



Wednesday 20th December

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Parental Update 133**

Welcome to the last *Parental Update* of 2023! There is much to share with you as we finish for the Christmas break. There's plenty of news to share from the All Saints Multi Academy Trust too, and the Trust's termly newsletter is being circulated alongside this final *Update*.

#### Farewell

Earlier this month we bade farewell to **Ms Clayson**, one of our Learning Support Assistants, who has secured a new position in Cornwall. We've greatly appreciated her support and hard work over the short time she's been with us – particularly her highly effective intervention work with students who have needed help with their reading – and wish her every success in her new role.

**Miss Haworth** has also made an invaluable contribution to our reading intervention programme over recent months, but we'll remember her more for the sterling work she's done leading our Learning Resource Centre for the last 11+ years. The skills she's brought to the role have been invaluable and she will be sorely missed! She leaves us at the end of term with our very best wishes for wherever the future may lead.

**Mrs McKechnie** has served our school in many ways during her 15+ years with us; she's currently makes an invaluable contribution as one of our Sixth Form Admin team. We're very sorry she'll be leaving us at Christmas but are very grateful for everything she's given to our school and for her many years of faithful service. Best wishes for a long and happy retirement, Mrs M!

#### End-of-term events

Thank you if you have been able to support our Christmas concert last Wednesday, or our Christingle service earlier today. Both were memorable events! I'm also grateful to the staff who helped organise the events (Miss Smith and Mrs Harding respectively, ably assisted by many others) – and very grateful too to the students who were, as ever, magnificent in both events.

#### Fund-raising

I'm delighted to be able to report that our Christmas Jumper Day raised almost £200 for Save the Children. Thanks again to all who took part, and to all who contributed to make such a great donation to a very worthy cause.

#### Carol Services: reminder

Our Carol Service takes place tomorrow at 12:30pm. Arrangements 'at a glance':

- Year 7 students must report to Liverpool Cathedral (L1 7AZ) at 10:30am.
- Students in Years 8 to 13 must report to the Cathedral at 12noon.
- A small number of students (whose parents have notified me already) will be accommodated in school. **I have this morning e-mailed the parents of all these students to confirm we expect them at school**, so if you didn't hear from me, we expect your son or daughter in the Cathedral.
- **Attendance is compulsory**; students with unauthorised attendance (on this or any other day) will not be permitted to take part in the traditional 'Rewards Trip' (to Blackpool or Alton Towers) next summer. If your child is unable to attend through illness, please let us know **by 10am**.
- All students will be dismissed from the Cathedral at after the Carol Service (around 1:30pm).
- Year 7 students who are entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch at the Cathedral.

Please be aware that there is currently a yellow weather warning for wind in force on Thursday; the wind may "*potentially*" cause "*some travel disruption*". It would be wise to allow extra time for travelling.

We look forward to seeing you if you're able to join us!

#### Next term

A reminder that Monday 8th January is an INSET day for staff (in order to support our transition to Arbor, a new School Information Management System); so term will restart at the normal time (8:45am on the yard) on **Tuesday 9th January**.

#### Finally...

As I wrote yesterday, I am leaving St Margaret's at the end of this term after 10+ very happy years here. Mrs Sing will be taking the helm next term, and has already planned Assemblies when she will meet the students:

- Tuesday 9th January: Years 7, 8 and 12
- Wednesday 10th January: Year 9
- Thursday 11th January: Year 10
- Friday 12th January: Years 11 and 13

Education is best when it is a partnership between parents and the school – we are, indeed, "*stronger together*" (All Saint's unofficial motto!). If you, as parents and carers, are able to support Mrs Sing as warmly and as deeply as you have supported me over the last decade, I am confident St Margaret's will continue to have a bright future ahead.

With my best wishes for Christmas, the New Year, and beyond,

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.