

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

12 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 3 - 2021

It has been a very busy start back to this final half term of 2021. It has been fantastic to see our community back into school and look forward to this continuing over the remaining 5 weeks of term. This week we have had a very successful Careers Fair and Remembrance Service and next week we begin our parent information evenings with Year 10 GCSE Information on 18th November at 7pm and Year 7 Information Evening on Wednesday 24th November at 7pm. More information about these events will be sent to relevant parties. We also look forward to welcoming Year 8 parents into school for a Year 8 Mass on Thursday 2nd December at 5pm.

Personally, I will be glad to see 2021 end and look forward to 2022 with optimism and hope. We continue this half term with one key priority: keeping our school community safe. To support us to do this, we persevere in asking you to support our Covid testing systems and report any positive PCR tests to school. At the moment I am very pleased to say we have relatively low rates of positive cases – but we must not be complacent or drop our good hygiene and ventilation practices we operate in school.

In a constant drive to improve home school communication, we have invested in a new systems called Firefly. This new parent portal will replace INSIGHT. Firefly parent portal will bring together information about your child, messages from school currently sent through Parentmail and parents evening booking all into one place. Parents will be able support their child's learning by being able to see their positive and negative behaviours, access the home learning assignments set on Microsoft Teams, view their child's reviews and reports and book parents evening appointments and extra-curricular activities, all within one web portal or app. This will mean that parents only need to have one login to access all of the information they need to support their child and access communication from school. Our Firefly rollout will begin with Year 7 in time for parents evening in December and continue to years 8-11 early in the new year. For more information please contact Mr Banks on banksj@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk for more information. I will write to parents in December with more information and login requirements.

Over the next four years we will be significantly developing our school site and resources to ensure that your child receives the best facilities and learning opportunity possible. Over the half term holiday, work commenced on an additional new ICT room and over the next few weeks a new catering facility and Pupil Reception area will be opened. We have also received monies from the diocese to develop a new front reception area and toilets. Work for these exciting new developments will begin May 2022. Exciting times lie ahead of us and when plans have been finalised, I will share them with parents.

I continue to ask for your support in talking to your child about the dangers of Vaping and use of eCigarettes outside school and in the school context. I have delivered assemblies, asked Form Tutors to speak to pupils and previously written to parents. Your child has been made very aware of the potential dangers of using eCigarettes and the consequences of exclusion if found in possession on school site. I make no apology for taking a very strong stance on this and on ensuring our pupils are safe.

Once again a huge thank you to the staff, parents and pupils for all that they have achieved. Your support is greatly appreciated and I sincerely thank you for your support and words of encouragement since the start of September.

Kind regards

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Headteacher

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