

9th July, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental update 67

A hearty “*Good afternoon*” from all of us at St Margaret’s as we approach the end of term; we trust you and your family are in good spirits.

A number of boys (and staff) have returned to school following periods of self-isolation this week, but there have also been quite a few positive test results – resulting in a number of further self-isolations. A number of Year 10 boys will not now be returning to school until September. Do hold them, and all of those who are self-isolating, in your thoughts and prayers; we wish all those who have tested positive a speedy recovery from the infection, and send everyone who’s confined to their home our best wishes for the duration.

We’ve been doing our best to deliver as many live lessons as possible over the last couple of weeks, but the percentage of lessons we’re delivering ‘live’ is lower than it was during the last lockdown. The picture is different from one year-group to another, though; for some students, most lessons will have been delivered live, but for others, fewer will have been. There are a number of reasons for this, and we are striving to provide more live lessons going forward (and catch-up work, where necessary, too) – but I would want to apologise for anyone who has been adversely affected this time round.

The current rules...

With Coronavirus cases so prevalent at the moment I thought it might be helpful to summarise the current rules.

- If anyone in your household has a temperature, has a persistent cough, or is experiencing changes in their sense of taste or smell, everyone in the household must self-isolate and not leave the house. The person with symptoms must book a PCR test. Tests can be booked online. Getting a test is the only reason anyone in the household can leave the house. Please also let us know ([here](#)) as soon as possible.
- The same applies if anyone in the household has a positive Lateral Flow test. Everyone must self-isolate; the person who’s tested positive must book a PCR test (within two days); and please let us know ([here](#)).
- If you’re in any doubt what to do, please ask – you can contact the NHS by ringing 119.

Assessment and Reports

Dr Manwaring writes:

“Unfortunately, as I am sure you are aware, the impact of track and trace isolations over the past 4 weeks has been substantial, not only delaying assessments but also preventing significant numbers from even taking place. The knock-on effect of this is that it is now impossible for us to get formal reports published for parents before the end of term. We anticipate that they will be available at some point throughout the summer holidays and therefore are planning to send them home with pupils on their first day back in September.”

“It is well documented that all pupils suffer a performance loss over the long summer break so we are not intending to ask pupils to take missing assessments on their immediate return in September; this will be unfair. The assessments have highlighted a number of areas that need addressing and this intervention will take place throughout September. This means that, for the first 4 weeks of term, lessons and homework will focus on closing these gaps alongside new learning. If your son has missed any assessments his class teacher will be aware of this and monitor his understanding very closely during this intervention period so he is not disadvantaged.

“The new homework timetable for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will therefore commence Monday 4th October following this intervention period and more details will be given nearer the time along with the assessment timetable for the full academic year.”

End-of-term arrangements

As usual, we will be finishing slightly early next Friday (16th July) to enable us to say a socially-distanced farewell to some long-standing colleagues who are leaving us. Arrangements for each year-group are as follows:

Year-group	Arrangements
Year 7	Lessons will finish at 1pm, and students will be dismissed then. The canteen will <i>not</i> be available for lunch, but students on Free School Meals can collect a packed lunch from the canteen during morning break.
Year 8	Lessons will finish at 12:45pm, and students will be dismissed then. Lunch will be available from the canteen as usual at 12noon.
Year 9	Lessons will finish at 12:30pm, and students will be dismissed then. The canteen will <i>not</i> be available for lunch, but students on Free School Meals can collect a packed lunch from the canteen during morning break.
Year 10	Lessons will finish at 1pm, and students will be dismissed then. Lunch will be available from the canteen as usual at 11:30am.
Year 12	Lessons will finish at 12:30pm, and students will be dismissed then. The Sixth Form diner will <i>not</i> be available for lunch, but students on Free School Meals can collect a packed lunch from the main school canteen during morning break.

Timetable, 2021/2022

We are at an advanced stage in the process of finalising next year’s school timetable. As you know, we are retaining a ‘stagger’ in next year’s start and finish times, as shown below:

Year-group		Start time	Finish time
Current	Next year		
Not in school	7	8:30am	2:45pm (2:00pm on Fridays)
7	8	8:45am	3:15pm (2:30pm on Fridays)
8	9	9:00am	3:15pm (2:30pm on Wednesdays)
9	10	9:30am	3:45pm
10	11	9:15am	3:30pm
11	12	Usually 9:30am	Usually 3:30pm
12	13	Usually 9:30am	Usually 3:30pm

Post-16 students will not be in school every day; typically their week will comprise two full days, two shorter days, and one day of non-contact time. Their start and finish times will vary slightly according to which subjects they have chosen.

First day of next term

Next term starts for students with a half-day on **Thursday 2nd September**. Students should arrive in school at the following times:

- New Year 7 students are to arrive at 12:45pm; they will be dismissed at 2:45pm.
- Year 8 students are to arrive at 1:15pm; they will be dismissed at 3:15pm.
- Year 9 students are also to arrive at 1:15pm; they will be dismissed at 3:15pm.
- Year 10 students are to arrive at 1:30pm; they will be dismissed at 3:30pm.
- Year 11 students are to arrive at 1:30pm; they will be dismissed at 3:30pm.
- All post-16 students are to arrive at 1:00pm; they will be dismissed at 3:00pm.

Students must wear full school uniform for their first half-day in school. Please note that lunch will not be available on this day. During their half-day in school they will meet for collective worship, receive their new timetables, practice fire evacuation procedures *etc.* Normal lessons will start on Friday 3rd September.

Dr Silverstone writes...

“This week I would like to pass on an opportunity for young people aged 15 and over.

“The Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LCSP) is a body that oversees how different agencies work together to promote and secure the safeguarding of children in our local area. An important part of the LCSP’s work involves appointing, training (and paying!) ‘Young Advisors’ – young people aged between 15 and 24, who show community leaders how to engage young people in community life, local decision-making and improving services. Young Advisors also work with business leaders, bringing unique expertise and knowledge about being young to influence strategic planning, decision-making and marketing. All Young Advisors are trained and attain a nationally recognised qualification. You can find out about the work that the Young Advisors do [here](#).

“LCSP are currently recruiting more Young Advisors. Applications need to be submitted no later than August 6th, and interviews will be held on August 25th.


“I can think of many of our older students who would be excellent candidates for the role. If your child wishes to apply, please contact me directly at safeguarding@stmargaretsacademy.com and I will send you a copy of the advert, application form, person specification and job description. Alternatively, students can find me in school next week before we break up to pick up the details themselves.”

Finally...

First the bad news: school will start at the normal time on Monday morning next week – we won’t be delaying things for students who may have had a late night on Sunday evening! Nonetheless I’m sure it will be a weekend to remember for many of us...

With the end of term next Friday, it’s likely we’ll be in touch a little earlier next week.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.