

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

12 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## NEWSLETTER 5 – January 2022

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed some time off with loved ones over the festive period. I would like to wish all our Browndge family a very Happy New Year. I'm sure I am not alone in looking forward to 2022 in the hope that it will see us return to a society that we recognise as more familiar. Over the coming half term, we look forward to watching the days getting longer and brighter. This is a period of reflecting on the opportunities a new year can bring and how it can be a catalyst for further developing a positive outlook and setting new personal goals. There are many new opportunities for pupils to do just this and I will outline these later in this newsletter.

### **Covid Testing**

Thank you for your support in enabling the smooth Covid testing of pupils on their return to school last week. We tested over 580 pupils efficiently and effectively, allowing us to continue to ensure our school community is as safe as we can possibly make it for all. We ask that pupils continue to test twice weekly, each Sunday and Wednesday, and report the results to both school and the NHS using the links on our school website. If you require more test kits to do this, they are available in school and can be collected at Reception outside of lesson times. For more information please email [Mr McCreesh](mailto:Mr McCreesh).

### **Covid Guidance**

You will be aware that we are asking for those eligible to wear face coverings in communal spaces, public transport and now in each classroom until Wednesday 26 January 2022, when the plan B arrangements will be reviewed by the government. Please note that if rates of transmission in school mean it is necessary, we may make a decision to extend this period temporarily in school. It is a frequently changing situation we find ourselves in and therefore I ask that you regularly check our school website, which we will endeavour to keep up to date with any changes to government guidance in terms of self-isolation, arrangements for those who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid, LFT and PCR testing and information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination injection being offered to pupils.

In September, we spent time ensuring that the ventilation in classrooms and communal spaces was sufficient to support our Covid efforts, making changes to rooms where appropriate. This inevitably means that windows and doors are left open in classrooms. As the weather threatens to get colder in the forthcoming weeks, we strongly encourage students to wear a garment which is not visible beneath their school shirt (vest or white t-shirt) and/or wear the school jumper or their PE zipped fleece under their blazers. Students are not allowed to wear any hooded tops in school. I also strongly recommend the use of a suitable coat. Students are not to wear their coats inside unless directed to do so by their form tutor or class teacher. Your support in this regard is greatly appreciated.

### **Keeping school open**

The government have asked us to think creatively about how we will keep schools open and overcome the staffing challenges that have impacted schools up and down the country. We will continue to do all we can to protect the learning experience for our students and want to do everything we can to maintain the exciting and broad curriculum we offer. This may mean we have to look at how we amend or combine classes to ensure those learning opportunities are not missed if staffing levels are such that we do not have enough teachers for each class. We hope that this is not needed and a switch to remote learning for specific year groups is not something I want to return to now or in the future, if at all possible. I will of course communicate any changes to the curriculum should we be in a position where these extreme measures are absolutely necessary.

### **Parent Evenings and Information Evenings**

This term is a crucial period in our partnership with you as parents and for our children to ensure that learning is effective, productive and that progress is enhanced. Over the next 10 weeks we have several events coming up to support this.

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Year Group	Event	Date
Year 11	Mock Results Day	17 <sup>th</sup> January
	Reports home	2 <sup>nd</sup> February
	Parents' Evening	3 <sup>rd</sup> February
	GCSE Information Evening	Virtual event 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Year 10	Reports Home	21 <sup>st</sup> March
Year 9	Pathway Information Evening	In school event 24 <sup>th</sup> February
	Review 2 sent home	16 <sup>th</sup> March
	Parents' Evening	Virtual event 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 8	Pathway Information Evening	In school event 24 <sup>th</sup> February
	Review 2 sent home	7 <sup>th</sup> March
	Parents' Evening	Virtual event 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 7	Review 2 sent home	16 <sup>th</sup> March

Please support your child by attending these important events, so that we can continue to work together in partnership for their best interests.

## Firefly

As highlighted in my December Newsletter, we will shortly be rolling out our new parent portal FIREFLY. More information about this can be found on our website, in the Parent area. Please watch out for emails or letters sent out by [Mr Banks](#) requesting accurate email addresses.



## School of Sanctuary Award

On our return to school, I shared with students our intention to work towards the Schools of Sanctuary Award. We know that after Jesus' birth, the Holy Family fled to Egypt to escape Herod. When I look at the faces of refugee families in the news, it's not that hard to see Mary, Joseph and Jesus staring back. So, over the coming months, we want to remember Jesus the refugee and the ever-present plight of refugees around the world. By pledging to become a School of Sanctuary, we commit to learning about what it means to be seeking sanctuary, taking positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion and sharing what we have learned, and good practice with other schools, the local community and beyond. More information will follow over the coming months, however if you have any more questions about our vision please contact our Lay Chaplain [Rachael Bowe](#) for more details.

Our staff continue to work exceptionally hard to support the 760 students that attend Brownedge and we know that many students have and will continue to require additional support to make sense of the current situation. As a school, we continue to develop our offer, and are always seeking to strengthen our relationships with external providers to ensure we can make sure all students have access to the right support at the right time. If there have been any changes to family circumstances over the holidays which you think we should be aware of, please can you let the relevant Head of House know in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead. As always, please do not hesitate to contact [info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk), if you have any questions. One certainty for 2022 is that the start of the year and the run-up to the summer examinations is going to require a genuine partnership, working together in the best interests of our young people.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher