

Friday 4th November, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 103

Welcome back to a new half-term, and a fresh edition of the *Parental Update*, our fortnightly newsletter for parents. I trust you and your family were able to enjoy last week's break, even if it does seem some time ago now!

Farewell

Since our last newsletter was published, Pauline Brown has left our team of cleaners after more than 20 years' service to the school; and before the next one is published, Anna Kithan (one of our Learning Support Assistants) will have left us too. I'm very grateful to both colleagues for their service to St Margaret's and wish them every success as they take up new positions elsewhere.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND')

As you may recall, our previous SEND Co-ordinator ('SENDCo') left us last month, and the process of appointing her successor is underway. Schools must have a named SENDCo, and whilst we are waiting for a new SENDCo to start with us, I will be the named SENDCo for St Margaret's.

However, the day-to-day work within the Department will be undertaken by two colleagues from a local Multi-Academy Trust. Mrs Susan Warrior, a qualified SENDCo from the Academy of St Francis of Assisi, will be working with us on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and Mrs Leah Matthews, a qualified SENDCo from the Faith Primary School, will be working with us on Thursdays. You can get in touch with them through a new, dedicated SEND e-mail address – SENDAdmin@stmargaretsacademy.com.

Their work with us will begin next week, and I am very much looking forward to welcoming them to the St Margaret's family.

Vision and Values

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our Vision and Values questionnaire – 39 parents have to date.

The good news is that it's not too late to chip in with your views! I'd strongly encourage you to do so: the form to complete is [here](#). Can I challenge you to see if we can get to 100 by the time of our next newsletter in a fortnight's time?!

Thank you!

Finally...

1st November was All Saints Day, a day in the Christian calendar that can all too easily be overlooked. In many ways, that's a great shame: one of the things that inspires me, as I lead St Margaret's, is the long history of people – of saints – who have gone before, and who have laid the foundations on which we now build. Often in our Remembrance Day services (which will be taking place for all students next Friday morning) I read out the recollections of a former Headteacher, who wrote stirringly of the valour St Margaret's boys – nay, soldiers – showed; it is truly humbling to do so.

It's never too late to look back with gratitude to our predecessors – both saints and soldiers. If you have time this weekend, I'd urge you to do so.

We'll be in touch again in a fortnight's time.

With best wishes for a safe Bonfire Night tomorrow,

Yours faithfully

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

Stephen Brierley

Principal.