

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School



Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

24<sup>th</sup> 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 to school on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.45am**, to begin their high school journey as a member of our Browndedge family.

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. Can I take this opportunity to refer you back to my previous letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, that can be found in the transition section of our school website.

In summary, pupils are to arrive via the front main entrance where they will be greeted by my senior team alongside pupil leaders. The design of this first day is to ensure that our new pupils feel happy, settled and safe in their new school environment. They will spend the day meeting key staff, making new friends, connecting with old friends and learning what makes Browndedge a special place to be. This will continue into the first week with a gradual introduction of academic learning, once we are sure of their well-being and that they are ready to take on the challenge of Year 7. As previously outlined, pupil movement will be minimised around school in accordance with government guidelines, and therefore pupils will stay in their teaching group as much as possible. We do not propose to change any classes before October half term and may not even after then.

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 could 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.

To support physical activity, which is essential to your child's wellbeing, we are asking Year 7 pupils to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have a 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 not want them having to be in wet clothes for the remaining part of the day. To protect our young 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.

Station Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6PB

Tel: 01772 339813 Fax: 01772629236

[info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

[www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)

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As part of pupils' induction, we will show them how to use our cashless catering service which is delivered through ParentPay. Pupils will be able to purchase food using this system on the Friday and so therefore, a gentle reminder, to remember to bring a packed lunch on the first day. We will provide more details of how to set up this service during the first week.

Homework Club will operate for Year 7 only in September. It is open until 5pm Monday to Thursday and will begin week commencing 7th September. We will also at some point offer a Breakfast Club. We are yet to decide when this will begin but it will be based on our assessment of health and safety guidelines over the coming weeks.

To further support social distancing measures for our community, Year 7 will finish at 2.50pm. This will allow for most pupils to have dispersed before other years finish school at 3.15pm. If your child is waiting for a sibling, they are more than welcome to wait in the school Extended Learning Centre until other years are ready for the end of school.

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 you will be notified and asked to collect your child as 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’](#)
- 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.

We are truly looking forward to bringing our family back together again and I personally am looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 in person on the first day, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September at 8.45am.

Kindest regards

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Headteacher