



# Shining Lights Newsletter



Easter 2026

*Celebrating success*

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Let your light shine

As we reach the joyful season of Easter, we are delighted to share this latest edition of Shining Lights—a celebration of all that makes Brownedge such a special community. This term has been filled with moments of growth, kindness and achievement, as our pupils continue to live out our mission each day, quietly and confidently letting their light shine. Within these pages, you will see how our young people have embraced opportunities both in and beyond the classroom—through service, creativity, academic dedication and the care they show to one another. These moments reflect who we are as a school: a community rooted in faith, guided by love, and committed to excellence.

As we look ahead to the hope of Easter, we are reminded that light shines brightest in the everyday—through compassion, perseverance and joy. We hope you enjoy celebrating the many shining lights within our school family. *Mrs Oddie*



## Scholastic Book Fair

The library was buzzing with excitement at the start of term as pupils flocked to the annual Scholastic Book Fair, eager to get their hands on the latest titles. From gripping adventures to laugh-out-loud comedies, the fair offered something for every kind of reader, and the enthusiasm was impossible to miss.

Staff were delighted to see so many pupils exploring the shelves, chatting about their favourite genres, and discovering new authors. Many students left clutching brand-new books, ready to dive into fresh stories and characters.

The fair also sparked conversations about reading across the school, with pupils recommending books to friends and comparing their finds. For some, it was a chance to pick up long-awaited sequels; for others, an opportunity to try something completely new. Well done to all pupils who got involved and showed their love of reading!



## Interhouse Football

The annual Interhouse Football competition lit up the school pitch, bringing together teams from across multiple year groups for an evening of fierce competition and impressive sportsmanship. Pupils turned out in force to represent their houses, showcasing determination, teamwork and plenty of skill as they battled for the top spots.

Despite the chilly conditions, players gave everything on the pitch, producing a series of tightly contested games that kept spectators gripped throughout the event. After a night filled with effort, 9B, 7K and 7T each secured well-earned trophies, celebrating their success with cheers, smiles and a well-deserved sense of pride.

A huge congratulations to the winning teams—and to every player who took part—for making the evening such a success.

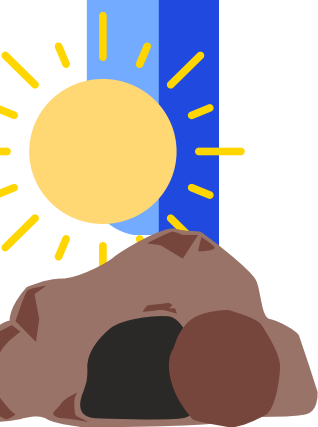


## Sport at Cardinal Newman

A lively and enriching day of sport and learning unfolded as Year 10 PE pupils visited Cardinal Newman College for a special programme of practical and classroom-based sessions. The college opened its doors to give pupils a genuine taste of what studying Sport at post-16 level involves, offering a blend of hands-on coaching and academic insight.

Throughout the day, pupils rotated through a series of practical activities led by current Newman students, who took on the role of coaches and mentors. The sessions covered a wide range of sports, including football, boxing, basketball and netball, giving pupils the chance to develop skills, try new disciplines and experience the style of delivery typical of college-level sport courses. Alongside the physical activities, pupils also took part in an engaging classroom workshop focused on performance-enhancing drugs. This topic forms part of their upcoming GCSE PE examinations, and the session provided valuable context, real-world examples and expert explanation to support their revision ahead of the summer.

The school extended its thanks to the entire team at Cardinal Newman College for organising such an inspiring experience, and for giving pupils a memorable glimpse into life beyond Year 11.



## Basketball Success

The school is celebrating a fantastic sporting achievement after our Year 8/9 Basketball team delivered an outstanding performance at the South Ribble schools tournament. Facing strong competition from across the region, the team rose to the occasion, securing victory in every single match they played.

The success marks a memorable moment for the squad and highlights the growing strength of basketball within the school. Staff are already looking forward to seeing how the team builds on this success in future competitions.

A huge congratulations to all the players involved — an exceptional achievement and a performance the whole school community can be proud of.



## College Interviews

Well done to all those Year 11 pupils who undertook their college interviews this term! It was great to you all represent yourselves so well and receive offers of a college place. From vocational pathways with Preston College to specialist post-16 providers like LUSoM, you are working diligently to secure your futures. Keep up the good work!



## Preston College Dance Workshop

A huge thank you to Preston College Dance for visiting us and delivering an inspiring workshop for some of our talented dancers. Our visitors spent time talking to pupils about the wide range of pathways available in the dance world once they leave school, offering valuable insight into training, careers, and what it's really like to take the next step into professional or further dance education.

They also led two fantastic practical sessions in Commercial and Lyrical/Contemporary dance. These workshops gave pupils the chance to explore new styles, develop their technique, and experience the energy and creativity of life at a dance college.

The enthusiasm, expertise, and encouragement from the Preston College Dance team made the session both educational and motivating, and our pupils left feeling inspired and excited about their future possibilities in the arts. We're grateful for the opportunity and look forward to welcoming them back again.



## Holocaust Memorial

Our Head Prefects were proud to represent Brownedge at the Holocaust Memorial event at the Civic Centre, where they joined members of the community in honouring the millions of lives tragically lost. The ceremony offered a powerful moment of reflection, reminding us of the importance of remembrance, unity, and standing together against all forms of hatred and discrimination.

This year's theme, 'Bridging Generations', encouraged us to think deeply about how the lessons of the past can be carried forward, shared, and protected by young people today. Our students were humbled to take part, recognising the responsibility we all share in ensuring that the stories and experiences of survivors continue to be heard and understood by future generations.

We extend our sincere thanks to South Ribble Borough Council for inviting us to be part of such a meaningful and moving occasion. It was a privilege to stand alongside others in remembrance and solidarity.



## Year 9 AI Day

A group of our Year 9 pupils got to take part in an engaging day of AI activities at Runshaw College this term.

Representing Brownedge as part of a Cyberfirst MEGA Day, pupils learned about some of the recent advancements in AI, before becoming entrepreneurs as they devised and pitched new AI products and apps.

There were lots of great ideas on show, from health apps to wearable technology, with Amelia, Abi, Joey, Paige and Poppy picking up the first-place award for their idea around a new form of AI-powered renewable energy.

Well done to all who took part for their brilliant work!



## Interhouse Dodgeball

Well done to 7K, 8B and 9K, who all emerged victorious in the recent interhouse dodgeball competition, racking up some valuable points in their pursuit of the House Cup in the process! It was a fantastic competition filled with energy, teamwork and plenty of dramatic last-second dodges. Good job!



## Surprising Science

Thank you to Runshaw College for welcoming a group of our Year 10 triple scientists to take part in their 'Surprising Science' event. Our pupils took part in hands-on practical experiments in the areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, gaining a valuable insight into science pathways post-16.

The visit to Runshaw was the beginning of a programme of activities around National Apprenticeships Week, where we showcased pathways, including apprenticeships, available to pupils after they leave Brownedge



## Football

Our football teams have continued to work hard this term, with excellent commitment to both training and match days. Some notable results have included wins over local rivals Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale for Year 8 and 7 respectively, with Year 8 gaining a 3-1 win and Year 7 recording a spectacular 7-1 thrashing of their opponents. Keep up the great work, all!



## Leyland Trucks Factory Tour

Our activities around National Apprenticeships Week continued with a visit for a group of Year 10 pupils to Leyland Trucks!

Our pupils watched a presentation on the company's apprenticeship scheme, before taking part in a factory tour. There was also the valuable opportunity to ask questions and find out more information about the company from current staff and apprentices.

During our trip, we also saw former pupil Daniel, who - after completing his GCSEs at Brownedge last year - is now working as an engineering apprentice on the production line.

A great example to current pupils of the work-based pathways available to them after school.



## Girls in STEM

A group of Year 8 pupils got to take part in a brilliant Cyberfirst MEGA event at Brockholes Nature Reserve!

A day designed to encourage young women to think about a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, our girls got to take part in virtual escape rooms, Lego robot building challenges, and a codebreaking task with the Ministry of Defence, all in the beautiful surroundings of Brockholes Nature Reserve. Our pupils represented themselves brilliantly, picking up a number of awards and prizes on the day.



## Apprenticeships and Interviews with Preston College

As National Apprenticeships Week continued, it was great to welcome Preston College to Brownedge to share their knowledge on apprenticeship pathways, as they spoke to Year 9 about the opportunities available in the local area.

Preston College also interviewed our Year 11 applicants, and it was great to see dozens of post-16 offers handed out, including a number of apprenticeships. Thank you to the college for their continued partnership.



## University of Lancashire Trip

A group of Year 10 pupils got the exciting opportunity to attend an event at the University of Lancashire. Our pupils listened to a keynote address from celebrated poet Lemn Sissay OBE, whose talk 'A Lancashire Story - Pathways of Possibility' charted his journey from the care homes of Lancashire to internationally renowned poet. Lemn spoke about the importance of accessibility to education for all, and the merits of a university degree.

After the talk, pupils participated in a workshop about university life, where they got to grips with the different pathways available via Higher Education, while working alongside current university students. Thank you to the University of Lancashire and Lemn for an inspiring day!



## Canada Ski Trip

Our pupils enjoyed a wonderful week on the slopes in Canada as part of our ever-popular ski trip. The snow was powdery, the sky blue and many memories were made! It was an experience of a lifetime and one that will never be forgotten. Thank you to everyone who helped make the trip happen. Our pupils returned with so many stories from what was an unforgettable week away.



## Swimming Success

Well done to Emilia in 9B, whose achievements in swimming continue to inspire us! Emilia recently competed in the Lancashire County Championships, coming 1st in both the 50m and 100m Under 14s backstroke, while she also competed in a higher age group and finished in an impressive 3rd place. Keep letting your light shine, Emilia!



## Pathways Evening

Thank you to all those families who attended Year 9 Pathways evening. The assembly hall was absolutely packed, and it was great to see so many pupils and parents eager to learn more about the process.



There is a vast amount of support available to pupils in school as they make choices about their future. Make sure to speak to form tutors, subject teachers and our Careers team if you need any guidance.

## Vault Youth Zone

Thank you to the team at the Preston Vault Youth Zone for inviting a group of our pupils down to see their facilities. The Vault Youth Zone is a new youth centre opening in Preston, offering young people the chance to engage in a wealth of activities such as sports, arts & crafts, music and gaming.

Our pupils got to tour the new building and try out some of the experiences on offer, and they are all now eager to sign up when the Vault opens. For more information on the Vault Youth Zone, visit their website:  
<https://www.vaultyouthzone.org/>



## Life After High School

Our activities for National Careers Week kicked off with a presentation for Year 7 from Brownedge alumni Sarah on 'Life After High School'. Sarah joined us from Preston College to offer a post-16 perspective on developing key employability skills, emphasising how setting high standards from Year 7 will put pupils in the strongest position to succeed when they leave school. Thank you to Sarah and Preston College for their time.



## Careers Week with Cardinal Newman



Our activities for National Careers Week continued with Year 10 listening to a presentation from Cardinal Newman College about their upcoming taster day and the post-16 options available to them locally. This coincided with the launch of Prefect applications for Year 10 - a fantastic early chance to practice applications and bolster CVs ahead of applying for college, apprenticeships and jobs when pupils leave school.

## College and Coaching

We brought our activities for National Careers Week to a close with two fantastic sessions! Our Year 10 GCSE PE pupils took part in a football coaching workshop with staff from Preston North End's Centre of Excellence, while Year 8 listened to a presentation from Cardinal Newman College assistant principal James Wildig, who spoke about the journey pupils are on and the options available to them after school. Thank you to our guests and to all pupils for engaging so well with our week of careers activities.



## LUSoM Interviews

Thank you to Wing from Lancaster University School of Mathematics for joining us to conduct interviews with our Year 11 applicants.

Our pupils did brilliantly, with all leaving their interviews with an offer of a place at our local specialist maths college.

## Dance Success

A huge well done to our dance team, who competed in the South Ribble Dance Competition, placing 1st for the second year running! This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the dedication, effort and talent of the team. As a result of this success, the team will now go on to represent South Ribble at the Lancashire Schools Dance County Finals.

The girls have worked extremely hard on their dance piece over the past few weeks. Their commitment has been outstanding, with many of them staying after school for two-hour training sessions in the lead up to the competition. Well done to all on letting your light shine.



## Table Tennis Tournament

During the Autumn and Spring Terms, Year 7 have had the opportunity to attend a lunchtime table tennis club. Due to their attendance and enthusiasm, it was decided to run a tournament, which culminated in the finals being played on Tuesday 10th March.

Congratulations to our overall winner, Ethan, as well as second-place William and bronze medal winner Charlie! A great effort not only by the medallists but everyone who took part - it has been really impressive how much you have all improved!



## Athletics Achievements

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 athletics teams, who headed to All Hallows recently for the Indoor Athletics competition. Our Year 8s performed brilliantly despite being one person short of a full team, while our Year 7s managed to record a fantastic result, finishing second overall. Great work!

## Year 7 Lent Retreat Day

This term, we held a Lent Retreat Day for all of Year 7. The theme for the day was PRAY | FAST | GIVE | SERVE. Pupils took part in prayer stations from CAFOD, Aid to the Church in Need and the SVP, as well as sessions on prayer and Catholic Social Teaching.

Fr Mark also gave a wonderful tour of our parish church. The day finished with a Social Action Panel, where pupils heard about the important work taking place in our community and how they can support it, with time to ask questions. It was a truly blessed day.

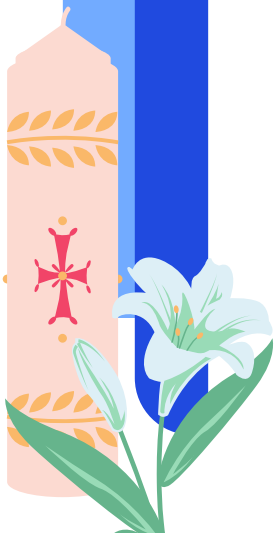


## Relics of St Carlo Acutis

Members of our GIFT Chaplaincy Team had the honour of joining other schools from the Diocese of Salford to visit the relics of St Carlo Acutis at St Mary's Church in Burnley. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this inspiring Saint, venerate his relic and take part in the prayer stations and Celebration of the Word.

'To be close to Jesus, that's my life plan'

St Carlo Acutis, pray for us.



## Year 7 Basketball

Well done to those Year 7 pupils who represented us in the basketball tournament at Hutton! Our Year 7s haven't played basketball as part of the curriculum yet, so this was an opportunity to compete in a new sport. Despite their lack of experience, our boys represented the school brilliantly, with every pupil playing hard and working well as a team.

We ended the night with one win and one draw from our four fixtures, and the team thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Great job!



## Year 10 CyberFirst MEGA Day

Our Year 10 Computer Science and iMedia pupils visited Runshaw College to take part in the CyberFirst MEGA Challenge. Our pupils took on tasks themed around digital creativity, cybersecurity and various other areas of IT, as they learnt about the array of career opportunities in the cyber industries.

Everyone worked brilliantly, but a special mention goes to Jack, Harry, Elliott, Seth and Thomas, whose team won the challenge and secured the winners medals. Well done, all!



## Young Chef Semi-Finals

Well done to Aidan and Finn in Year 9, who recently headed to Blackburn College to compete in the semi-finals of the Lancashire Young Chef competition! Our pair worked brilliantly and cooked their hearts out on the day, and despite not quite making it through to the finals, they can be very proud of their efforts. Great job on representing Brownedge so well, boys!



## Runshaw College 'MyFutures' Day

Thank you to Runshaw College for welcoming a group of our Year 10 pupils to take part in their 'MyFutures' day. Our pupils got to take part in hands-on activities to give them a taste of a number of different courses, such as practising CPR with Health & Social Care, contraband searches with Public Services and circuit building with Engineering. It was a great day that gave our pupils a valuable insight into their post-16 options.



## Spanish Club

Miss Ceku introduced a Spanish Club this term. The relaxed sessions were open to everyone, allowing pupils to pick up additional language skills. The themed sessions allowed pupils to learn useful phrases in a fun and informal way, such as through UNO, where pupils learnt colours, simple phrases and played the game together in Spanish. Thank you, Miss Ceku!



## Romero Feast Day

The feast day of St Oscar Romero was celebrated this term. Pupils in Romero house came together to play, pray and share in the spirit of their house saint. St Oscar Romero, pray for us!



## A New Arrival

The Child Development and Health & Social Care pupils would like to introduce our newest member of the Brownedge family, Isiah! He has been purchased to assist pupils with the curriculum and will be used in lessons to demonstrate essential skills required for parenting and looking after a baby. As you can see, Mrs Bland was very excited to welcome him to our school. Isiah is a simulator baby that will enhance pupil experience across the curriculum. He will soon be making home visits so the pupils can experience real life skills in looking after a baby.



## History Homework

Our new Year 7s have produced some amazing History homework this term! From swords and shields to themed eggs celebrating key figures from history, our pupils have let their creativity run wild, all the while celebrating their love of learning about the past. Great job!



## Headteacher's Award

Mrs Oddie was delighted to present a record number of nine pupils with the prestigious Headteacher's Award this term. Pupils in receipt of this prize represent the best of Brownedge, having recorded outstanding attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning over the course of the term. Congratulations to Jack, Izzy, Kayla, Vedika, Dornika, George, Nellie, Joanna and Audrey.



## Young Enterprise

This year, the Young Enterprise team Trees To Treasure has achieved an outstanding amount, transforming simple scraps of wood into beautifully upcycled, hand-carved and hand-painted coasters and ornaments, and growing in confidence with every stage of the YE programme.

Their first major milestone came in the autumn term, when they pitched their sustainable business idea to YE advisers and local entrepreneurs in a Dragon's Den-style session. The panel praised their creativity, purpose, and thoughtful approach, giving the team valuable insights that shaped their next steps.

In December, they sold at the school Christmas Fair, receiving excellent feedback. This was followed by the Spring Trade Fair at Trafford Palazzo on February 26, where they showcased a beautifully designed stand, engaged confidently with the public, and held their own among 30 other teams.

Their hard work earned them a place at the North West Final Showcase at Edge Hill University in March 2026. There, they met business owners, completed interviews with judges, presented their trade stand, and pitched in the Business School lecture theatre to YE staff, specialists, and other schools. Though they didn't take home a prize, they received fantastic feedback and represented their school with real professionalism—they were winners in every way that mattered.

The team's final task is to hand over the Young Enterprise company to next year's cohort. Applications for the new 2026-2027 group will open to all current Year 9s after Easter, and Trees To Treasure will help inspire the entrepreneurs who follow.



## Drexel Feast Day

This year, Drexel celebrated as a House on Thursday 5th March. The non-uniform day started with a brioche breakfast assembly in the hall, with a reminder of the work that Katharine Drexel undertook in order to fight for justice against racial prejudice and education for all. During Period 5, Years 7-9 Drexel, along with some wonderful Year 10 Drexel volunteer group leaders, joined in the hall for some fun activities linked to our Gospel Values, which included a Katharine Drexel Blooket quiz, a Lenten Wall of Hope and a Lenten Tree of Gospel Values. We were joined by 11D at the end of Period 5 for muffins and a reflection on the day.

A huge thankyou to the Year 10s who showed great leadership and teamwork qualities!

St Katharine Drexel, pray for us!



## Big Lent Walk

In reflecting on the glory of Jesus through the Transfiguration, our pupils focused on sharing their own gifts with others. They pledged to care for God's creation through acts of stewardship, while also taking part in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk to raise funds for those in need. Through their walk and a non-uniform day, our school community raised hundreds of pounds for CAFOD, showing the power of faith in action. A special thanks to our Social Action Leaders, whose hard work and dedication helped organise the event and inspire others to get involved. This was a wonderful way to live out our Lenten promises, coming together to pray, fast, and give in support of a great cause.



## Grand Prix Experience

Henry in Year 8 received the fantastic opportunity to be a guest at this year's Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne! He enjoyed exclusive access to the McLaren Formula 1 team garage and operations at Albert Park Circuit, seeing first hand how an F1 team works under pressure, from strategists and engineers to mechanics and data analysts, with a focus on STEM in action.

This experience is designed for aspiring young talents like Henry and included hands-on insights, conversations with team members, and plenty of inspiration to fuel his racing ambitions. What a brilliant experience!

## Lancashire Book of the Year

A group of Year 9 pupils were recently invited to a workshop at the Lancashire Archives, hosted by Lancashire County Council. This was to discuss and explore the recently unveiled 'shortlist' for the annual reading award Lancashire Book of the Year. Three of our nominated longlist books have made it to the shortlist of twelve books, so we are excited as we move into the next stage of reading and judging! Our Year 9 readers are well underway with their new books, and are excited to swap and change over the coming months before voting. Further details on the shortlisted titles can be accessed via [the LCC website](#).

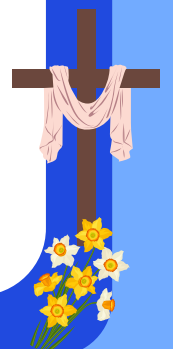
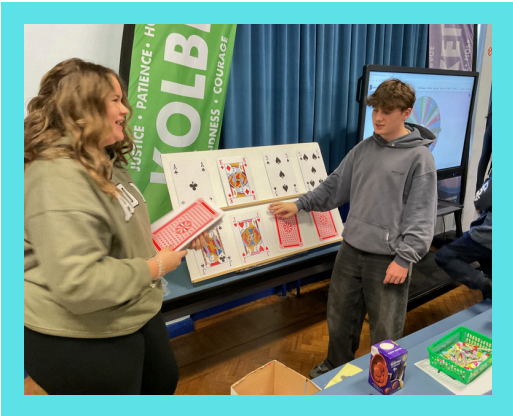


## Show Jumping Success

Well done to Harrison in Year 7, who was recently selected to compete at the National Show Jumping Finals in Buckinghamshire. It is always fantastic to see our pupils selected for such prestigious opportunities. Keep letting your light shine, Harrison!

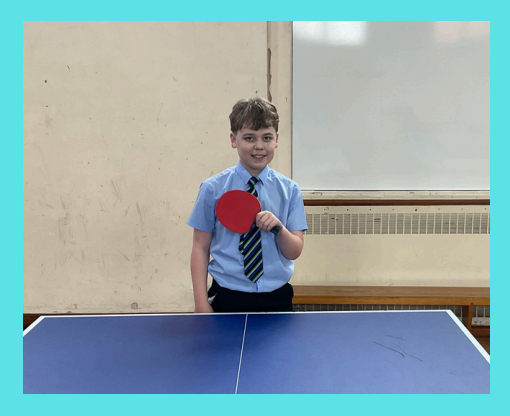
## Charity Afternoon

The Spring term was brought to a close with all the fun and fundraising that goes with our annual Charity Afternoon! The grounds of Brownedge were packed with a variety of stalls, from hot dogs and cakes through to penalty shoot-outs and darts competitions, allowing pupils to take part in activities and raise money for CAFOD and Salford Caritas. Thank you to all pupils and staff who donated and gave up their time to put on such a fun afternoon. What a brilliant way to bring a term of hard work to a close.



## Table Tennis League

Following the success of the table tennis tournament, Year 7 have continued to attend the lunchtime Table Tennis Club in great numbers, which has been really encouraging to see. It was decided to run a league for those who wanted to play competitive matches, but also allow everyone the opportunity to just turn up and play. In the league in which 10 boys entered, it was William who came out on top with a 100% record! Well done!



## Expressive Arts Evening

Our Expressive Arts Evening was a joyous occasion celebrating the best of our pupils' creative endeavours. From an exhibition of pupil artwork through to drama, dance and musical performances, our pupils let their light shine and put on a terrific show for all in attendance. Thank you to our pupils and our Expressive Arts faculty for their tremendous efforts in putting the event together.





# Shining Lights Quiz!

1. How many pupils received the Headteacher's Award from Mrs Oddie?
2. In what position did Year 7 finish in the Indoor Athletics competition?
3. Who won the table tennis tournament?
4. The 'Life After High School' assembly was for which year group?
5. What is the name of the pupil who competed in the Lancashire County Swimming Championships?
6. What is the name of our Young Enterprise team?
7. Who ran Spanish club this term?
8. Which pupils competed in the Young Chef semi-finals?
9. What is the name of the poet pupils listened to on the University of Lancashire trip?
10. Which college came in to run a dance workshop?

Answers: 1. 9 2. 2nd 3. Ethan 4. Year 7 5. Emilia 6. Trees to Treasure 7. Miss Ceku 8. Aidan and Finn 9. Lenn Sissay 10. Preston College

SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

 Browndge St Marys  
 @browndgestmarys

Have a lovely  
Easter!

