

15th July, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental update 68

Welcome to the final *Update* of the academic year! It's certainly been a year to remember, sadly not always for the right reasons. But as the summer term draws to an end, there is much for which we can be grateful.

Farewell...

We're very grateful for the service of a number of colleagues who are leaving us this year.

- Mr Atherton and Mrs Tyrer-Hogg are leaving our Learning Support Assistant team, after helping students around the school for around 18 months each. They leave with our best wishes for wherever their future may take them.
- Mr O'Gorman has secured a position in another school and so is leaving us after 7 years as Head of Computer Science and ICT. During his time with us, the Department has expanded its Computer Science teaching significantly, and the subject remains a popular one with many of our students. Mr O'Gorman has also contributed to our Senior Leadership Team and I'm grateful for his input there too. Good luck at your new school, Mr O'Gorman!
- Ms Kirby and Mrs Hargreaves have between them taught here for almost 50 years! Mrs Hargreaves first joined us as a part-time Maths teacher in September 2007, and she's been a valued member of the team ever since. Her patience with those who find Maths challenging has helped many a student make progress in the subject. Mrs Kirby has been part of 'Team SMA' since 1986, leading our German teaching and contributing to the teaching of other languages too. A number of our former students have used their German in their subsequent careers (you may recall reading about one a few weeks ago), which in itself is testimony to the quality of her work. We wish both colleagues every success as they leave us to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

A couple of members of staff are getting married (but not to each other!), and we wish them every happiness for the future too.

Uniform

You may recall that this year, we relaxed certain aspects of our uniform requirements – blazers were not required, and boys were allowed to come into school in their PE kit on days when they had PE.

Now that many of the Covid restrictions have been lifted, we will be returning to full uniform requirements from September. I appreciate that through a recent parental survey, a number of parents have asked for the PE kit rule to be continued; but we've decided to go back to changing for PE because of the problems that can occur when students do outdoor PE in *slightly* inclement weather. (If it's very bad, obviously we wouldn't send students outside; it's when it's *slightly* inclement that problems can arise with boys in potentially damp kit for the rest of a longer school day).

Blazers will also be required for September.

Testing

You may have seen that the Government is making provision for all students to be tested twice before their return in September. Here, that will be happening on **Wednesday 1st September** (*ie* before the start of their term) and **Saturday 4th September** – in each case between the hours of 8:40am and 3:50pm. I would urge every St Margaret's student to get tested onsite on both of these days.

For students currently in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10, your current consent 'status' will be carried over from the testing we did earlier this academic year (*eg* with the Army back last November), and will be confirmed through the act of booking an appointment (see below) – so if your child was tested then, we do not need fresh consent forms.

However, for next year's Year 7, explicit consent will be required. Any parents with students in this year-group next year can give their consent for their son to be tested by booking an appointment – the act of booking will be taken as consent for the testing to take place. Please see the attached documentation which outlines the Terms of Consent and the associated Privacy Notice.

Post-16 students can self-consent. Please discuss with your son or daughter whether they would wish to be tested.

We're using our Parents' Evening appointment system to book testing appointments on these two days. As a reminder, the standard letter about booking Parents' Evening appointments is attached. You can book your appointments [here](#). As I say, please do!

Letter

An end-of-term letter from Matt Ashton and Steve Reddy is attached.

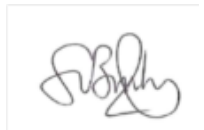
Finally...

Happy summer holidays to all St Margaret's families! We look forward to seeing those of you expecting exam results on **Tuesday 10th August** (for post-16 results) or **Thursday 12th August** (for Year 11 results), and we look forward to seeing everyone else on the first couple of days in September.

Whether or not you're going away or staying at home, I trust the break will be a relaxing and refreshing one for everyone. We'll be in touch again at the start of next term – probably on Friday 3rd September.

Stay safe!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.

14th July 2021



Liverpool
City Council

Dear Parent / Carer,

We want to thank you for all your support over the last year in helping in the fight against COVID-19. We are hugely proud of all of you for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We know it has been a particularly difficult time for those that have experienced personal losses.

The Government have recently outlined their plan for the roadmap out of lockdown, with many control measures no longer being a legal requirement from 19 July. Locally, due to rapidly rising cases and hospital admissions from COVID-19 we are making strong recommendations to support national requirements. By working together we can keep everyone safe by reducing the virus spread.

Everyone, of any age, who tests positive for COVID using a PCR test is still legally required to isolate for 10 days, along with their household contacts. Over the summer, NHS Track and Trace may identify others that need to isolate. To reduce your risk of becoming infected or needing to isolate because you're identified as a close or direct contact we urge caution and strongly recommending the following:

Face coverings and social distancing

We strongly recommend that people continue to socially distance. Nationally, it is also expected that people continue wearing face coverings in crowded indoor areas where social distancing cannot be followed, such as supermarkets and on public transport, in health and social care settings, such as hospitals, care homes and GP surgeries, and where it would make others feel more comfortable.

Testing

Keep getting tested – we strongly recommend everyone should undertake twice weekly rapid symptom free testing using Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). If people experience general symptoms such as a headache, a stuffed or runny nose, tiredness or weakness, aches and pains, sore throat or diarrhoea, they should take an LFT and follow up with a PCR test if the LFT test is positive.

If people have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste they must stay at home and book a PCR test. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have symptoms but can still infect others - so getting tested regularly will help slow the spread.

People with symptoms can get a test [here](#) or call 119; people without symptoms can access our community testing sites [here](#) or order test kits [here](#).

Handwashing and hygiene

It is essential that you maintain handwashing and hygiene to reduce your risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and other illnesses. We strongly recommend you:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- wash your hands as soon as you get home; and

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze, and then put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Vaccinations

Look after each other by making sure you and your loved ones have their COVID jabs! We strongly urging everybody eligible for the vaccine in Liverpool who has not had their vaccine yet to book as soon as possible [here](#) or phone 119 free of charge.

The evidence shows that being doubled jabbed will reduce the risk of becoming severely ill or dying from COVID but you can still become ill with the virus. Even if you are fully vaccinated you should still adhere to national and local guidance and recommendations.

Now more than ever it is important we all look after our mental health. We have also included some links on the following page about parenting and wellbeing which you may find useful. Support is out there – please get help if you or someone you know needs support.

Please stay safe and once again thank you for your continued support and enjoy your summer!

Matt Ashton
Director of Public Health, Liverpool

Steve Reddy
Director of Children's Services, Liverpool

General Covid-19 advice

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

People who are sick with coronavirus may have other flu like symptoms such as:

- body aches
- tiredness
- diarrhoea
- persistent headaches
- shortness of breath
- sore throat
- nausea or

If you don't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you don't need to isolate until you get your result, however you do need to continue to take the usual measures to protect yourself and others from illness.

Understanding your child

Free Parenting Guide for people living in Liverpool – free access if you have a purple bin! Award winning **online courses** - Find out more about:

- how your child develops;
- your child's feelings;
- different styles of Parenting;
- why sleep is important; and
- communication with your child.

These online parenting guides are offered free to parents and carers in Liverpool. Go to www.inourplace.co.uk and click 'Start Now'. The access code is **PURPLE BIN**

Mental wellbeing

Parents: don't forget about your own self-care! Discover our supportive online mental wellbeing space for adults: qwell.io

The **CAMHS Crisis Care Team** provides support, advice and guidance to children, families and carers in crisis: telephone **0151 293 3577** or **freephone 0808 196 3550**

Talk Liverpool have an urgent 24/7 mental health access line available during the current pandemic: telephone **0151 296 7200** or the **freephone 0800 145 6570**

The Samaritans provide a listening service available to all Liverpool parents. Telephone **116 123** – a free phone line that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Further local and national information about health and wellbeing: www.liveyourlifewell.info