

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

23 April 2024

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 a time of reflection and renewal for our school family. This half term goes quickly, and as always it is a busy one. In a couple of weeks, our Year 11 pupils start their GCSE examinations, and I would like, on behalf of all our school community, to wish them well over the next five weeks. They have shown such resilience and determination over the last months, and we send our love and prayers to them as they enter this challenging time.

This term, we welcome Miss Alexander, who joins our senior leadership team as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mental Health Champion. Miss Alexander will be on hand to support this essential part of our schoolwork. Should you wish to contact her, her email address is [alexanderc@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:alexanderc@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk).

### **RSHE Policy Consultation**

Many thanks to all those parents who responded to our recent RSHE Policy consultation process. I have replied to all who did and will include observations in any updates. The new policy will now be reviewed by Governors and will be published on our school website soon.

### **Prefects and School Leadership**

Pupil leadership in school is fundamental in developing the essential skills our young people need in their future and for fostering an inclusive school culture and sense of community. There are numerous opportunities across school for pupils to engage in and I urge you to encourage and cajole them to do so. Our Year 10 pupils have now entered the window of application for becoming a prefect or senior prefect when they enter Year 11. Being a prefect has been launched as a position of responsibility, and one that requires acts of service to school and our local community. This is a prestigious title, and pupils are being guided through the application process with their form tutors, where they are expected complete a short manifesto, explaining the acts of service they would like to lead on and take part in as part of this pupil leadership role. The deadline for written applications is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Mrs Crew - Senior Leader for Year 10. Good luck, Year 10!

### **Register and Read**

As part of our ongoing drive to widen our pupils' reading repertoires and experiences, 'Register and Read' is continuing every Wednesday and Friday, from 8:30am - 8:55am. Pupils are provided with new materials to read and investigate each week, on a range of different topics and current affairs. We hope your child continues to actively engage and participate in these sessions, as it really will help with their access and enjoyment of the written word.

### **Year 11 Parent Voice Questionnaire**

For all parents and carers currently supporting their Year 11 child with revision for the pending GCSE examinations, we ask that you please take two minutes to complete this short questionnaire as feedback for the revision process and programme we have offered throughout this year: <https://forms.office.com/e/Dik3znZmnQ>. Thank you for taking the time to complete this. Your feedback is much appreciated.

### **Rewards and Trips**

Rewarding pupils for their efforts and hard work is a huge part of our school ethos and it is important to celebrate the endeavours and fantastic commitment our young people have put into their studies and schoolwork over this last year. They will also be praised for their attendance and punctuality. Pupils know it is never too late to start making a difference. Trip criteria for this term will be shared with pupils and parents very soon.

### **Summer Examinations Years 7 to 10**

Summer examinations for Years 7 to 10 will begin shortly after half term; Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June for Year 10 and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June for Years 7 to 9. Pupils will use these next five weeks to continue to cover curriculum plans through class and

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homework. From May half term, all regular written homework for Years 7 to 10 will cease to allow your child to consolidate their learning through thorough revision.

## Mental Health

Supporting pupils through difficult times is our most important job as a school community. There are numerous resources and signposting to support agencies on our [school website](#). Kooth is one such agency. Kooth is the largest digital provider of mental services for children and young people and is commissioned primarily by the National Health Service. They are offering a webinar for parents/carers to support their child in managing exam stress. If you are interested in this free webinar, you can find the signup details [here](#).

## Mary Day - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

In our annual Mary Day celebrations, Year 7 to 10 pupils will participate in a day of House-based sessions on Mary, our patron saint. The day will be fun-filled and give pupils an opportunity to work and learn together, participate in team building activities and tasks developed to enable them to explore their own spiritual journey. **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.

## High Expectations

I know that when we set high expectations for pupils in terms of attendance, punctuality and behaviour, they rise to them; they accept that what we do is to support their development and instil good patterns and practices for their future. Our pupils have indeed risen in terms of punctuality, particularly when moving around school and ensuring they are on time for lessons. Attendance is so important to support pupil progress and as you know, there is a clear and proven link between high levels of attendance and pupil attainment. There is no substitute to learning than being in front of a subject specialist. Pupils are set targets and achieving this target will be important for your child to be eligible for our end of term rewards. It is at this time of year I get increased numbers of parents requesting holiday leave. As always, taking of holidays during term time is highly discouraged and unless there are extenuating circumstances, which are reviewed case by case, it is unlikely that any holiday request will be authorised. Should you require further information regarding attendance at school, please contact Mrs Carrera, our Attendance Manager.

## Dates for Your Diary

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 11 GCSE examinations start
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 10 PPE countdown commences
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Mary Day
13 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Exam Week
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Refugee Week
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Prize Night
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Valedictory Dinner
3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Induction Days and Evening
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
10, 11 & 12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Production
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Work Experience
19 <sup>th</sup> July	School breaks for Summer

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie  
Headteacher