

27th November, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 35

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, a time when Christians think of the light coming into the darkness; and festivals from other World Religions at this time of year (notably Diwali) have similar themes. Rarely have such festivals seemed so apposite – with the hopeful news about vaccines, and the lower infection rates across the City, maybe we can start to think of a time when Coronavirus restrictions can be lifted for good.

To add to the mood of optimism, I can report that there have ‘only’ been three positive cases in the St Margaret’s community this week – the lowest weekly total for some time. Naturally we hope and pray that all three individuals will recover from the infection quickly, and that their families will stay safe.

Lateral Flow testing

Our friendly team of soldiers from the Royal Engineers managed to test over 500 students and staff in a day and a half earlier this week! It was an impressive operation, and I’m delighted to be able to report that there were no positive test results at all. Thank you if you were able to consent for your son or daughter to be tested.

Three of our Year 7 boys interviewed the Captain of our detachment, and I hope to be able to include a short report from them in next week’s *Update*.

Dr Silverstone writes...

I am happy to inform you that we are planning to trial a return to our established SMART system for managing behaviour, which we had to alter to manage the risks presented by the virus.

Students are currently receiving merits for their good work, effort and positive attitude, and will continue to do so. So far this year we have awarded well over 10,000 merits to Year 8 students, for example, as opposed to just over 2,000 demerits, reflecting the hard work of so many Year 8s.

Over the next few weeks we will be complementing this process with a pilot return to some elements of our SMART system, to see how both can work together under the current restrictions. At this stage we can only roll out the pilot for one year group, and we will be writing to Year 8 parents with more details about this early next week.

Finally...

May I wish all St Margaret’s families a Happy Advent? As the nights draw in it is comforting to know we can celebrate that light is coming, in so many ways!

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.