

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

06 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 5 – January 2023

I would like to wish all our Brownedge family a very Happy New Year. I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed a restful time with loved ones over the festive period. Some say that Christmas is not a holiday, with a busy schedule of visiting family and friends! Whether your break was restful or busy, we look forward to 2023 and all that the new year brings. January mornings and evenings are cold and dark, but, over the coming half term, we look forward to watching the days getting longer and brighter. January also allows us to reflect on the opportunities a new year can bring and how it can be a catalyst for setting new personal goals. There are many new opportunities for pupils to do just this and I look forward to seeing these in our next edition of Shining Lights newsletter.

Pope Benedict XVI

As many of you will be aware, the former Pope died last Saturday, aged 95, and was buried on Thursday 5th January. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was well known for also being a prominent theologian and has left a legacy within the Church and wider society. His message in 2012, during the World Youth Day, is an important one for us all to be aware of: ***"Know that God will never abandon you. Turn your eyes to him often. He gave his life for you on the cross because he loves you. Contemplation of this great love brings a hope and joy to our hearts that nothing can destroy."*** Please join us in keeping him, and the wider Church, in our prayers.

Behaviour

At Brownedge, we pride ourselves on our high expectations of pupils; their respect for each other, their willingness to participate in their learning and the opportunities provided to ensure they achieve the best they can. This is at the heart of our behaviour policy. In 2020 Ofsted recognised this, and stated that "pupils pay attention, try hard and behave well in lessons. This good behaviour extends beyond lessons. Pupils are happy and orderly between lessons, and at break and lunchtime", they "behave well and work hard in class." This was echoed throughout our recent Diocesan report and we are proud of all our community and their attitude to learning. However, we are constantly aiming to further improve, and so to ensure the highest possible standards we are amending some areas of this work to continue in our strive for excellence. These amendments are not new, but are to clarify and simplify the work we already do. Pupils have been made aware how the Senior Staff Callout system will be communicated to them and the consequences if behaviour does not meet expectations. If you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact [Miss Mault](#) for further information.

125 Public Bus Service

Parents will be aware that I have been working with Lancashire County Council and Stagecoach to try and secure a school bus service that will travel to school in the morning and Chorley in the afternoon. Unfortunately, I have not yet been successful in persuading them to support us. I have been asked to gather more information about the state of the service currently on offer. To do this, I am sorry to say that pupils using the 125 bus will no longer be allowed to leave at 3.00pm. This will enable us to analyse the number of pupils being refused entry to the full buses and the time taken to access acceptable travel, ready for submission to the County Council. If you would like to contact Lancashire County Council yourselves to inquire about a funded bus service please do so. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Appointment Pickup for Pupils

Please can I remind parents that if they are collecting their child to attend an appointment, please can you pick up and drop off children using the Collins Road entrance. There is an intercom system for you to notify the attendance team that you are there. Pupils will sign in and out from the pupil reception, where the attendance team is resident.

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

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

Year Group	Event	Date
Year 11	Parents' Evening PPE2 Reports sent home	12 th January w/b 6 th February 28 th February
Year 10	Reports sent home	28 th March
Year 9	Pathway Information Evening Review 2 sent home Parents' Evening	2 nd March 28 th March 29 th March
Year 8	Pathway Information Evening Review 2 sent home Parents' Evening	24 th February 14 th March 15 th March
Year 7	Review 2 sent home	28 th March

Extension of the school hours

In March 2022, the Department for Education announced plans that all state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. The school week at Brownedge currently stands at 31.5 hours and therefore we will extend our school day in the next academic year. I am currently in the process of consulting with Governors and staff on how best to divide this 60 minutes to our existing school day. It may mean an earlier start or later finish or both, but the changes will not be significant. I will let you know as soon as a decision has been made.

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, if you have any questions. Our staff continue to work exceptionally hard to support the 760 students that attend Brownedge and we know that many families might continue additional support over the next few months. 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.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher