



Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 127

Good evening! As the nights draw in, I trust our fortnightly newsletter finds you in good form. As ever, it's been a busy couple of weeks here at St Margaret's...

Parent Governor election

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Parent Governor Election recently – and particular thanks too to the six parents who put themselves forward to serve our community in this way. I'm delighted to be able to advise you that **Ruth Halewood** and **Siobhan Hughes** have been duly elected to serve as parent Governors for a period of 4 years. Hearty congratulations to both successful candidates!

I will be in a position to confirm the full make-up of our new Local Academy Council in our next *Parental Update*.

Punctuality

Our Acting Director of Pastoral Care, Mr Gibbons, writes:

"As we continue to promote the highest standards here at SMA, one area that we are keen to focus on is punctuality to school. It is essential that pupils arrive promptly to the large yard (or the small yard for Year 7 students) at 8.45am so that they can maximise access to form time and Collective Worship (assemblies). These are both vital elements of the school day. Our registers open at 8.45am.

"From Monday 23rd October, any pupils who arrive to their morning registration after 8.50, or school at any time after that, will have to serve a 15-minute detention after school on the same day. Failure to attend this detention will lead to further sanctions.

"We are committed to being fair and considerate as we embed this new procedure. If your child has a legitimate reason for being late on any given morning, please contact the school and we can take this into account. Please note that any reasons for lateness that warrant removal from detention must come from parents. If your child struggles with punctuality due to any disabilities or additional needs, please contact their Head of Year and we will be able to review their circumstances while your child adjusts to this change in our procedures."

Students will be aware of these changes as they have been explained by form tutors and in Collective Worship at various points this week.

Parking

Please could I ask all drivers who visit our school site to park their cars only in authorised places?

Parking on double-yellow lines, on zig-zag lines or on grass verges not only violates the Highway Code, it can annoy our neighbours and – most importantly of all – it puts students (and parents) at increased risk of accident. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation!

Our Acting Director of Sixth Form, Dr Silverstone, writes...

"We'd like to make all parents, carers and pupils aware of the St Margaret's Sixth Form Instagram account: @smasixthform. The account showcases the wide range of activities that our sixth formers are offered as well as being a good means of information sharing between the sixth form team and our students.

"Whether not you are a sixth former or are the parent/carer of a sixth form student, please do follow us for an insight into the wonderful world of SMA6."

Half-term

A quick reminder that we finish for a one-week half-term break at 3:20pm on **Friday 27th October** (ie, a week today). I attach a letter with some news about Liverpool City Council events for the week.

Finally...

Our Collective Worship this week has focussed on Black History Month, which in turn this year focuses on the role of women in our history. In our Collective Worship students have had the opportunity to reflect on the remarkable story of Mary Prince, a one-time slave who became a significant figure in the early nineteenth century. Thank you to colleagues from the History Department who have brought her story to life for our students this week.

Whatever your plans for the weekend, I wish you a restful break and some quality family time if you are able to enjoy some.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley

Principal.



Date: 12th October 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian

The October Half Term Eat 2 Meet programme starts on the 30th October and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16 (including year 11 leavers), 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 **Halloween themed activities such as pumpkin carving, apple bob, halloween crafts making spooky masks, boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, podcasting, basketball, arts and crafts, drama, zumba, 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 the nearest scheme is click on this link [October Half Term 'Eat to Meet' – Merseyside Play Action Council \(merseyplay.com\)](#) or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the October Half Term Eat 2 Meet link.

When a parent/guardian/carer has chosen the activity/scheme they 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 the child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when booking. 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 on the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
- ☐ 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: <https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>
- ☐ 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 on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>
- ☐ If your child is not eligible for benefits related free school meals you may be eligible for support with childcare costs - <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the October Half Term Eat 2 Meet 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