

4th February, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 83

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of our *Update* for all St Margaret's parents. At this time of year my spirits are always buoyed by the slightly lighter evenings and the promise of spring to come; I trust this edition of our fortnightly *Update* finds you in good spirits too.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND') provision

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Kavanagh, is leaving St Margaret's later this month. Mrs Kavanagh first joined our school in September 2014 as an Art teacher, and three years ago she was promoted to lead our SEND provision. We're very grateful for everything she's given to our school over the last 7½ years – she's certainly made a lasting impact with many students and staff alike. She leaves with our very best wishes for her future happiness and success.

In the meantime, Mrs Penketh is continuing to oversee our SEND work. If you have any queries about SEND at St Margaret's, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Penketh through [this e-mail address](#).

Welcome!

I'm delighted to be able to introduce you to Mrs Donna Hunter, who has joined us this week as a Cover Supervisor. Mrs Hunter has previous experience of working in a similar capacity at another school in Liverpool, and we're delighted she's chosen to continue her career here. I'm sure you'd want to join me in wishing her every success in her new role here.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We're delighted to be able to invite you to our Sixth Form Open Evening at **6pm on Thursday 10th February**. We would have preferred to have been able to hold the event on-site, but we've taken the decision (given the still-high infection rates within our school community) to hold the event online again this year. All Year 11 students will be receiving a link enabling them to log in to the event; anyone else who would like to attend can do so through our website.

We certainly wouldn't want any prospective Sixth Formers to miss out on the opportunity of finding out more about our Sixth Form, so if you're unable to join us next Thursday for any reason, please get in touch [by e-mail](#) and we'll happily answer whatever questions you may have.

Staff absence

In common with many other schools, we've continued to experience higher-than-usual levels of staff absence over the last fortnight (particularly amongst senior leaders recently). Despite this, we have, thankfully, been able to keep the school fully open all this term so far. We're grateful for your forbearance on any occasion when it's not been possible to respond to queries as efficiently as we would have liked.

For Year 11 parents: Revise Till Five

After another successful week, we're in a position to be able to confirm our 'early bird' 8:30am revision sessions for next week:

| Day | Venue | Subject | Topic |
|---------------|---------|------------------|---|
| Monday 7th | Room 16 | Maths | Circle Theorems |
| Tuesday 8th | Room 16 | Computer Science | Data – Ascii and Hexadecimal |
| Wednesday 9th | Room 16 | Science | Electrolysis |
| Thursday | Room 16 | English | Poetry (focussing explicitly on the upcoming Mock) |
| Friday | Room 16 | History | Source work questions – exam technique and practice with Weimar sources |

Mr Slater writes:

“If you would like to register your Year 11 child for any of these morning sessions (or the afternoon Revise Till Five sessions if you have not yet done so) please visit [this link](#). This is the same system as you have previously used to book appointments for Parents’ Evenings and Lateral Flow Testing and works in a very similar way. Login with the following information:

- *your details: Your title, your first name, your surname and your email address.*
- *your child’s details: Their first name, their surname and their date of birth.*

If you have any questions please email Mr Slater at [through this e-mail address](#)”.

For Year 9 parents: GCSE Options

Mr Slater writes:

*“Please can I remind you of the forthcoming deadline for Year 9 Option Choice Forms? A printed copy of the relevant Option Form needs to be completed and signed by your child and yourself and submitted to the Main School Office by **Wednesday, 9th February**. Electronic copies of the form and other information is available from our [school website](#) or hard copies can be requested from the main school office.*

“Due to recent changes by The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) who regulate qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, we have had to change the Information Technology course that we offer. Instead of the BTEC qualification we now offer the Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia (more information is available at the following [link](#) or through the appended document).

“If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Slater at through [this e-mail address](#).”

Finally

Our next *Update* will come through to your InBox on Friday 18th February, just as we finish for the half-term break. Until then, please take care and enjoy those slightly-lighter evenings!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.

Information Technology

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia (new for 2022)

This qualification will help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- thinking about situations and deciding what is required to be successful
- exploring different options and choosing the best way forward to solve a problem
- exploring and generating original ideas to find imaginative solutions to problems
- selecting the best tools and techniques to use to solve a problem
- appropriate use of media to convey meaning
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised way which meet deadlines.

This qualification will complement other learning that you are completing for GCSEs or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4 and help to prepare you for further study. It is designed to meet the Department for Education's characteristics for a Technical Award.

The course will encourage you to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of **digital media** (video games; online publishing eg websites or online documents, books *etc*; and interactive media eg online programs or travel guides) including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations;
- design, plan, create and review **digital media products** which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements;
- develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations;
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically; and
- develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely.

The course consists of three units, two of which are based on coursework and one of which is a written exam (completed in the summer of Year 11). By taking this option you will study for a Level 2 VCF course (not a BTEC) from OCR. You will gain grades fully equivalent to GCSE grades 9 to 1 on successful completion of the course.

The units covered are:

- **R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry**

This is assessed by taking a 1 hour and 30 minute written exam and is worth **40%** of the overall grade. In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include:

- The media industry
- Factors influencing product design
- Pre-production planning
- Distribution consideration

- **R094: Visual identity and digital graphics**

This is assessed by completing a set assignment and is worth around **30%** of the overall grade. In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use

the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include:

- Developing visual identity
 - Planning digital graphics for products
 - Creating visual identity and digital graphics
- The final unit will be one of
 - R095: Characters and comics
 - R096: Animation with audio
 - R097: Interactive digital media
 - R099: Digital games

This unit is assessed by completing a set assignment and is worth around **30%** of the overall grade.

Course specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610942-specification-cambridge-nationals-creative-imedia-j834.pdf>

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in the following:

- Software packages like
 - MS PowerPoint;
 - MS Excel;
 - Adobe Photoshop;
 - Gamemaker;
 - Serif Web and
 - Movie Plus/maker.
- Organisational skills; independent learning; planning and design skills
- Literacy skills, especially written communication

Post 16 choices

At the end of the course you may go on to study BTEC Level 3 IT, 'T'-levels, other 'A'-levels or even an apprenticeship.

Future careers

Creative iMedia is an excellent subject that provides knowledge and skills that can be successfully used in many professions such as graphic and web designers, education, advertising, animation and game development. You could also pursue careers in marketing, interior design and more.