

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

13 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 3 - 2024

It has been a very busy start back to this final half term of the year 2024. It has been fantastic to see the work our wonderful school community has been engaging in and look forward to this continuing over the remaining 6 weeks of term. Over the last weeks, we have had a very successful Remembrance Service and two parent information evenings for Year 10 and Year 11. This week, we welcome our Year 7 parents again into school for their first information evening to explain our school systems for assessment, communication and to allow our new iPad initiative to be discussed further. More information about this event will be sent to relevant parties.

Opening of the School Library – The Hub

On Monday 4th November, we celebrated the official re-opening of our school library space - now known as 'The Hub' - with award-winning, local author, Ruth Eastham. Ruth hosted a workshop for creative writing with some of our Year 7 pupils, and the occasion was made even more special with her speech, which we broadcast to the wider school from our library space. Along with our Head Prefects, she spoke about the power of reading and the importance of imagination at any age. We thank Ruth greatly for her attendance. All our twenty-five pupil librarians were also awarded their Librarian badges, as a visual accolade of their pupil leadership and dedication to our new library space. The celebration was really special, and we hope The Hub becomes a central part of study, respite and reading for all our pupils in the months and years to come.

Online Safety

As a school we are constantly educating our pupils on how to keep safe online, via many forums such as assemblies and Learning for life lessons. I cannot stress more highly the important role you play as parents in monitoring your child's use of social media networks such as Tik Tok, Instagram and Snapchat. Some children, even after our repeated educational messages, are putting themselves in danger by some of their activities. Let's continue to work together to ensure safety online for all.

School Trips

I am always truly in awe of how committed our school staff are and how they go above and beyond to provide our pupils with an inspiring and motivational learning experience. We recently unveiled our programme of trips for the next two academic years! Over the coming 24 months, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in an array of fantastic experiences, including a ski trip to Canada, water sports in Spain, a Geography trip to Iceland and many more. This is in addition to our regular rewards, Careers and other day trips which will be announced over the course of the year. Please see our [website](#) for more information. Our school values and ethos are rooted in equality and fair access for all, and we have consulted with our school House Council and Senior Pupil Ambassadors to establish how this can be done. Therefore, should there be a high demand for places on a trip then a ballot will take place to allocate places. I appreciate that inevitably there could be some pupils that will be disappointed as we may not be able to accommodate everyone who expressed interest in attending the school trip. We understand that this may be disappointing, and we sincerely apologise to those who may miss out at any time. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work to make these experiences available to as many students as possible.

Parent Forums

Thank you to those parents that have offered their time and support to be involved in our Parent Forums. For those others who may be interested in joining, we have set dates for evenings in school. These are:

- Thursday 21 November 2024 – Assessment, Reporting and Communication
- Thursday 6 February 2025 – Personal Development
- Thursday 20 March 2025 – SEND
- Thursday 12 June 2025 – Behaviour

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Operation Encompass

In conjunction with Lancashire Police, Brownedge St Mary's is involved in a national initiative called "Operation Encompass". The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in, heard or witnessed a domestic abuse incident. Following an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset, worried and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to help and support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included. This is a valuable initiative that means we can help and support students and their families within our school when they need us most.

You can find out more information by visiting the [Operation Encompass website](#) or by contacting Miss Alexander or Miss Mault at school.

Personal Development Booklet

Personal Development is at the core of our student's education, and this is reflected in our school's values, expectations, culture and ethos. Please click on the following link for a comprehensive overview of our Personal Development curriculum for 2024/25. [Personal Development | Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School](#)

Parent Governor

In my last newsletter I made a plea for any parent who could support my drive to continue our school development by volunteering to become a Parent Governor. A huge thanks to those parents who volunteered; the highest response we have ever had. I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Helen Banks has been elected as parent governor, receiving 37% of the total votes cast.

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 found with a phone will receive a sanction, whether it be on or turned off.** In recent weeks we have dealt with a number of students using their phone to contact home during the day. This is **NOT** allowed. If pupils wish to phone home, we have a dedicated pupil reception area for them to do so. **Any child using their phone during the day to phone home will face the same sanction as if found with their phone.** 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. To ensure that pupils can follow this rule we have provided a secure cabinet in every form room for pupils' phones to be stored during the day to ensure pupils can pick up their phones before making their journey home. If your child brings a phone into school, they **MUST** use this facility.

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

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher