

14th January, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Parental update 81**

Happy New Year! I trust mid-January isn't too late to wish you a healthy, prosperous 2022, but as this is the first opportunity I've had to do so! I trust you had a restful Christmas break, even if the holiday season is now rapidly disappearing in the rear-view mirror. Life has certainly resumed at full pace here!

#### Covid Update

I know a number of St Margaret's students have tested positive for the virus, and are self-isolating at home at the moment – and I'd want to assure anyone in that situation of our thoughts and prayers, and of our best wishes for a speedy recovery from the infection.

In the first week of term, a number of our staff were absent from work, many for Covid-related reasons; this week, though, I'm pleased to be able to report that staff absence has decreased. Please accept my apologies if your child's lessons have had to be covered because their regular teacher has been absent, or if it's taken slightly longer than usual for us to respond to an e-mail or 'phone-call. The situation is, though, improving.

City Council officers have written a letter to parents for the start of the new term. It contains helpful advice about the current self-isolation regulations, and I would commend it to you. A copy is reproduced at the end of this letter.

#### Year 9 Options

It was good to see (albeit virtually) so many parents for the Year 9 Options Evening last week, and I trust the Year 9 Parents' Evening last night was useful too. Talking to a number of Year 9 boys during their break this morning, it seems quite a few have given their choices a lot of thought already! You can download a copy of our information booklet and the Options Forms [here](#), and do please get in touch if there's anything we can help as your son makes these important choices.

#### Year 11: Revise Till Five is back!

Pre-pandemic, over the course of the Spring Term we arranged a daily series of 'Revise Till Five' sessions – aimed to give students both the time *and the skills* they needed to revise successfully. The programme certainly had an impact on our 2019 GCSE results (the last time GCSEs involved taking exams) – so much so that a number of other schools copied our idea!

Like last time, the programme will last 10 weeks (starting this Monday, 17th January), and students will be expected to attend **every night** (including Fridays) for the full 10 weeks. However, in the light of experience, we've made a number of changes to this year's programme. For example:

- This year, the programme will be not be ICT-based. Instead, students will use revision booklets and pen-and-paper, mirroring what they will do in the exams more closely.
- There will also be an optional early-morning component to the programme, when teachers will teacher particular topics. They will focus, for example, upon topics that students found difficult in the recent exams or topics that were taught via remote learning sessions last academic year.

Year 11 parents should have received full details, including how to apply to join the programme. If you haven't, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr Slater at [this e-mail address](#).

Dr Silverstone writes...

*“The Children's Commissioner has recently published a guidance document for parents helping to support them to understand online sexual harassment. It is a sensitive topic, and not one all parents feel comfortable discussing with their children.*

*“The commissioner's team brought together a group of 16-21 year olds and asked them about what they think parents should know, and what parents should say to their children when talking about sexualised bullying and the pressures of growing up online.*

*“Key advice from the young adults in the focus groups included:*

- *Start conversations early, before your child gets a phone or social media account. Keep the conversation going over time, adapting to your child.*
- *Young people want their parents to learn about new technology and trends, including risky behaviours and dangerous spaces online.*
- *Create a safe and trusting home environment. Young people told us the home environment is key, they want to share things with their parents but don't always feel able.*

*“The report and poster ‘The things I wish my parents had known...’ can be downloaded [here](#)”.*

Term Dates for 2022/2023

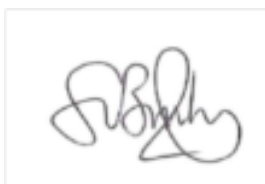
At a meeting earlier this week, our Governors' Ethos and Pastoral Committee confirmed the term dates for the next academic year. They are:

- Autumn Term: **Monday 5th September to Wednesday 21st December** (inclusive)
  - Half-term will be the week beginning Monday 24th October
  - Wednesday 21st December will be a half-day for a Cathedral Carol Service
- Spring Term: **Wednesday 4th January to Friday 31st March** (inclusive)
  - Half-term will be the week beginning Monday 13th February
- Summer Term: **Monday 17th April to Friday 14th July**
  - Monday 1st May will be a Bank Holiday
  - Half-term will be the week beginning Monday 29th May

Finally

With the Covid situation as it is at the moment, I will be in touch again next Friday (21st January). Until then, do stay safe!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.

14th January 2022



Liverpool  
City Council

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back to school after what we hope was an enjoyable festive break.

Our COVID-19 infection rates have been the highest they have ever been at 2,399 per 100,000. To help manage this challenge additional controls have been applied in schools for a limited period of time to reduce the spread of the virus. We will continue to work with schools individually to respond to any outbreaks and manage any staff absences due to COVID-19. We ask that you please appreciate these challenges and work with your child's school through this period.

Control measures being put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning. Everyone in secondary schools are now expected to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas unless exempt.

- You can support the COVID-19 response too by doing the following:
- Wear a face covering at drop off and pick up.
- All eligible residents should [test at home](#) twice a week.
- Get [vaccinated](#).

### Testing

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate immediately and not required to take a confirmatory PCR test (unless required to claim Test & Trace support payment or if requested by the NHS or research programme). It is essential that LFD results are [registered](#) to support the test and trace process.

Anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. The isolation period is for 10 days. But you may be able to end isolation earlier – please follow the rules and see further information on the national website here.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

*Matt Ashton*

Director of Public Health

*Steve Reddy*

Director of Children's Services

### **When to self-isolate**

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)

### **When you do not need to self-isolate**

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine
- you're under 18 years and 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons