

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your  
light shine

11 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **NEWSLETTER 3 - 2025**

As we begin November, we look ahead to a busy and purposeful half term together. This is always a special point in the school year: a time of hard work, reflection and preparation as we move towards Advent, one of the most joyful seasons in our Catholic calendar. Over the coming weeks, our school community will gather for acts of remembrance, service and celebration, while continuing to support our pupils in their learning and growth. We look forward to sharing these moments with you in our autumn edition of ✨ **SHINING LIGHTS NEWSLETTER** ✨ in December and to continuing the strong partnership between home, parish and school.

### **Solar Panel Installation**

We are excited to announce that our school has successfully installed solar panels, thanks to funding from the Great British Energy Solar Partnership. This project marks a significant milestone in our commitment to decarbonisation, reducing our carbon footprint, and creating a greener future for our community. A huge thank you to all our pupils for showing such interest in the project and for the excellent way they conducted themselves during the installation process. Your enthusiasm and cooperation were outstanding! These solar panels will not only help us save energy costs but also provide a fantastic learning opportunity about sustainability and renewable energy. Stay tuned for more updates on how this initiative is making a positive impact on our school and environment. For more information contact [John Burrows](#) School Business Manager.

### **Parent Forums**

Last year, we trialled a series of face-to-face Parent Voice sessions focusing on key areas such as assessment and curriculum, personal development, SEND support and behaviour. These conversations provided invaluable insight and helped us better understand the experiences and priorities of our families. This year, we are looking to widen participation further by introducing online surveys, followed by opportunities to meet either in person or virtually to discuss key themes. More information will follow shortly, but we want to emphasise that parent voice remains a vital part of shaping our ongoing school improvement. Your feedback truly makes a difference.

### **Bees**

Last June, we welcomed two bee hives into our wildlife area in partnership with *Buzzing with Wonder*, who help young people learn about the vital role honeybees play in our ecosystem. After seeing the fantastic hive designs created by our pupils, Idrees, the visiting beekeeper, kindly offered ten students the chance to take part in a beekeeping workshop. Wearing protective suits, pupils explored one of our working colonies, learning about hive structure, bee behaviour and the teamwork within a colony. It was a brilliant experience that deepened students' appreciation of nature and left them buzzing with enthusiasm! More opportunities will be available over the coming year for pupils to get involved in initiatives – watch this space! If you would like more information about the work we are doing, please contact [Mrs Bowes](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> in RE Faculty.

### **iPads and our Digital Learning Strategy**

Our Digital Learning Strategy continues to demonstrate significant success as it enters its third year. This term, Year 7 and Year 10 students have received their iPads, bringing the total number of personal devices in circulation across Years 7–10 to nearly 500. The initiative continues to make a strong impact on pupils' learning, providing access to high-quality digital experiences that enhance collaboration, creativity, and independent study, while equipping students with the digital skills essential for future success. **Due to the continued high level of interest from pupils and parents, we will be reopening our online shop for a short period later this week.** This will be the final opportunity to join the scheme until next year, so we encourage families who wish to take part to act promptly. For further details, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#) or [Mr Lloyd](#) for more information.

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## Lancashire Book of the Year

Twenty Year 9 pupils have enlisted themselves on a reading journey this year through Lancashire Book of the Year. In its fortieth year, Lancashire Book of the Year is a prestigious award for new, upcoming and established fiction writers, who are selected by young people across the county as the best writers this year! We have begun our reading from a longlist of twenty-four books, and pupils are very excited to meet and discuss the stories they are enjoying the most. It is an exciting opportunity for us as a school as we continue to challenge our pupils in the content and breadth of their reading experiences.

## Christmas Markets

We're thrilled to announce that our Annual Christmas Market will take place on **Friday, 5th December 2025**, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at school! Last year's event was a huge success — it was wonderful to see so many families and friends come together, and thanks to your amazing support, we raised over £1,100 for St Catherine's Hospice. This year, we'd love to make it even more magical! Come along and enjoy a festive evening of food, stalls, and fun while supporting a fantastic cause. We're also inviting parents and carers to take part as vendors — if you have a small business, craft, or festive product to share, we'd love you to join us. It's a great way to celebrate the season and connect with our Brownedge Family. To book a stall or donate a raffle prize, please contact [Mr Crusham](#). Thank you for your continued kindness and community spirit — let's make this year's market one to remember!

## Online Safety

We kindly ask parents and carers to continue encouraging regular conversations at home about online safety and the responsible use of social media and digital platforms. Young people are navigating increasingly complex online spaces, and discussing how to stay safe, respectful and thoughtful online is more important than ever. In school, we support this through assemblies and Learning 4 Life lessons, where we explore topics such as privacy, digital wellbeing, respectful communication and the risks associated with inappropriate content. We have also been talking about the responsible use of AI, as misuse can lead to misinformation, harmful content creation or online conflict. By working together, we can help our students make positive and informed choices online.

## SEND News

We have recently updated the Inclusion and Support section of our school website with new resources from Lancashire County Council SEND. These include information about upcoming SEND Roadshow events for families and professionals, as well as the latest Autumn SEND Newsletter, which shares updates, guidance and stories from across the county. You can find these resources by visiting: <https://st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/inclusion-care-and-support>. We will continue to share local SEND news and opportunities through our website and social media channels.

## School Fixtures

We would like to remind all parents and guardians that for any upcoming school fixtures, anyone wishing to watch their son/daughter play must be on the school site by 15:30pm and access school via the back gate closest to Collins Road. Please note that after this time, the school gate will be locked, and access will not be permitted. We kindly ask for your cooperation to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. The commitment of our parents and carers plays a vital role in the life of our school and in the success and wellbeing of our young people. We are grateful for the trust you place in us each day, and we look forward to working together throughout this half term and beyond.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher