

18th February, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 84

Welcome to another *Update*, from a very windy St Margaret's! I'm relieved to report that despite our concerns, Storm Eunice has passed us by without incident; but our thoughts and prayers are with all those in other parts of the country who have not been as fortunate.

Congratulations...

- ...to Mr Kidney, who has been appointed Acting Deputy Director of Sixth Form (to cover for Mrs Jones, whilst she is on maternity leave); and
- ...to Mrs Wiseman, who will be joining our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant from next half-term.

I am sure you'd want to join me in wishing both colleagues every success in their new roles.

Vacancy

We're currently advertising for a cleaner to join our cleaning team. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining our team, there are full details on our website [here](#); the closing date is **9am on Tuesday 8th March**.

Thank you...

...to all our Year 9 parents. The proportion of Year 9 Options forms that were returned on time broke all previous records! We're now in the process of analysing them, and putting the Option Blocks together so that as many students as possible are able to study their chosen combination of subjects. We'll be in touch after half-term to let you know what courses your son will be following. If, before then, you (or your son) has any 'second thoughts', please e-mail me through [this e-mail address](#) so that we can see if the change can be accommodated.

World Book Day

The first Thursday after half-term, Thursday 3rd March, is World Book Day. The good news is that we're *not* asking your child to come in dressed as their favourite character from a book (as one colleague observed this week, it's *World Book Day* not *World Costume Day*) – but we *are* asking them to bring in a favourite book.

It could be a book that they've enjoyed reading, or a book that's meant a lot to them, or a book that had happy childhood memories – whatever it is, it should be a book they'd be happy to talk about, as during the day there'll be plenty of opportunities for them to do so. We'll be asking your son or daughter's teachers that day to talk about a book that's meant something to them too!

As for me? There are many books I love, but I'm particularly fond of Martin Gardner's excursions into recreational Mathematics (yes, there is such a thing!). It was his early books that helped inspire me to love Maths when I was a teenager, and he's written many more during my adult life too! A good example can be found [here](#).

Half-term suggestion

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that we finish for half-term today. We re-open at the usual time on Monday 28th February.

Hopefully the weather will improve and we'll be able to make the most of the great British outdoors, but if you're stuck for ideas on a rainy (or windy) afternoon, can I pass on a recommendation from the Maths Department?

Acting Second in Maths Mrs Geddes writes:

"Our students have been invited to compete in the annual Mathematical Education on Merseyside (MEM) Challenge. This exciting opportunity could see our students receiving certificates, prizes and even attending a prize giving evening at the University of Liverpool!"

"The challenges can all be found on the web:

- *the Year 7 and Year 8 MEM (Mathematical Education on Merseyside) Challenge '22 is [here](#)*
- *the Year 9 and Year 10 MEM Senior Challenge '22 is [here](#); and*
- *the Year 11 to Year 13 Liverpool Mathematical Society Open Challenge '22 is [here](#).*

"We'd love to see our students having a go. It's about problem-solving, how you tackle the problem and how you show your working. This means unfinished answers are considered too so don't be put off if you can't get the final answer.

"Please hand in any entries to your maths teacher on your first mathematics lesson back after half term."

Dr Silverstone writes:

"I would like to draw your attention to a useful bank of resources from the NSPCC. They have provided a range of leaflets and information about issues that a number of parents ask for support with, such as:

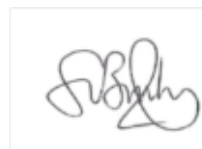
- *keeping children safe online;*
- *guidance on when it's safe to leave children home alone or when it's safe for children to go out alone; responding to self-harm; and*
- *helping children deal with divorce and separation.*

"Their guidance is clear, helpful and provides useful ways into difficult conversations with children. They also often provide links to other helpful resources or agencies that can offer support when required. It can be found [here](#)".

Finally

We'll be in touch again after half-term, on Friday 11th March. In the meantime, I wish all St Margaret's families a restful half-term, and some happy moments reading or trying some mathematical challenges!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.