

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

24 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 9 – EASTERTIDE

Welcome back to the final term of this academic year. Firstly, I hope you had a happy and holy Easter and had the opportunity to reflect on the greatest event of our liturgical year. May this Eastertide season be one of renewal and hope for our whole school family, as we are reminded of the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. This half term always passes quickly and is, as ever, a busy one. In a couple of weeks, our Year 11 pupils begin their GCSE examinations, and on behalf of our entire school community, I would like to wish them every success over the coming weeks. They have shown great resilience and determination, and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this important time. Alongside this, we also look forward with joy to celebrating our Confirmation programme. On 13th May, around 40 of our pupils will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a special moment in their faith journey as they are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This term, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Ainsworth, Joint Head of Teresa House and PE teacher and Miss McNally, Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Mrs Ainsworth has served our school community for 24 years and we would like to send her our thanks and very best wishes for her new adventures in education. Both Mrs Ainsworth and Miss McNally once walked our corridors as pupils. We thank them for their dedication, care, and the lasting impact they've had on our school community and we wish them every blessing in the next chapter of their journey. As some leave, others join our school community, and we are delighted to welcome Miss Heron to our SEND Department. We look forward to the energy, skills, and support she will bring to both our pupils and staff.

Prefects and School Leadership

Pupil leadership continues to play a vital role in equipping our young people with the skills they will carry into their futures, while also helping to build a strong and inclusive school community. This year, our prefects have already completed the application process, and it has been wonderful to see many of our Year 10 pupils begin their roles with such enthusiasm, commitment, and pride. For those who were not successful on this occasion, please do not be disheartened. There will be further opportunities for leadership and service in the coming months. Additional appointments will be made as pupils meet the targets set by their Heads of House, and we encourage everyone to continue striving, contributing positively, and demonstrating the qualities of leadership in everyday school life.

Inspire Futures: Join Our Careers Network

We are keen to strengthen our pupils' careers education by building meaningful links with parents and former pupils, and we would greatly value your support. We are currently developing a database of volunteers who would be willing to share their experience and expertise in a variety of ways. This could include contributing to our school website's alumni page by sharing your career journey, hosting a stall at our Careers Fair, offering a Year 10 work experience placement, or supporting workshops, assemblies, and Q&A sessions in school. There are also opportunities to assist with mock interviews, welcome pupils into your workplace, or act as a trusted contact for our Careers team when insights into different industries are needed. If you feel you could support in any of these ways, we would love to hear from you and work together to inspire the next generation. [Please click on this link to complete the form](#) with your details. It only takes a couple of seconds, but could make a lasting impact on one of our fantastic pupils. Huge thanks for your time in advance.

Celebrating Our Carnegie Mental Health Award – Silver Achievement

We are proud to share that our school has achieved the Carnegie Mental Health Award at Silver level, a nationally recognised award developed by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools at Leeds Beckett University. Building on our previous Bronze award, this reflects the continued progress we have made in supporting the wellbeing of both pupils and staff through a whole-school approach. This is a fantastic achievement for our community and places our school on the national stage for the strength of our work in mental health and wellbeing. Please read the letter sent home separately for more information about this award.

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Rewards and Trips

Recognising and celebrating the effort and hard work of our pupils remains a central part of our school ethos. It is important that we take time to acknowledge the commitment our young people show in their learning, alongside their dedication to attendance and punctuality. They are always encouraged to remember that it is never too late to make a positive change. Details of the summer rewards trip criteria are as follows:

- More than 40 positives
- No more than 15 negatives
- 97% attendance - no more than 2 days off
- No more than 5 times late to school
- No more than 10 minutes late to lessons
- No PoD sanctions

We appreciate your continued support in encouraging our young people to strive for their best and to take pride in their achievements and contributions to school life.

Summer Examinations Years 7 to 10

As we move into the final half of the term, our summer assessments for Years 7 to 10 are on the horizon, beginning on **Monday 15th June**. In the lead-up, pupils will continue to build their knowledge and understanding through lessons and carefully planned tasks, ensuring they feel prepared and confident. Following the May half term, regular written homework will be paused for these year groups. This is a deliberate step to give students the space and time to focus on revision; consolidating what they have learned, addressing any gaps, and developing the confidence they need to approach their assessments positively.

Parent Voice

The voice of our parents and carers plays a vital role in shaping the continued development of our school. We are grateful for the many ways you engage with us—through Parent View, parents' evening questionnaires, and the regular surveys we share on areas such as challenge and home learning. Your feedback is invaluable, and it is clear that many of you would welcome further support in understanding what your children are learning in lessons. In response, Mrs Godbold will begin sharing a half-termly update for each year group, including key information about the curriculum and helpful links to support learning at home. I would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers who have taken the time to share their views and experiences. Your input helps strengthen our partnership and ensures we continue to grow and improve in ways that benefit all of our pupils.

Mary Day

At the end of this term, on Friday 22nd May, we will celebrate our annual Mary Day, where Year 7 to 10 pupils will participate in a day of House-based sessions on Mary, our patron saint. **Pupils will finish school at 2pm**; should this time be an issue or if any pupil has difficulty in getting home at that time, please inform school and we can make arrangements for them to stay in school until the end of the normal school day.

Dates for Your Diary

6th May	GCSEs begin	26th June	Sports Day
13th May	Confirmations in church	1st and 2nd July	Year 6 Induction Days and Evening
22nd May	Mary Day	7th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
5th June	Year 11 Leavers' Assembly	8th – 10th July	School Production
15th – 19th June	Whole School Exam Week	13th July	Year 10 Work Experience/Trip Week
19th June	Refugee Awareness Day		
18th June	Prize Night	15th July	Rewards Day
24th June	Valedictory Dinner	17th July	End of Term

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As we work through this busy and important term, I would like to take a moment to thank all members of our school community for their continued support and commitment. To our staff, for their dedication and care; to our pupils, for their hard work and positive attitude; and to our parents and carers, for your ongoing encouragement and partnership. It is truly appreciated. By working together, we create a strong and supportive environment where our young people can grow, achieve, and flourish. Thank you for all that you do to support our school.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher

