

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

08 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 5 – January 2025

Happy New Year to everyone! As we settle into this first week of term, it's hard to believe how quickly Christmas has faded into the past. I hope you all had a joyful and meaningful time with your loved ones, whether your holiday was a chance to rest or filled with exciting activities. Now, as we embrace the start of 2025, we look ahead to the opportunities and challenges this year will bring. The frosty mornings and dark evenings may make these January days feel long, but they also remind us that brighter and longer days are just around the corner. Over the coming half term, I hope we can all take moments to notice those small, hopeful signs of change and renewal.

For our pupils, the New Year is a perfect time to explore new interests, tackle fresh challenges, and set ambitious goals. I'm looking forward to seeing their creativity, growth, and achievements take shape, and I'm excited to share their highlights in the Easter edition of *Shining Lights*. Let's make this term a truly inspiring one!

Scholastic Book Fair! 2025

This coming week, we welcome the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair, which will be stationed in our school Hub, alongside our own library books. The Book Fair is a wonderful, annual event, which gives every pupil, from Year 7 to 11, the opportunity to purchase a book/books of their choosing, from the incredible selection. All books on display will be for sale, starting from only £2.99! Please encourage your child to bring cash for this event. Pupils in Key Stage 3 will be timetabled slots in the week to visit the fair with their English teacher, whilst Year 10 and 11 pupils will have the chance to browse during an allotted morning registration. Our School Librarians will be working hard to sell and showcase these amazing reads! We thank you in advance for your support, and we hope to sell as many books as possible in order to earn free books for our own school library.

Careers Fair – Thursday 30th January 4pm to 7pm

We are hosting a Careers Fair later this month in school, and a huge array of colleges, training providers and employers will be in attendance. Confirmed attendance includes all our local colleges, BAe, Armed Forces, NHS, Leyland Trucks, Carefoot Construction and Volaeer Stevin (Engineering) to name a few. Pupils will have a workshop to support them to get the most out of the fair and we hope the experience is a beneficial one for all. As well as the Fair taking place in the Sports Hall, we will be hosting several talks by exhibitors in our main school hall. This proved very popular last year and gives a real opportunity to explore different pathways and have Q&A sessions. Everyone is welcome, so please come along with your son/daughter and have a look at the fantastic stalls full of information about post 16/18 options for future planning.

The Importance of Jewellery Rules and Uniform

Maintaining high standards in uniform is an essential part of our commitment to excellence. While the majority of our students have returned to school dressed appropriately, we want to remind everyone of our rules regarding piercings. Recently, some pupils have come back with multiple ear piercings or nose piercings, which are not permitted. As part of our role in preparing students for future employment, we emphasize the importance of following rules, as this is a key aspect of their education. I would like to thank parents for their continued support in reinforcing these expectations.

As we progress through January and face potentially colder weather, it's been encouraging to see more girls opting to wear our school trousers, which are available through our uniform suppliers. If any students would like to see them before purchasing, we have some samples available in school. I would also like to remind you that hooded tops are not part of our uniform. Some students have been wearing hoodies under their blazers as if they were jumpers; this is not allowed. Pupils may, however, wear their PE zipped fleece under their blazers if needed.

For families who may need financial assistance to ensure their child's uniform meets our standards, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help and will do all we can to support you. Additionally, if any families have old uniform items they no longer need, we would greatly appreciate donations. These can be handed in at our Pupil

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Reception and will go to students experiencing financial hardship. Thank you for your cooperation and generosity in helping us uphold our high uniform standards.

School Production – Save the Date!

The Expressive Arts Faculty is a buzz of activity this week as the cast names for our upcoming **'Into the Woods'** school production have been published. Save the date announcement of **Wednesday 30 April to Friday 2 May** for the show. We will be in touch nearer the time to let you know how to get tickets. For now, happy rehearsing to the cast; have a blast and make memories with your friends that will last a lifetime!

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 6th February 2025 – Personal Development
- Thursday 20th March 2025 – SEND
- Thursday 12th June 2025 – Behaviour

We will write to you later this month to highlight areas of RSHE, Careers and Learning for Life to be discussed in the Personal Development meeting at the start of February.

Calendar of forthcoming school events

Starting 16 th January – 23 rd January	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 16th January	Year 11 GCSE preparation evening – ONLINE 7pm
Week beginning 27th January	Year 10 Assessment Week
Thursday 30th January	Careers Fair 4pm to 7pm
Monday 3rd February	Year 11 PPE Week
Thursday 6th February	Personal Development Parent Forum
Friday 31st January	Bosco House Feast Day
Friday 14th February	Finish for half term at 3pm
Monday 24th February	Return to school at 8.30am
Thursday 27 th February	Year 9 Pathways Evening – ONLINE 7pm

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher