or off) will receive sanctions. We fully appreciate that parents need the reassurance that their child has access to a mobile phone when travelling to and from school, especially in the winter months. However, if your child brings a phone into school, they MUST use this facility.

FSM Vouchers

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £15 voucher to cover the half term holiday period. Please contact Mr Burrows, our school Business Manager, if you have any questions.

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CASEO

We offer a wealth of clubs and activities during lunchtimes and after school; please see the attached poster for further details.

Uniform

Good uniform standards are important and I thank you for your continued support in ensuring our high standards of uniform are maintained. As I outlined in my last newsletter, hooded tops are not permitted as part of the school uniform. **Pupils are allowed to wear their PE zipped fleece under their blazer, but not hooded tops like a jumper.** I would like to 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.

Rewards Trip Criteria

At the start of the term the criteria for the pupils to be able to attend the Rewards trip to the Trafford Centre at the end of the term was shared with all pupils and sent out to parents. A reminder that the criteria is as follows:

1. Pupils must receive no more than 15 negatives.
2. Pupils must receive a minimum of 90 positives. This term we are awarding positives for attendance and punctuality to lessons.
3. Pupils need 97% attendance with no more than 5 lates. This translates to having one day off school within this term.
4. No more than 10 minutes late to lessons.

All Saints' Day – Wednesday 1 November

Wednesday 1 November is a Holy Day of Obligation and we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints' with a Mass after school at 3.30pm to which all parents are warmly invited.

Parking around school

Please can I remind parents to be respectful of our neighbours, particularly in the Withy Gardens and Longbrook Avenue areas, when picking up/dropping pupils off for school. We have had a number of complaints from residents who have encountered issues with inconsiderate parking. An alternative proposal is for parents/carers to use the car park behind Morrisons and for pupils to walk the short distance to meet them. Thank you for your co-operation in this.

Key Dates over the next half term

All Saints' Day	Wednesday 1st November	
Year 7 Information Evening	Thursday 2nd November	7pm
Year 11 Pre Public Examinations start	Monday 13 th November	
Year 10 GCSE Information Evening	Thursday 23rd November	7pm
Leavers GCSE Certificate Evening	Monday 4 th December	7pm
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 13 th December	4.00pm – 6.30pm
Christmas Fayre	Friday 8 December	4.00pm – 8.30pm
Carol Service	Monday 18th December	7pm
Rewards afternoon	Wednesday 20th December	

Wishing you a good half term, rich in autumnal colours. **We return on Tuesday 31 October at 8.30am.**

Kindest regards

Mrs Nicola Oddie
Head Teacher