

Friday 19th May 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 119

The fortnights seem to fly by! Welcome to the final edition of our *Parental Update* for this half-term.

Every fortnight is a busy fortnight in the life of a school, but right now we're particularly busy appointing a number of new teachers and leaders for September – your son or daughter may well have been involved in the various processes, interviewing candidates as part of the School Council, or as part of a class being taught a 'trial lesson' by an interview candidate. I'm pleased to be able to report we've made some excellent appointments so far!

External exams

If you have a son or daughter in Year 11 or Year 13, please be assured that your whole family is very much in our thoughts and prayers right now. In most subjects, GCSE and 'A'-level exams started this week – and for nearly everyone taking the exams, it will be their first taste of taking an external exam in school. (Year 13 students were given teacher-assessed grades for their GCSEs, so even they haven't had the full external exam experience before).

I know from personal experience (my younger son is taking his 'A'-levels this year) that an exam season can be a testing time (literally) for the whole family, not just for the students concerned – although it is, of course, particularly intense for the students too. If your family, or especially your son or daughter, needs any additional pastoral support at this time, [please get in touch](#) – it's what we're here for.

And if your son or daughter isn't in Year 11 or Year 13, you still have a part to play – please do pray for all those taking external exams, and their families, at this time.

Vision and Values

You may recall that last term, we shared a draft Vision statement with you, produced by a small group that had been working on updating our existing statement. Thank you if you fed back as part of that process!

The statement we put together linked to our school motto, "*Fide et labore*" ("[Achievement] by faith and by work"), but we've been keen to make that link even more explicit in our final statement. And we've been thinking about the values that might flow from that Vision statement too, keen – now we are joining All Saints Multi-Academy Trust – to ensure there's a clear synergy with their values of Aspiration, Inclusion and Service. Just before Christmas, many parents and carers voted in our online poll about what values are most important to us, and that feedback is being fed into the process as well.

We'll be sharing more about our progress over the next couple of months, ahead of us having the new Vision and Values in place for the new school year.

Holiday Activities and Food ('HAF') programme

I'm delighted to be able to attached the latest update from the HAF team at Liverpool City Council. Please contact them directly if you have any questions about their work.

Finally...

In our collective worship this week, we've continued our series on heroes and heroines of the faith, focussing on the remarkable story of Joseph from Genesis. A couple of Andrew Lloyd Webber's melodies from the musical *Joseph and his Amazing Techicolour Dreamcoat* have been going round my head all week! But the story of Joseph has amazing highs and lows – and one of the lessons it teaches us is that triumph and disaster are both 'imposters' (to quote Rudyard Kipling); what matters far more is our character and the values that sustain us. Joseph kept his eyes on God through all the highs and lows – his faith kept him going throughout. I pray that all those taking exams (and their families) will draw sustenance from their faith too!

With best wishes for a warm, sunny spring weekend,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Brierley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley
Principal.

Date: 19th May 2023



Liverpool
City Council

Dear Parent or Guardian

The May "Eat to Meet 2" Half Term programme starts on the 29th May and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. 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 on [this link](#) or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the May half term activities link.

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. Click [here](#) to find out how to register.

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, Sutton Croft and the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Half Term Activity programme.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - [FISD](#).

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing
HAF Project Manager