

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School



Let your
light shine

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

25 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a good summer and enjoyed some quality family time with those close to you. We are really excited to give your son/daughter a very warm welcome back to school very soon and we hope they are eager and keen to return to some sense of normality. We have staggered the start days and times for the start of 2020-21 for different year groups. The primary reason for this is to allow us to ensure all the health and safety guidelines are fully understood and allow us to support their wellbeing and pastoral needs. It will also allow them to reconnect with their friends and become familiar again with the school surroundings.

In this letter I would like to share with you some information to ensure that the return for all our pupils is as safe and smooth as possible. My aim is to answer some questions you may have, but please if I don't answer all of them, I have attached a useful list of email addresses for you to contact key staff. I would like to actively encourage open communication for all in order to ensure that we meet your child's needs.

Further to the communication in July, the back to school plans are as follows:

For your child in Year 10, the return to school date is **Monday 7th September at 1.00pm**. (Please note the slightly revised start time). Pupils are to arrive via the front main entrance, for this day only, where they will be greeted by my senior team and pupil leaders. They will then go straight to Form Time and spend the afternoon preparing for the forthcoming year ahead, engaging in Form and wellbeing activities, finishing the day with a year group assembly outlining safe working practices and systems for the new academic year. Their formal timetable will commence on Tuesday 8th September at 8.45am, where pupils will go straight to their Form group. To support your child's return to school, we will assign three tasks to the All School Team area for them to complete on Friday 4th September. Please encourage your child to attempt all tasks; they will receive feedback for their endeavours during their Form activities on Monday the 7th September.

To reiterate key Year 10 information, from Tuesday 8th September, is as follows.

Year	Room Bases	Entrance Point	Start/Finish	Reg	Break/Lunch	Breakout area
10	4,5,6,7,16,13	Technology	8.45 – 2.55	am	Early	Tennis Courts Table Tennis area

Please find attached our September school floor plan, which sets out the school entrance and break and lunchtime recreational areas and the timetable for Year 10. As previously outlined, pupil movement will be minimised around school in accordance with government guidelines, and therefore Year 10 pupils will stay in their same teaching group in their allocated area as much as possible in the first instance. A review of this arrangement will be undertaken in the first few weeks to assess its effectiveness.

Good hygiene is imperative for keeping our community safe. Therefore, pupils will be expected to follow the comprehensive hygiene procedures put in place around school, from regular hand washing, use of available hand sanitiser stations, and the use of a mask should your child choose to use one. Although not essential due to the way we have structured our working practices, we would recommend that pupils have personal supplies of hand sanitiser/wipes for their use. You must also provide a "zip bag" for your child's face mask if they choose to wear one or if they are using public transport and choose not to wear their mask in school. This is to restrict any potential cross contamination of germs. We may yet receive more government guidance on the use of face masks in school before the start of term, so this may change. Government guidelines now permit pupils to bring essentials into school each day including school bag, lunch boxes, coats, schoolbooks, stationery, and mobile phones; these are not to be shared and all items must be clearly labelled with their name.

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To support physical activity, which is essential to your child's wellbeing, we are asking Year 10 pupils to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have a CORE PE lesson. They must bring with them their full school uniform on this day to ensure they have dry change if needed. This needs to happen even if the sun is shining when they leave for school. We do want them having to be in wet clothes for the remaining part of the day. To protect our female Year 10 girls, they MUST wear leggings for their journey into and out of school on the days they have PE. Wearing PE kit on days of PE lessons is only a temporary measure until we are confident in our bubble procedures. PE staff will discuss further with pupils the requirements for their lessons.

Finally, to ensure the continued safety of our Brownedge family please adhere to the following:

- Do you not send your child into school if they are unwell or showing any symptoms of COVID-19. These may include a new and persistent cough or a high temperature or a loss of or change in the normal sense of taste or smell.
- As is normal practice, please notify the school on the first day of absence explain the reason for their absence.
- If your child becomes unwell at school, they will be sent home.
- If you suspect that they may have COVID-19, it is vital that you get them tested and let the school know immediately of the outcome. You must follow stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection which sets out they should self-isolate for 10 days.
- If your son/daughter is sent home with any COVID-19 related symptoms, they will be expected to collect any siblings at the same time, who must then self-isolate for 14 days.
- If you have recently travelled to a foreign destination that now has imposed isolation on your return, please follow government guidance, notify absence our line and do not return your son/daughter to school until the period of isolation has ended.

In support of government guidelines, we strongly recommend pupils, wherever possible, to walk or cycle to school. If pupils are cycling, it is essential that they wear cycle helmets at all times. Where your child relies on public transport to get to school, and cannot walk or cycle, the [safer travel guidance for passengers will apply](#).

In terms of break and lunch food service, we will continue to provide both hot and cold provision. However, whenever possible, we urge you to consider sending your child with a packed lunch. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact school and we will answer any queries you may have.

It is normal for our young people to feel some anxiety about returning to school after such a long period at home. For some, these feelings will subside as soon as they pass over the door and see their teachers and friends. For others, these feelings will need more support from school. As parents you can support this transition back into school by preparing your child in advance. [This is a useful website to access, should you wish to](#). If you feel your child is experiencing overwhelming feelings that are affecting their usual behaviour, please communicate this with us so we can make contact with your child before their return. We can offer some reassurance by listening to their concerns and put extra support in place. Please contact Mrs Watson on Watsons@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk in the first instance detailing your concerns and we will contact you.

We are truly looking forward to bringing our family back together again and I personally am looking forward to welcoming our new Year 10 in person on their first day, Monday 7th September at 1pm.

Kindest regards

Mrs Nicola Oddie
Headteacher

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