

8th July, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 93

Welcome to our last *Parental Update* of the academic year. I trust, as ever, that we find you and your family in good health and spirits!

It's been an unusually busy week at St Margaret's, with Year 6 transition events (as I type, our new Year 7s are tucking into their first St Margaret's lunch), last night's Open Evening, and Sports Day on Tuesday. At every stage along the way, a number of our students have helped us out – for example, by acting as peer mentors to younger students, by acting as stewards on Open Evening, and by just generally being their usual delightful selves. They invariably draw fantastic feedback from everyone who comments about them; and for our part, we're deeply grateful for the opportunity of working with such wonderful young men and women.

Farewell...

A few colleagues are leaving us at the end of the summer term (or, in one case, sooner), and I'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to them for all that they have given our school.

Miss Lawn leaves us today, having been with us for a few months covering a maternity leave in the English Department. Her knowledge and love of literature has certainly been an asset for the Department, and I'm sure that knowledge and love will have inspired many of her students over the time she has been with us. She leaves with our best wishes for the future.

Mrs Maddox has taught Maths part-time at St Margaret's for six years now. We've been very fortunate to have a mathematician of her calibre as part of our team, and we're sorry to lose her to another local secondary school. Our loss is most definitely their gain! Good luck for wherever the future may take you, Mrs M.

Mrs Mariner is currently a part-time History teacher, but she has also held other posts within St Margaret's over the course of the 11 years she's been with us – including some time in the post-16 pastoral team. Her contribution over the years to life at St Margaret's – often going above and beyond the call of duty – has been deeply appreciated; we're going to be very sorry to see her go.

Finally, **Mr O'Halloran** is not leaving us, but is stepping down as Head of Maths – and similarly **Miss Bratherton** is stepping down as second in Maths too. Both have been loyal servants of St Margaret's for a fair few years, and we're grateful to them both for the leadership they have provided for the Maths team over that time.

A few new colleagues will be filling their shoes in September; I'll introduce you to them in the first *Update* of the new school year.

Sports Day

It was wonderful to be able to hold a full Sports Day on the field for the first time in three years! We saw some strong sporting performances from a number of students, and some enthusiastic support from those watching on (especially in the staff race, but apart from noting that my training for next year has already started, I'm saying nothing more about that here. Not that I'm bitter...)

Well done to *all* who took part, and thanks as ever to all the teachers (notably the PE staff) and support staff (notably our site team) who enabled it all to happen.

Induction Day

What a great Year 7 we'll have next year! They have all visited school today, meeting some key people, enjoying (hopefully!) an Assembly, learning about flags and hypophora, getting to grips with the geography of our building, sampling our catering *etc etc etc*. It was great to meet them and I sincerely hope they have enjoyed being with us today as much as we have enjoyed having them.

News from Liverpool City Council's Holiday Activity and Food ('HAF') Team

Two items of news to share...

- Last week I let you know that Liverpool-resident children who are entitled to Free School Meals will be receiving a £135 food voucher before the end of term. These are being funded through the Government's Household Support Fund. I'm delighted to be able to let you know that the Holiday Activity and Food Team have advised me that Knowsley-resident children who are entitled to receive Free School Meals will now also get a £135 food voucher.
However I've also been asked to clarify that Year 11 students are not permitted to receive the voucher as they officially left school in June.
- The Council's Parenting Co-ordinator, Chris Cavanagh, has asked me to draw the latest Parenting Newsletter to your attention. You can find it [here](#).

End of term

Year 7 to Year 10 parents: please could I ask you to remind your son to bring in his whiteboard *etc* on **Tuesday 12th July**? We're collecting them all in so they can be distributed again in September.

On Thursday 14th July, the last day of term, students will be dismissed between 12:10pm and 12:30pm. We wish everyone a safe, restful summer holiday – although as I reminded our Year 10s this morning, it's a good idea for students to look back at what they've learnt this year (perhaps through a revision website), so that you don't forget it all by the time September comes! As Daley Thompson once said: "*Train twice on Christmas Day. Your competitors may only train once...*".

Alternatively (actually, in addition!) Mrs Bell's Assemblies this year have will have reminded main school students about the value of reading. We'll send round a list of recommendations next week!

Start of term

A reminder that school re-opens to students on Monday 5th September. The new Year 7 will need to be onsite at 8:45am, and Years 8 to 11 between around 10:45am and 11:15am – we'll confirm the exact times during the summer break.

Finally

We'll send our next *Update* out on Friday 9th September. In the meantime I wish all St Margaret's families a restful weekend, and an even better summer break (when we get there).

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.