



17th July, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 21

Welcome to a final weekly update from St Margaret's – for now!

This last week has been a whirlwind of planning for September, and I'm delighted to be able to report that we've made good progress. The main shape of the timetable has been finalised, our Risk Assessment is being updated, and various teams around school have been looking at various other changes that we need to make (we'll need a new Behaviour Management Policy, for example, and the School Calendar is likely to be very different to what it has been in previous years). Our current Risk Assessment is published on our website, incidentally, and updates will be posted there too.

As the last week of term has progressed, we've been buoyed by the number of encouraging messages we've received thanking us for our work during these extraordinary times. I'm conscious I haven't yet responded to all the ones that have come my way – apologies for that – but I do intend to do so over the summer holidays! As you can imagine, we're grateful for every single one that we've received – each one means a lot.

Siblings

Equally, we're grateful for the questions you've sent through about the new arrangements for September. The most common question has been about siblings: if two brothers finish at different times, would we be able to look after one in school until the other finishes?

I'm afraid the straight answer to that question is "No". We are unlikely to have any rooms or staff available, and actually mixing up the year-groups as they go home undermines the whole reason why we're staggering the days in the first place! – which is to ensure that the opportunity for the virus to spread between 'bubbles' (*ie* year-groups) is as limited as possible.

Safeguarding update

Dr Silverstone writes:

"As we break for the summer term, I would like to direct you to two important local resources that can be accessed over the summer.

"1 As many of you know, we work very closely with YPAS, the Young Person's Advisory Service. YPAS have asked us to pass on the following message: 'YPAS is a mental health and emotional well-being service supporting young people and families across Liverpool. Some signs of low mood and anxiety may include irritability, sleeping too much or not enough, avoiding things they used to enjoy, isolating themselves from others, and excessive worry. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please use the following website link below for more information and how to make a referral: <https://ypas.org.uk/>'

"2 You may wish to make use of the information and training sessions offered by the RAISE team at the Merseyside Youth Association. They have a range of 'mental health bitesize sessions' running throughout July on topics such as Managing my child's worry, Resilience and

Embracing Uncertainty. All sessions are delivered online. You can find details and sign up at www.liverpoolcamhs.com/training.

“On behalf of the safeguarding and pastoral teams, I wish you all a good summer; we look forward to welcoming all students back in September and to continuing to work closely with all parents and carers.”

Online learning update

Dr Manwaring writes:

“End of Year Survey

“As mentioned last week, students’ end-of-year reports will be circulated next week. After you have received them, we would really like to know more details about how you and your son have found ‘learning in lockdown’. This will inform our plans to provide the best support possible next year, both in school and out of school if we experience a local lockdown. Please respond to the survey which will be sent to you by Parentmail next week. This can also be accessed by visiting the Current Parents section of our website [here](#) or by clicking directly on [this link](#). Thank you!

“Microsoft Office 365

“We have updated our information about student accounts to reflect the availability of the applications to download. Please visit the Online Learning section of our website [here](#) for more information.”

Website update

Mrs Roberts, who oversees our website (in her capacity as Marketing and E-learning Co-ordinator), writes:

“New website section: Current Parents

“Please visit our website for information for parents/carers of pupils currently in the school, including the updated dates for next term as published last week’s Update, and available here [Term Dates](#). Also in this section are links from the Local Authority regarding the city-wide Holiday Provision available over the summer. We will continue to publish key messages on our website as needed.”

Future communications

A number of parents have expressed their gratitude for the communications that we’ve sent out every week since March. When students are back in school there may be less need to write home quite as regularly, but I am keen to keep in touch as we settle into a very different school routine. My current plan is therefore to send out a fortnightly Update, starting on Friday 4th September. We’ll keep this under review, though, and make adjustments as the need arises.

As ever, communication is a two-way process – so whether you’re happy with what we’re doing, or you’ve come across something we could do better, or you just have a question about what’s happening – please don’t hesitate to get in touch!

Maths Competition

I’m delighted to be able to announce that, given the very high standard of the entries I have received, all those who have entered the ‘Door Number Challenge’ competition have won a prize! I will be e-mailing the winners with further details over the course of the summer holidays (and

checking you're happy for me to publish your names in the next edition of this Update). Well done to everyone who took part.

And finally...

At the end of what can only be described as an extraordinary year, I'd like to wish every St Margaret's family a restful break for the next six weeks. Thank you for your support, and do stay healthy and safe over the holiday period. As the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes noted, "*there's a right time for everything on the earth*" (as The Message puts it) – and right now is a time for rest. Thank you for your support, and relish the break – we will!!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Brierley', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley
Principal.