

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Newsletter 2 2026-27

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of our first half term, and what a busy and eventful few weeks it has been at Brownedge! There has certainly been no shortage of activity, change or celebration as we have settled into the new academic year. One of the most significant moments has been the appointment of Mrs Godbold as our next Headteacher, marking an exciting new chapter in the life of our school. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming hundreds of prospective pupils and their families to our Open Evening, giving them the opportunity to experience first-hand the warmth, enthusiasm and sense of community that make Brownedge so special. Our Year 7 Welcome Mass was another lovely occasion, bringing together pupils, families and staff to celebrate the beginning of their journey with us. Alongside these important events, pupils have been involved in CASEO activities, enrichment trips, sporting opportunities and so much more. We have also had a few new systems and routines to get our heads around, from the introduction of our Yondr mobile phone pouches to changes to our entrance arrangements. I am grateful to our pupils, staff and families for their patience, understanding and support as these changes become part of everyday school life.

Later this term, we look forward to sharing our next edition of *Shining Lights*, which will celebrate the many ways our pupils put our Gospel Values into action. Through their achievements, acts of kindness, contributions to school life and service to others, our young people continue to demonstrate what it truly means to live out our mission, *Let Your Light Shine*. It is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the faith, character and generosity that are at the heart of our Brownedge community.

21st Century Learning – iPads for students

There was a real buzz among Year 7 on Thursday as pupils received their new iPads, with plenty of smiles and excitement about using them in lessons after half term. Now in its fourth year, our iPad scheme continues to go from strength to strength, with every pupil from Years 7–11 having access to a personal device throughout the school day, in every lesson. Apple's versatile, easy-to-use technology and accessibility features open up learning opportunities for all. iPads do not replace the high-quality teaching that makes the difference; they enhance it, helping pupils explore, practise and deepen their understanding while developing essential digital skills. Should you have any queries relating to iPads, please contact our New Technologies Lead, Mr Lloyd lloydk@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk

New facilities

In my previous newsletter, I shared some of the exciting improvements made around school over the summer, including our brand-new Food Technology room and the refurbishment of the gym to create a more flexible space for activities such as dance. It has been lovely to see these spaces come to life over the past few weeks, with pupils making the most of the new facilities both during lessons and through our busy CASEO and enrichment programme. From developing their culinary skills to enjoying dance and other activities, these improved spaces are already making a real difference to the opportunities and experiences we can offer our young people. It is wonderful to see them being enjoyed and used so enthusiastically!

Year 7 History – Bringing the Battle of Hastings to Life

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to take part in a live educational broadcast from the British Museum on 14th October, exploring the famous Bayeux Tapestry. The event was particularly timely, coinciding with their study of the Battle of Hastings and marking 960 years since the events of 1066. During the broadcast, pupils explored how the tapestry tells the story of the Norman Conquest, from the rivalry between Harold Godwinson and William of Normandy to the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings. They discovered how historians use images and historical artefacts to piece together events from the past, while also considering whose perspective is represented and whether the tapestry tells the whole story. It was particularly pleasing to see the enthusiasm and curiosity with which pupils approached the experience, engaging with the historical evidence and making connections to their classroom learning. Opportunities such as this not only deepen pupils' historical knowledge and understanding but also help to spark a

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

genuine interest in the past, demonstrating that History is about much more than remembering dates and events — it is about asking questions, examining evidence and discovering the stories that have shaped our world.

Safety over the half term break

With Bonfire Night approaching, we have taken the opportunity to remind all pupils about the importance of staying safe around fireworks and bonfires. As part of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's *Bright Sparx 2026* campaign, all pupils have watched a fire safety presentation and discussed the key messages during form time. The presentation highlighted the dangers and potentially life-changing consequences of firework misuse, the laws surrounding fireworks and the importance of making responsible choices. We ask all parents and carers to take time to discuss these messages with their children, reinforcing the dangers of handling fireworks, the risks associated with unsupervised bonfires and the importance of never becoming involved in firework-related antisocial behaviour. Please ensure you know where your child is spending their time, who they are with and what activities they may be involved in, particularly during the evenings and over the Bonfire Night period. The consequences of a moment of poor judgement can be devastating, not only for those directly involved but also for their families and the wider community. By working together and reinforcing these important safety messages, we can help ensure that everyone enjoys the celebrations safely and responsibly.

Autumn Rewards Trip Criteria

As always, we will be running our Autumn Rewards Trip in December. All pupils will start with a clean slate on **Monday 2nd November**. The trip criteria is as follows:

1. Pupils must receive a **minimum of 40** Positives.
2. Pupils must receive **less than 15** negatives.
3. Pupils must **not receive** a Senior Staff Call Out.
4. Pupils must have **no** POD sanctions.
5. 97% Attendance (no more than 2 days absence)
6. **No more** than 5 times late to school.

School Uniform – A Reminder

As the weather turns colder, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of maintaining our high standards of school uniform. Wearing our uniform correctly helps to promote a sense of pride and belonging across our school community. If you are considering purchasing warmer clothing for your child over the half-term break, please remember that our school PE quarter-zip fleece is the most suitable additional layer to wear underneath the school blazer. Hoodies, sweatshirts and other non-uniform tops are not permitted under blazers. Pupils may, of course, wear a suitable outdoor coat over their blazer when travelling to and from school. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our pupils are smartly dressed and ready to learn. Please note that one of our uniform suppliers, Top-One Uniforms, has moved from St John's Shopping Centre in Preston to a new location: **Top-One Uniforms, 85A Fishergate (Opposite Primark), Preston, PR1 2NJ**. We hope this information is helpful to families planning to purchase uniform items over the half-term break.

FFT National Attendance Awards – A Fantastic Achievement!

We are delighted to share that Brownedge has recently received two FFT National School Attendance Awards, recognising that our attendance places us **in the top 25% of secondary schools nationally and in the top 25% when compared with similar schools**. This is a fantastic achievement and one that reflects the collective efforts of our pupils, families and staff. I would particularly like to thank our parents and carers for the vital role you play in supporting good attendance, ensuring your children arrive at school each day ready to learn and make the most of the opportunities available to them. We know that illness and other challenges can sometimes make attendance difficult, but every day in school matters, not only for academic progress but also for friendships, confidence and wellbeing. As we approach the end of this half term, I encourage everyone to maintain this positive momentum and return after the break with a

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

renewed commitment to excellent attendance. If your family is experiencing difficulties with attendance, please contact Mrs Carrera or Mr Crusham, who are always happy to offer advice and support. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our young people achieve their very best.

Finally, I would like to thank all our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their continued support throughout this busy first half term. Your contribution to our school community is greatly appreciated. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in November.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher

Key Dates for your diary for Half Term 2

Return to school	Monday, 2 nd November
Year 11 PPE 1 start	Monday, 9 th November
Year 7 Information Evening	Thursday, 12 th November 7pm
Christmas Markets	Friday, 4 th December from 4pm
Leavers' Certificate Evening	Monday, 7 th December 7pm
School Christmas Lunch And Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday, 10 th December at 1pm
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 10 th December 4.00 to 7.00pm
Carol Service	Monday, 14 th December 7pm in Church
Rewards Day	Wednesday, 16 th December
End of School Term 1	Friday, 18 th December

[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.