

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

04 March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 7

This is always such a busy half term and we move at pace towards Easter. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, we begin this week to celebrate the season of Lent and as a Catholic school it is a special time where we focus on three pillars: **Prayer**, **Fasting** and **Giving**. This year in each week of Lent, we are asking pupils to engage in an activity associated with each of these three pillars. **Prayer** is central to our daily pattern of life in school, and this will deepen during this special liturgical season. **Fasting** is usually associated with food, but this year we are asking pupils to consider other ways that they may fast, for example from technology, from wasting the earth's natural resources, from anger and from ignorance. Finally in terms of **almsgiving**, pupils will spend time raising money for St Joseph's Penny Box, for the homeless in creating "Care Packages" and CAFOD in our Big Lent Walk. (More info later in this newsletter.) The pinnacle of our almsgiving will take place at our annual Charity Afternoon and our House forms are busy preparing activities to raise money for various charities during this hectic, but fun filled afternoon. Watch out for photos in our Spring edition of Shining Lights newsletter!

As it is such a busy half term where we work in partnership to benefit and support our fabulous young adults, I have listed below the key dates that parents are invited into school to deepen that partnership and work in collaboration with teachers and pastoral staff.

Event	Time and Date
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

Pilgrims of Hope

You may be aware that Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme of the year is "Pilgrims of Hope". The central message is to actively cultivate and share hope in a world filled with suffering from the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis. It is a time for reflection, renewal, and spreading hope, where individuals are invited to undertake a personal "pilgrimage of hope" through prayer, acts of charity, and deepening their faith. Pupils were introduced to the theme at the start of the new year and school has been busy planning a year-long programme of activities for our school community to engage in.



One such activity is Brownedge hosting the diocesan 'Anchor of Hope'. This Anchor has been provided by Bishop John and is on its own pilgrimage around the Salford Diocese. In total it will visit 37 schools. We will receive the Anchor from St Mary and St Benedict's RC Primary School and after it leaves us, it will journey on to St Paul's RC Primary School in Feniscowles, Blackburn. We will officially receive the Anchor of Hope on 12th March. On Thursday 13th March, we will hold a school Mass and members of our community, parents and parishioners are welcome to join us. More information will follow very soon.

Staff Update

Since writing my last newsletter, our Brownedge family continues to grow. We welcome Miss Mellor as Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Agbewornu and Mrs Ferrer as Teaching Assistants and Miss Rigby as Data, Exams and ICT Support Assistant. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Bowes on her promotion to 2nd in the RE Faculty. We also have had information from the LEA on our new pupils joining us in September 2025. It's great news to see our growing reputation is reflected in the intake numbers – we will be oversubscribed for the fifth year running.

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Big Lent Walk

As highlighted earlier, on Thursday 20 March Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils will take part in CAFODs Big Lent Walk. During this Lent period CAFOD are challenging people to walk 200k over the forty-day period. Here at Brownedge, we propose to do that in just 3 hours with the help of all our school community! To support the cause, we have set up a just giving page to allow funds to be raised. Mr Hayhurst will be in touch shortly with more information about the day but please, if you would like to donate now, use the QR code here to pledge your support for this truly worthwhile charity.

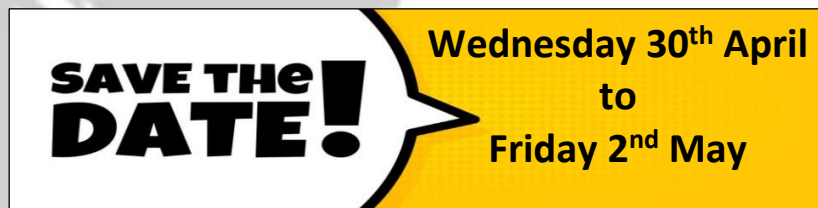


World Book Day – Thursday 6 March

World Book Day, a national reading event, is an annual occasion at Brownedge where the entire school comes together to celebrate the joy of reading. Throughout the day, pupils will enjoy a shared story across their subjects, which they will hopefully be eager to tell you about at home! This is also threaded into our Register and Read sessions this week, where year groups are unpicking the 'first pages' of the Waterstones Children's Book of the Year shortlist, to vote for their favourites. Additionally, each pupil will receive their customary book voucher, which they can use to purchase a free World Book Day book of their choice. We also hope pupils visit the Hub, our library space, to borrow any one of the fiction and non-fiction books we have on offer.

School Production – Save the Date!

It has been absolutely fantastic to see and hear the busy rehearsals of our up-and-coming school production 'Into the Woods'. My advice – save the date! You will enjoy it hugely! We will be in touch soon to let you know how to get tickets.



Pathways

It is at this time of year that we begin our Pathways journey for Year 9 pupils. Pupils and parents received information about option choices and the process of selecting GCSE and vocational courses at our recent Pathways Evening. I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of our Parents' Evenings in this process and encourage all parents to attend these evenings to support their child's GCSE journey. Should you have any more questions in terms of the process or timeline of events over the next four weeks and beyond, please contact [Mrs Godbold](#) or [Mr Banks](#) for further assistance.

Primary School Visits

This half term, we are delighted to welcome our primary schools to Brownedge for Year 5 Taster Days. Over the coming weeks, our primary families will join us to ease their transition to high school and experience a range of exciting opportunities. It's a pleasure to get to know the future members of our growing community, and our young pupil leaders thoroughly enjoy playing a key role in supporting the programme. It's lovely to see their smiling, excited faces, and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to feel a sense of belonging in our school family—we hope to welcome them as full members very soon!

Year 11

Over the next 12 weeks, our Year 11 pupils embark on their final preparations for their GCSE examinations. The entire school is behind them, recognising their hard work and dedication, and we will be supporting them every step of the way. We send our best wishes to them and their families during this important time and ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers in the months ahead.

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Easter Food Vouchers

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils for over the Easter holidays. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £30 voucher to cover the two-week holiday period. Please contact [Mr Burrows](#), our school Business Manager if you have any questions.

Preston City of Sanctuary Fundraising event

South Ribble Concert Band are holding a charity evening to raise funds for work with Sanctuary Seekers in the local areas. The Band are performing a concert of light music, playing songs from film & TV, musical medleys and marches. It will be held on **Tuesday 8th April from 7pm at Lostock Hall Conservative Club, Brownedge Rd, Lostock Hall, Preston PR5 5AA**. To book tickets on Eventbrite please follow the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-ribble-concert-band-charity-night-tickets-1266974357409>

Ticket cost - £5 (or more if you wish)

For Sanctuary seekers and under 16's - £1

(Cash on the door or online payments on the night but no card payments)

Refreshments available from the bar

Prize Raffle tickets - £1

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher



LENT 2025

Lent is a journey, not a destination.

Growth takes time and effort

PRAY FAST GIVE

	Pray	Fast	Give
Week Beginning 10th March	Prayer Theme: Holy Spirit Pray in Forms	Fast from technology linked to our mental health	St Joseph's Penny Boxes
Week Beginning 17th March	Prayer Theme: Glory Pray in Forms	Fast from wasting Earths resources. 'BSM Big Switch Off'	Big Lent Walk (CAFOD)
Week Beginning 24th March	Prayer Theme: Romero Pray in Forms	Fast from 'anger' linked to Romero's work	Donate care items for the homeless
Week Beginning 31st March	Prayer Theme: Reconciliation Pray in Forms	Fast from 'ignorance' and embrace diversity	Charity Afternoon

