

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

09 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers



Let your
light shine

NEWSLETTER 5 – January 2026

Happy New Year! As we begin a new term together, the frosty mornings and long, dark nights of winter can make this time of year feel especially demanding. After the celebrations of Christmas, January offers a quieter space to pause, refocus, and return to our routines with renewed purpose. This season gently reminds us that even when the days feel long and progress seems slow, light continues to grow, and new life is quietly taking shape.

For our pupils, the weeks ahead provide an opportunity to continue discovering their God-given gifts, to approach new challenges with courage, and to grow in confidence and character. As learning unfolds, we encourage them to live out the values of kindness, perseverance, and respect, recognising these as part of our shared call to care for one another. We look forward to celebrating their achievements as the term progresses and to sharing these in the Easter edition of *Shining Lights*, as together we work to make this term one rooted in hope, purpose, and inspiration, trusting that faithfulness in small things helps to bring about great good.

Adverse weather notifications

During the winter months, adverse weather conditions may occasionally impact our ability to open the school site safely. We ask that pupils attend school dressed appropriately for the colder weather, including wearing a warm coat, to ensure their comfort and safety throughout the day. In the very rare event that adverse weather conditions mean the school is unable to open safely, families are asked to check the school website, which will always provide the most accurate and up-to-date information. We kindly request that parents rely on the website as the main source of guidance in these circumstances. Where necessary, parents will also be contacted via Firefly. Should the school be closed physically, learning will continue online, with work set through Microsoft Teams, and all pupils will be expected to engage fully so that learning can continue with minimal disruption.

SEND Roadshow

Roadshows are taking place across Lancashire for families and practitioners to find out more about support and services available for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers. The roadshow for our area is taking place on Wednesday 4 February in Chorley. Please see attached flyer for more details.

Parents' Evenings

This term is set to be a particularly busy and significant one, with Parents' Evenings taking place for Years 8, 9, and 11. These occasions are an essential part of how we work together to support pupils, providing time for meaningful conversations about progress, effort, and next steps in learning. Regular attendance at Parents' Evening is vitally important, as it allows families to gain a clear understanding of how their child is developing academically and personally, and how best they can be supported at home. This is especially crucial for our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for key examinations and make important decisions about the months ahead. When parents and school staff work in close partnership, pupils benefit from consistent messages, shared expectations, and a stronger sense of support. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend these evenings, as this shared commitment plays a significant role in helping pupils to achieve their potential and continue to make positive progress. We look forward to welcoming you into school over the next few months.

Charity

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our entire school community for the remarkable generosity and compassion shown in supporting those less fortunate. Since September, an outstanding total of over £3,000 has been raised for a range of charitable causes — a truly impressive achievement that reflects the strength of our shared values. Through our continued support of Operation Christmas Child, run by Samaritan's Purse, families donated over 60 thoughtfully filled shoeboxes to children in need across the world. Our Annual Christmas Markets

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brought the community together in a wonderful celebration, raising £1,604.33 for St Catherine's Hospice, while Christmas Jumper Day saw pupils donate generously to the local food bank at St Aidan's Church, resulting in over 10 boxes of food for families in our area. Staff and pupils also played their part through Christmas Karaoke and the sponsored Santa Dash, with pupils raising an additional £434, including some exceptional individual efforts. Together, these acts of kindness demonstrate the powerful impact of working as a community to support others, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

Clayton Brook Youth Club

First Kick Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Lancashire, have announced the reopening of the Youth Club at Clayton Brook Village Hall. The Youth Club is open to Secondary age pupils every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm. The Youth Club offers a safe, fun, and engaging environment for young people to enjoy activities, make friends, and develop new skills— and it's all completely free of charge! Please see the attached poster for more information.

Scholastic Book Fair 2026

In January, we are delighted to welcome the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair back to our school. The fair will be located in our school Hub, alongside our own library collection. This much-anticipated annual event offers all pupils from Years 7 to 11 the opportunity to browse and purchase books from a fantastic range, including many of the current Scholastic Top Reader favourites and bestselling titles. Prices start from just £2.99, so there is something to suit every reader. What a perfect way to start the National Year of Reading! Please do encourage your child to bring cash for this event or otherwise suggest the books they would wish to see in our own library stock. Pupils in Key Stage 3 will visit the Book Fair during timetabled slots with their English teacher, while Year 10 and Year 11 pupils will have the opportunity to browse during an allocated morning registration. Our School Librarians will be on hand throughout the week to help pupils discover and choose exciting new reads! We hope to sell as many books as possible as this enables us to earn free books to further enrich our school library.

The Importance of Jewellery Rules and Uniform

A consistent and smart uniform plays an important role in setting high expectations for learning and conduct across our school. We are grateful to the many pupils who return each day dressed correctly and take pride in representing the school well. Learning to follow agreed expectations is an important part of preparing pupils for life beyond school, helping them to understand responsibility, professionalism, and respect for shared standards. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

As the winter weather continues, we have been pleased to see an increasing number of pupils choosing to wear school trousers, which are available from our uniform suppliers. A small selection of sample sizes is also available in school for pupils who would like to view them before purchase. Families are reminded that hooded tops are not part of our uniform and should not be worn under blazers. If additional warmth is needed, pupils may wear their school PE zipped fleece underneath their blazer instead.

We are always mindful that uniform costs can present challenges for some families. If you require any support in ensuring your child meets uniform expectations, please contact the school in confidence, as we are keen to help wherever possible. We also welcome donations of good-quality, pre-loved uniform items, which can be handed in at Pupil Reception and will be passed on to families who may benefit. Thank you for working with us to maintain the high standards that support a positive and respectful school environment.

Expressive Arts— Save the Dates!

There is a growing buzz around Expressive Arts in school this term, with creativity thriving across music, drama, and the visual arts. We are delighted to share that our Expressive Arts Evening will take place on Tuesday 1st April at 7.00pm, offering pupils the opportunity to showcase the creativity, confidence, and God-given talents they have been developing through their lessons and enrichment activities. Alongside this, preparations are already quietly underway for our summer production, scheduled to run from Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th July. While further details

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will be revealed in due course, excitement is already building as rehearsals begin and ideas take shape. These events promise to celebrate imagination, collaboration, and the joy of creative expression, and we look forward to welcoming our school community to share in these special occasions.

Calendar of forthcoming school events

Starting 12 th January – 16 th January	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 14 th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Week beginning 27 th January	Year 10 Assessment Week
Friday 30 th January	Bosco House Feast Day
Week beginning 2 nd February	Year 11 PPE2 begin
Friday 13 th February	Finish for half term at 3pm
Monday 22nd February	Return to school at 8.30am
Thursday 26 th February	Year 9 Pathways Evening 7pm
Thursday 5 th March	Year 11 GCSE Information Evening 7pm
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 26 th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6.30pm

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

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher