

Friday 3rd February, 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Parental Update 112**

We were very sorry to hear this week of the sad passing of Kevin Price. Kev was one of our peripatetic music teachers for many years, finally leaving us just last summer. I know many students, going back some time, will have fond memories of Mr Price, and he will be missed by his students and his colleagues alike.

Please do remember Kev's family and friends, and his colleagues here (especially those in the Music Department), in your prayers over the weeks and months ahead.

### **Welcome!**

This week we've been delighted to welcome Marica Evans to our Cleaning Team. Marica has joined us following some time working in the care sector, and we offer every best wish as she takes on her new role.

### **Strike day**

Thank you for your support on Wednesday. We will be conducting a fresh risk assessment for the next strike day – Tuesday 28th February – and it is possible we will be able to open for some pre-16 year-groups then. If we are able to do so, we will prioritise exam classes (*ie* Years 10 and 11) if we can. We anticipate we will continue to open for some groups of vulnerable students, as we did this week. I'll be able to give you more details in the next *Update*, which will be published on Friday 24th February.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Because of the strike, we postponed our Sixth Form Open Evening – it's now taking place next **Wednesday, 8th February**. It would be great to see as many Year 11s as possible at the event – it will be an invaluable opportunity to learn more about life in St Margaret's Sixth Form. But the event is also open to Year 10 students too, because it's never too early to start thinking about next steps!

In Assemblies this week I have challenged both year-groups to think hard about the choices ahead of them, and to have a Plan B as well as a Plan A. If your son wants to talk about his future options, or needs some guidance as to what might be best for him, please contact our Careers team at [careers@stmargaretsacademy.com](mailto:careers@stmargaretsacademy.com) – we're here to help!

### Food vouchers

We've recently received £15 of vouchers from Liverpool City Council for each child entitled to Free School Meals, to cover the cost of lunches during the upcoming half-term break. We envisage being able to distribute them next week, but if you haven't received them by next Friday, do please get in touch.

### Pray for St Margaret's!

One of our parents, Rebecca Cliff, kindly runs a parents' prayer group which meets virtually every 2pm on Mondays. If you pray, you'd be more than welcome to join the group – the meeting code is 704 496 1444 and the password is pray. Alternatively, you could use this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7044961444?pwd=M1Yzb3FNSCthQ0VGWW1nc3Y5a3FVQT09>

Do pray especially for our Year 11 students, who start two weeks of Mock exams on Monday.

### Half-term

A reminder that we shut for half-term on Friday 10th February, re-opening at the normal time on Monday 20th. There is, as ever, a Liverpool City Council programme of activities for the half-term break: Sally Dobbing, who leads in this area, writes:

*"The February "Eat to Meet 2" Half Term programme starts on 13th February and there are lots of great activities happening over the school break. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the half-term holidays, including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, discos, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make-up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a range of fabulous meals available with many schemes holding family events as well.*

*"To find out where your nearest scheme is click [here](#) or [here](#) and click on the February half term activities. When you have chosen the activity/scheme you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and contact the providers directly.*

*"If you want to know how to register or how to check if your child is eligible for free school meals then please click [here](#). You will need your national insurance number or an asylum seekers support number. If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click [here](#); if you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk – see [here](#)."*

### Immunisations

Is your son or daughter up-to-date with their immunisations? If not, there are some catch-up sessions available over the next few weeks:

- Saturday 11th February The Townsend clinic (L6 0BB)
- Saturday 25th February Princes Park Health Centre (L8 0SY)
- Saturday 11th March Garston (L19 2LW)

- Saturday 25th March Childwall (L16 7QQ)
- Saturday 8th April The Townsend clinic (L6 0BB)
- Saturday 22nd April The Kensington Clinic (L7 2PF)

Please call the Immunisation team on **0151 295 3833** to book an appointment.

Finally...

This is the last *Update* before the start of one of my favourite seasons in the Christian year – Lent. (It actually starts during our first week back after half-term). It may seem odd to describe Lent as a ‘favourite’, but the journey through the weeks up till Easter has always meant a lot to me: it’s a time for honest self-reflection, away from (say) the bright lights and busy-ness of Advent.

This year the Church of England has produced some engaging resources for Lent under the title "*Dust and Glory*". They say: "*This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life*". Why not sign up for some daily e-mail reflections [here](#) if you’re interested in exploring Lent further?

We’ll be in touch again at the end of the first week back after half-term. In the meantime, I wish you a restful weekend and, if possible, some happy family time in half-term when we get there!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.