

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear New Year 7 Parents

Welcome to #BSMFamily! I really do believe that Brownedge St Mary's is a wonderful place; a kind, caring and happy community of students, staff and parents, and I am so pleased that your child will be joining us in September. It is my job to try to make sure that each young adult entrusted to us allows their God-given light to shine and the Gospel values of kindness, courage, hope, justice and patience permeate everything we do. As a family these values drive us forward and I hope they strike a chord with you and your child too.

I promised in my first letter to you that I would let you know of transitional arrangements for your child. Firstly, thank you very much for the prompt return of your transition booklets. This information is important and allows us to start planning in preparation for September. If you have not yet returned it, then please do so as soon as possible, marked for the attention of Mrs Chester, our Admissions Officer.

Times, as you are fully aware, are still so uncertain. In normal circumstances at this time, we would be visiting your child's primary school, speaking to their teachers, getting all the information we need, and inviting your child to our Induction Days in July so that they can meet their form tutors and the others in their class. We are sorry to say that currently we don't think that we will be able to go ahead with these plans this year, but we have planned some alternatives.

Mrs Pontifex, our Primary Transition Lead, has already reached out to our partner primary schools and they have been busy completing forms telling us about your children. This is key information for us, as their current teachers know your child's academic progress inside out. We will use this information to help us to place your child in a tutor group and plan the work we will need to do with them in September. We also have been busy at school, creating videos for your child to watch to let them know all about our BSM Family. These videos include a virtual tour, a chance to meet me and learn a little more about our school mission, a Form Tutor and Heads of House video so your child can meet the key staff they will be initially involved with and a guide to school life. We have also created a Frequently Asked Questions resource for you as parents. In addition to this, we are able to offer a course for parents on transition to high school. Please visit the website for more information.

Our current Year 7 students are eager to help too. They remember their nerves this time last year, and they know how well they have settled in and been supported at Brownedge. They are putting together letters, as well as planning a Frequently Asked Questions resource with the queries they had this time last year! All of these have been made so that our newest members of Team Brownedge feel as settled as can be in September.

Included with this letter is an information booklet, including details about purchasing uniform. We know that many families will struggle to get to uniform suppliers. With this in mind we have spoken to our suppliers and tried to support you, if needed, with this. More information can be found in this pack. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact me directly at school.

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Finally, I urge you not to worry about your child coming in on their first day in September and getting lost or confused with lots of older, and much bigger, students. As long as we are operating as normal by then, the first day of school for Year 7 will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. In order to support the Year 7s as much as possible, there will be no other year groups in school that day, and we will use the day to help them to get to know the school, staff and each other.

Our school website is the best source of information to you as a new parent. If you are interested in the work we are currently doing with our students while they are not in school, take a look at our remote learning BSM@Home, and how we reach out to students to look after their wellbeing. If you are interested in what school looks like 'normally' follow us on social media to get a flavour: on Twitter (@BrownedgeStMary) or on Instagram (for example: Maths\_at\_brownedge, @bsmhistory, @bsm\_chaplaincy) At the moment life is very strange indeed for us, as I am sure it is for you, but we have tried to do our best to reach out to our students and parents and reassure them of our presence and care. Our students are a bit like the energy that keeps us going, the lifeblood of the school in many ways. Without them it is empty and seems to be missing its very essence. When I am missing our students at the moment, I have a look at our website, our Shining Lights newsletters and social media and flick through the pictures of them and the school in action. I am reminded of how wonderful Brownedge St Mary's is, and how wonderful our students are. I am so looking forward to the day they return, and when your child joins them.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and your child properly as soon as we can, but in the meantime, please do get in touch if you need any information, help or clarification. You may be able to find the answer on our website, but if not, please email or phone school and we would be happy to help you. I send very best wishes to you and your family at this time. Do look after those around you, stay at home and stay safe.

We will see you very soon. I hope your son/daughter enjoyed the sweets we sent with the recent booklet!

Best wishes

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Headteacher