

9th September, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 95

I'm writing to you shortly after the announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Many of us will, I know, feel a sense of loss at this time. We may never have met her, or even be avid followers of the royals; but nonetheless Queen Elizabeth was an unchanging part of our lives and, for many of us, and a profound example of service and endurance. In short, she was a constant in times when the only other constant has seemed to be the unending turmoil of life in the twenty-first century.

As Christians we can echo one Psalmist who said "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble*" (if grief can properly be described as 'trouble'), or another, who more simply said God "*is my rock*". In special Assemblies today I have sought to share something of that comfort – a comfort which all of us can know, whatever our faith – with our students.

Today, I am grateful for the example of someone who lived their lives believing that our time here is not about what we *own*, or even about what we *learn* (vital as the latter is); it's about what we *choose to do* with the gift of life each of us has been given. Her Majesty chose to give her life to serving others, and to serving God. That, I believe, is the hallmark of a life well lived.

In the context of the week's events it does not seem appropriate to share a full, business-as-usual newsletter with you – so I write again next Friday with a fuller *Update*. However, at the start of a new school year I do need to welcome a number of people to the St Margaret's family.

Welcome

First and foremost, I'd want to extend a very warm welcome to all our new students and their families. The new Year 7s have had an excellent first week, and it was a privilege to be able to present so many of them with their St Margaret's badges at our Welcome Eucharist on Wednesday. (Students who missed the service can claim their badge from Mr Slater; and the slides from the Information Evening that followed our Eucharist are available on the website). Our new Year 12 students have also settled in well, and we extend an very warm welcome to their families – and to all St Margaret's students and families at the start of a new school year.

Welcome too to some new members of staff. I am delighted that Mrs Keegan has joined us as our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator; if you have any concerns about additional needs that your son or daughter may have, please [drop her a line](#). We've also appointed a number of Learning Support Assistants and welcome Ms Kithan, Mr Oultram and Mr Speller to the team.

Finally

Please [let us know](#) if your child needs any extra support following yesterday's news – as ever, we're here to help. For now, however, I wish you every strength, and will write again next week.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.