

Our Ref: 119 13

18th July 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Summer Term

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and encouragement throughout this successful academic year. This makes our task in school considerably easier knowing that we share and promote the same high standards for the young people in our care.

At the beginning of July I sent you a farewell letter (copy on the website) but would not like to let this occasion pass without thanking you all once again for the overwhelming number of cards and expressions of good wishes for my retirement. It is with great confidence that I hand over to Mr Brierley who I am sure will prove to be an outstanding successor.

School closes for the start of the summer holidays on Wednesday 24th July at 12.00.

The Autumn Term calendar for parents and students accompanies this letter. The calendar also shows the full academic year term dates which I hope will assist you in planning ahead.

Please note, there are two INSET days at the start of the Autumn Term. They will take place on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September. The Autumn Term begins on **Wednesday 4th September 2013** at 10.30 a.m. for Years 8 to 11. This will give us a little more time to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students at 8.50 a.m. Term commences for Year 13 students on Monday 9th September at 8.50 a.m. Students and parents will be notified of subject sets at the start of the next term when timetables are distributed.

Please may I remind parents about the rules regarding school uniform. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students. For guidance on appearance I would like to refer you to the guidance found in your son's planner. Shoes should be black and orthodox in design and should not take the appearance of leisure wear. Unfortunately, some reputable companies are selling school shoes that do look like training shoes/leisure shoes. This type of footwear is not appropriate for school. May I also remind you that all items of school uniform and any other equipment should be clearly marked with a student's name or other identification symbol.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following staff for the wonderful contributions they have made during their time at St Margaret's. We wish them the very best of luck and happiness in their future ventures:-.

Mr Alan Hayhurst, Deputy Headteacher

Mr Gordon Smith, Head of Science

Mr Rob Young, Head of Art

Mr Glyn Davies, Teacher of Science

Mrs Noreen Hirst, Teacher of Science

Mr Gareth Phylip-Jones, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Miss Kayleigh Parker, Cover Supervisor

Ms Gill Shilton, Teacher of Science

May I please also take this opportunity to remind parent/carers of the importance of keeping the school up to date with contact information. Please let the school know of any changes in telephone numbers and addresses in order that we may contact you both in the event of an emergency and also, for any important matters.

The Local Authority has also asked me to advise parents/carers of the following information:-

In previous years the Council has provided uniform grants of £20 for primary school pupils and £40 for secondary school pupils to families meeting specified low income criteria. There is no statutory requirement for a Local Authority to award these grants and as part of the savings for 2013/14 the Council has decided to withdraw this provision.

Can I please draw your attention to the following change to legislation recently announced by the Department for Education. In both cases these changes apply with effect from the 1st September 2013.

- **Term-time holidays**

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 currently allow Head Teachers to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday during term time in "special circumstances". From September 2013, amendments to the 2006 regulations make clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There is a clear implication that a family holiday will not constitute exceptional circumstances.

Please also remember to sign and return the Cashless Catering permission letter if you have not already done so. Without this permission, your son/daughter cannot use the system in the Dining Room or the 6th Form Diner from 1st September 2013.

Finally, on behalf of all Governors and staff, I would like to wish you a happy and safe summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Dr D F Dennison
Headmaster