

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

24 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 9 - EASTERTIDE

I begin this edition of our school newsletter with a heavy heart, as I join millions around the world in mourning the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. His life was one of profound faith, humility, and service, and his loss will be deeply felt across our global community. As a Catholic school, we reflect on his powerful messages of compassion, unity, and hope—values that guide our mission and daily life together. We will be remembering him in our prayers and taking time in school to honour his memory and the legacy he leaves behind.

I hope you had a joyful and blessed Easter, taking time to reflect on the profound hope and renewal that the Resurrection brings. As we journey through this Eastertide season, may it continue to inspire a spirit of renewal, both personally and within our school community. This half term always moves swiftly, and it's set to be another full and busy one. In just a few weeks, our Year 11 students will begin their GCSE examinations. On behalf of the entire school, I want to extend our heartfelt best wishes to them. Their resilience, focus, and hard work over these past months have been truly admirable. As they approach this significant milestone, we hold them in our thoughts and prayers, asking that they feel supported, calm, and confident in the weeks ahead.

This term, we welcome Mrs Agbewornu and Mrs Ferrer, who join our Teaching Assistant team within the SEND Department. We look forward to them working within school, supporting our most vulnerable young people. They are very welcome to the Brownedge family.

School Production

We're excited to share that our school production is just around the corner, with performances kicking off next week! After months of dedication, rehearsals, and creativity, our talented cast and crew are ready to bring the show to life. The production promises to be a fantastic celebration of the arts, showcasing the hard work, teamwork, and passion of our pupils. We warmly invite you to come along and support them—whether you're a parent, carer, staff member or friend, your presence means a great deal. Don't miss what's sure to be an unforgettable performance! Press on the link and scroll down to book tickets: [Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School Shop](#)

Prefects and School Leadership

Pupil leadership plays a vital role in equipping our young people with the skills they'll carry into their futures, while also helping to build a strong, inclusive school community. There are a wide range of opportunities available for students to get involved in, and I encourage you to continue promoting and supporting their engagement. Our Year 10 pupils are now in the application phase for the roles of prefect and senior prefect, positions they will take on as they move into Year 11. These roles are more than just titles—they represent a commitment to service, both within school and in the wider community. Pupils are being supported by their form tutors as they work through the application process, which includes writing a short manifesto outlining the acts of service they hope to lead or contribute to in their leadership role. This is a valued and respected responsibility, and we're excited to see our pupils step forward with purpose and pride. Applications should be submitted to Mr Hayhurst in the next couple of weeks. Best of luck to all our aspiring leaders!

Year 11 Parent Voice Questionnaire

For all parents and carers currently supporting their Year 11 child with revision for the imminent GCSE examinations, we ask that you please take two minutes to complete this short questionnaire as feedback on our practices this year to-date: <https://forms.office.com/e/qT2qgE0Gbr>. Thank you for taking the time to complete this as soon as possible. All responses will be placed into a prize draw to win a £20 Amazon voucher and a family set of 'Into the Woods' school production tickets for next week. 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.

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Pupils know it is never too late to start making a difference. The trip criteria for the summer term was published to pupils and parents at the end of term and in my Newsletter 8. Please help us to support our young people to celebrate their hard work, commitment to school and dedication to their learning.

Summer Examinations Years 7 to 10

Our summer examination period for Years 7 to 10 is fast approaching. Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will begin their assessments on Monday 16th June. Over the next five weeks, pupils will continue to work through their curriculum content both in class and through homework tasks to ensure they are well prepared. To support effective revision, regular written homework for Years 7 to 10 will pause after the May half term. This will allow students dedicated time to review their learning, strengthen their understanding, and build confidence ahead of their assessments.

Interfaith Week starting 19th May

In the last week of this half term, we will be marking our Interfaith Week – a special opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of faiths and beliefs within our community. As a Catholic school, we are rooted in the values of respect, compassion, and understanding, and Interfaith Week allows us to live out those values in a meaningful way. Through a range of activities, discussions, and reflections, pupils will be encouraged to explore different faith traditions, deepen their appreciation for others' beliefs, and recognise the shared values that unite us. It is a time to build bridges, celebrate our common humanity, and affirm the strength that comes from being part of a truly inclusive and respectful school community. At the end of the week, 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.

High Expectations – the reintroduction of the Uniform Card

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. **This was evident when our pupils, through the School Council voice, asked us to reintroduce our Uniform Card.** This will begin on Monday and will allow us to reward students who consistently present themselves excellently, whilst ensuring all strive towards our high standards following school uniform rules, such as appropriate skirt lengths, shirts being tucked in and no jewellery. We know that we are preparing students for future employment and rules that they will need to adhere there. Following rules is an important element of our students' education –and I thank parents for their continued support on this.

Holiday Requests

It is at this time of year I get increased numbers of parents requesting holiday leave. This year we have had a staggering 114 requests for leave of absence during term time. Taking of holidays during term time is highly discouraged and with the new Government legislation, 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

29th, 30th April, 1st May	School Production	19th June	Valedictory Dinner
6th May	GCSEs begin	26th June	Prize Night
19th May	Interfaith Week	2nd & 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Days and Evening
23rd May	Mary Day	8th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
16th – 20th June	Whole School Exam Week	18th July	School breaks for Summer
19 & 20th June	Refugee Awareness		

Kindest regards
Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher