

Friday 24th March 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 115

Welcome to a fresh edition of our fortnightly newsletter for parents.

As this is the last *Update* before the Easter holidays, I'd want to start by thanking you for your forbearance over the past term. It's not been the smoothest few months, with the industrial action and the snow conspiring to disrupt things – but everyone concerned has shown considerable patience, for which I am duly grateful.

Farewell...

We will shortly say goodbye to Andrea Penketh, who has served our school as a Vice Principal for almost 18 years. We are very grateful for everything she has given to St Margaret's, initially leading our pastoral system, and latterly leading a number of aspects of school life, including our spiritual ethos, our students' personal development, and our work with disadvantaged students. She leaves with our very best wishes for the future, and our deep gratitude for her long service here.

A night at the movies

I'm genuinely excited to be able to invite you to our Spring Concert, which takes place next Wednesday (29th March) in the Drama Hall at 6:30pm. Our end-of-term concerts are always a feast of musical talent and commitment, and I'm very much looking forward to appreciating our students' efforts this term. Do come if you are able to!



Uniform change, from September 2023

Our school ties are changing next year! We've decided to go for a year-based system, so each year-group has a different colour tie. The year-group will keep their colour throughout their time at St Margaret's, so there won't be a need to buy a new tie every year.

Next year's colours will be as follows:

- The incoming Year 7: Blue
- Year 8 (so current Year 7): Maroon
- Year 9 (so current Year 8): Grey
- Year 10 (so current Year 9): Green
- Year 11 (so current Year 10): Gold

There will be no change to the colour on the school badge on the blazer, which will continue to represent the student's house (and, therefore, their form).

The ties can be purchased from our three approved school uniform suppliers:

- Liverpool Schoolwear, 298 St Marys Road, Garston, L19 0NQ
- Kitted Out, 333 Aigburth Road, L17 0BL
- AMJ Schoolwear Ltd, 48-50 London Road, L3 5NF

Please note that this change does not affect our Sixth Formers' uniform.

Equipment reminder

Dr Silverstone writes: *"Can I please remind parents and carers how important it is for all students to come to school fully equipped? When all students have the equipment they need, lessons run smoothly and the class can get on with the work they are set. Conversely, when students don't have what they need, this can impact their learning. If students require any equipment, this can be ordered via Parentmail and picked up from the school office.*

"The equipment we expect all students to have is listed below:

- 2 black or blue pens
- 2 green pens
- 2 pencils
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Sharpener
- Protractor
- Glue stick
- Highlighter
- Scientific calculator
- Whiteboard pack: whiteboard, pen, rubber"

Holidays

The Easter holidays start at 3:20pm on Friday next week. School will be closed to students for two weeks, opening again at the usual time on Monday 17th April. We wish all our students and their families a restful Easter break – and special wishes to our Muslim families: *"Ramadan Mubarak"*!

Finally...

In our Assemblies recently we've been concluding our series on the Ten Commandments, thinking this week about *"bearing false witness"* – ie lying. I've been reminded that it's possible to break this commandment even when telling the truth! – for if we are selective in what we say, we can still bear false witness by misleading others. If a student hasn't started their homework, they can truthfully say *"I haven't quite finished it yet"* – but their phrasing gives the misleading impression they're most of the way there!

In the Easter story, Pilate famously asks *"What is truth?"* – quite an irony given that Jesus had, some time previously, declared *"I am the way, the truth and the life"*. My hope is that all of us will learn something fresh about the truth of the Easter story in the important few weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.