

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

14 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 6 – February 2025

I can't believe we are already past the halfway mark of this academic year! As always, the start of the second term has been incredibly busy, and I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support. I am extremely proud of our pupils—not just for their positive attitude towards learning, but also for the respectful and thoughtful way they conduct themselves in and around school. Visitors frequently comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the school, and it is a pleasure to see our pupils' hard work and focus reflected in their progress. I hope this attitude to learning continues to thrive and brings lasting success in the months ahead.

Lent

The second week we return from our half term holiday, we enter into the holy season of Lent. Lent is the season of reflection and preparation before Easter. As a Catholic school we approach the Lenten season with great anticipation. It is a special time in our school, as part of the whole Catholic Church community, where we focus on the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Giving. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March and as a school we will be walking pupils to church for a short 30 minute Lenten Service in the afternoon. More information will be given as the half term continues on all the different activities taking place across school to celebrate Lent and how we will use this time to support the various charities close to our school's heart accumulating in our annual Lenten Charity Afternoon.

New Staff

This half term we welcomed Mrs Saint to the Browndge family. She has already made a wonderful contribution to our Health and Social Care curriculum and I know she has exciting plans to expand this further. As the half term closes, we say goodbye to Mrs Sidgreaves, our Behaviour Manager and Miss Alexander, our Designated Safeguarding Lead. We wish them well and we send them best wishes for their new adventures. Both positions have been filled, and we welcome Miss Mellor in joining our Senior Leadership Team as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Graham in her newly promoted position of Behaviour Manager. I will update you with news of other appointments in the near future.

Careers

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Careers Fair in school. The evening was a huge success with over 25 stall holders and keynote speakers on the night. Parents, pupils and families attended in their droves and the feedback we have received has been wonderful. Mr Richardson and the Careers team in school did a fantastic job at organising the event and we hope you found it enjoyable and informative. We have excellent Careers provision in school, supported by Career North, helping young people through one-to-one coaching, guidance meetings, college and training applications. If you feel your child would benefit from a one-to-one career meeting, please contact [Mr Richardson](#) in the first instance. If you would like to find out more, visit our website or the Career North website at www.careernorth.co.uk. Year 11 will continue with their college and future pathway planning with interviews taking place with Cardinal Newman College, Runshaw College and Preston College over the next two weeks.

Uniform

We continue in our high expectations of pupils conduct and presentation, and as we reach half term, please can I remind you about the uniform expectations for pupils returning on **Monday 24th February**. School shoes must be worn, and there are images on the school website if you are unsure of what is allowed. There are also no piercings, false nails and/or false eyelashes allowed. We have seen a rise in pupils having piercings to areas of their face including eyebrows, noses and tongues. Wearing jewellery in these piercings is not permitted. **This includes wearing clear spacers instead of jewellery or wearing plasters to cover jewellery**. Existing school sanctions will be put in place for those pupils failing to follow school rules. I must say, this applies to a small number of pupils, however, it is important to highlight in this newsletter so all are aware of the work we are doing.

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Half Term Food Vouchers

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order February half term vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £15 voucher to cover the one-week holiday period. Please contact [Mr Burrows](#), our school Business Manager if you have any questions.

Enrichment

As a school, we provide an outstanding personal development offer, with a huge number of opportunities for pupils to develop outside the classroom, and I thank our dedicated staff that provide these opportunities every day. These opportunities include an extensive after school extra-curricular offer, trips and visits to local businesses, colleges and universities, retreats to Castlerigg, DofE expeditions and numerous residential trips, to both national and international areas. Information about exciting opportunities will be published on our school website. [Click here for more details and browse our Personal Development, CASEO, Duke of Edinburgh and Trip pages.](#)

We are also aware of the fantastic amount of pupils that participate in activities outside of school; learning new skills, meeting new friends and developing the gifts and talents God entrusted to them. Following on from our House Council meetings and our recent Parent Forum, we have created an [email link on our school website](#) that allows pupils and parents to tell us of any involvement, events or awards that our fantastic pupils are involved in/have been involved in outside school. We would love to celebrate them and recognise them!

Attendance

We are thrilled by the number of pupils who have maintained 100% attendance so far, with many earning the weekly five positive points for both attendance and punctuality. High attendance is closely linked to academic success, enabling pupils to truly let their light shine. Regular attendance also helps pupils build essential social skills and develop leadership qualities that will benefit them in the future. If your child is unable to attend school, please report their absence to our attendance team on the morning of the absence to avoid it being recorded as unauthorised. While we understand that children can sometimes be too unwell to attend, even authorised absences affect their overall attendance record. Thank you for your continued support in promoting excellent attendance.

Key dates for Half Term 4

Event	Time and Date
Return to school at 8.30am	Monday 24th February
Year 9 Pathways Evening	Thursday 27 th February 7pm
Year 11 PPE2 Results Day	Friday 28 th February
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday 5 th March
Drexel Feast Day	Friday 7 th March
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12 th March 4pm – 6.30pm
Year 9 Reviews sent home	Monday 17 th March
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 18 th March 4pm - 6.30pm
Parent Forum – SEND	Thursday 20 th March 7pm
Year 7, 8 Reviews and Year 10 Reports sent home	Wednesday 26 th March
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Thursday 27 th March 4pm – 6.30pm
Romero Feast Day	Friday 28 th March
Charity Afternoon	Thursday 3 rd April

Wishing you a happy half term break.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie, Headteacher