

25th March, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 87

“*Absolutely heartwarming*”! That was the reaction of our Finance team as they counted today’s collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee’s Ukraine appeal. Our students gave over £600 in the collections at Assemblies this morning – an astonishing total! When the money already given through the ParentMail system is added, we will be giving **£1,285.81** to the appeal – and I suspect the final total will be even more than that as donations are still coming in as I type.

Separately our Sixth Formers have collected about 25 bags of goods that will be channelled to support the people of the Ukraine through local churches and community groups. They’re still collecting for the first few days next week; if your son or daughter has anything to contribute, please ask them to take the goods to the Sixth Form Centre.

Thank you if you were able to contribute – in any way – to our efforts to support those in the Ukraine. Compassion in action is, as my colleague in finance so rightly exclaimed, “*absolutely heartwarming*”. Thank you too if you were able to find something blue or yellow for your son to wear to school today – some boys looked very stylish! I was especially impressed by quite a few Year 11 boys’ choice of attire, and by the bright yellow track-suit worn by a boy in 10R – you know who you are!!

Whilst it’s right to reflect on a successful fund-raising effort, we should not lose sight of the great suffering that people in Ukraine are currently experiencing. Please do continue to hold the whole nation in your thoughts and prayers.

Spring Concert

After a Covid-induced two-year absence, I’m thrilled to be able to invite you to a School Concert! Mrs Smith and her team will be working their usual magic with students young and old (and maybe even some members of staff too) to produce what I’m sure will be a wonderful evening of fabulous music.

The concert’s on **Wednesday 6th April at 7pm**. Tickets are available through ParentMail (£5 adults, £3 concessions). It would be great to see you if you are able to join us!

Consultation: the shape of the school day

As you will doubtless be aware, for the last two years we have had a very different timetable in St Margaret’s, with staggered starts, staggered breaks and lunch-times, and a staggered end to the school day. Whilst there have been advantages to these arrangements (*eg* it has been easier to ensure Covid infections are not passed between year-groups), there have been disadvantages too (*eg* the staggered end to the day has sometimes made it harder to arrange extra-curricular activities). After much discussion with colleagues, we’re proposing to revert to a largely non-staggered timetable from September 2022, and we’d like your views about this before we ask our Governors for a final decision.

The new arrangements would be similar to the pre-pandemic arrangements (although we are still intending to stagger break). Specifically:

- our students' school day would start at 8:45am (**nb**: this means they would need to arrive onsite by 8:40am, in order for them to then get to their form-room for 8:45am);
- their day would finish at 3:20pm, or 2:55pm on Thursdays (to facilitate staff training); and
- we would revert to a fortnightly timetable.

A detailed breakdown of the times of the day is given below.

If you have any comments about this proposal, please e-mail admin@stmargaretsacademy.com with the subject-line "Shape of the School Day feedback" by **9am on Monday 25th April** (the first day back after the Easter break). Thank you!

The Shape of the School Day from September 2022: Consultation version				St Margaret's Church of England Academy		
		Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5		
08:30						08:30
	B	Staff Briefing (2 days per week)			B	
08:40						08:40
	M				M	
08:45						08:45
	R	Worship/Reading	Worship/Reading	Worship/ Learning for Life	R	
09:15						09:15
	1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	1	
10:15						Th: 10:10
	2a	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	2a	Th: 10:25
10:30						
	2b	Lesson 2	Break	Break	2b	Th: 11:05
11:15						
	2c				2c	Th: 11:20
11:30						Th: 12:15
	3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	3	
12:30						Th: 12:15
	L	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	L	
1:20						Th: 1:05
	4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	4	
2:20						Th: 2:00
	5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	5	
3:20						Th: 2:55
	C	5-minute break then Staff CPD (Thursday only)			C	
4:55						Th: 5:00

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Comments
English	6 + 1	6 + 1	6 + 1	8	7	KS3: 1 period of Drama in each year
Maths	6	6	6	8	7	
Science	6	6	6	8	8	
RS	3	3	2	5		
Computing	2	3	3	Three options at 5 each	Blocks A and B: 5 periods per fortnight; Blocks C and D: 6 periods per fortnight	Yr 9: choice: Computer Science or ICT
History	3	2	3			
Geography	2	3	3			
Languages	6	6	5			
Technology	4	4	4			
Art	3	2	3			
Music	2	2	2			
PE	4	4	4			4
LfL	2	2	2	2	2	
Total	50	50	50	50	50	Pre-16 total: 1475 mins

Consultation: extra INSET Day, Friday 27th June

We'd also like to consult with you about the possibility of re-designating Friday 27th June as an INSET day. This would mean that school would be **closed to students** on this day.

Why do we want to do this? Following the publication of our Ofsted report last term, we've been reflecting on the Areas for Improvement that they identified, and discussing the best way of improving our school still further. In order to support that improvement, we'd like to spend a day

investing in our staff. We would use the day to focus on a couple of Ofsted's Areas for Improvement (such as Reading), and our improvement plans for September 2022.

If you have any comments about this proposal, please e-mail admin@stmargaretsacademy.com with the subject-line "Extra INSET day feedback" by **3pm** on **Friday 8th April** (the last day of term). Thank you!

Covid update

I'm very much looking forward to our first **on-site Parents' Evening** for over two years next week. We've made a number of changes for the upcoming Year 11 Evening: for example teachers will largely be based in classrooms, not in the Hall or Canteen, so that we can maximise social distancing. I would ask Year 11 parents to please:

- allow extra time for your visit – we've deliberately allowed 5 minutes' 'circulation time' in between each appointment;
- **not attend** if you have tested positive, or if you are showing any of the usual Covid symptoms (we will be happy to provide feedback in other ways if you are unable to attend on the night); and
- wear a face-mask (if you are able to) for your, and our, protection. (It may be more difficult for teachers to do so as they will be doing a good deal of talking through the evening).

Speaking of face-masks, although it's no longer mandatory we would encourage all students to continue to wear a face-mask if they are able to do so.

Dr Silverstone writes...


"I have shared with you in the past some useful resources from the CEOP Education Team. (You may remember that the CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, is part of the government's National Crime Agency.) The Education Team at CEOP have been busy, and lots of changes are happening on their website, including updating their resources and removing outdated content. I would like to draw your attention to a new online resource for young people (aged 11 to 18) which aims to provide information and guidance across 7 categories including relationships, socialising online, abuse and more.

"I would recommend taking a look at this site and talking to your children about the resources and guidance that is available there. You can find their new resources [here](#)."

Finally

Our next scheduled *Update* will be sent out on Friday 8th April – the last day of this term. In the meantime, do enjoy the unseasonably warm weather this weekend if you are able to, whether that's climbing mountains (as one of our students is planning) or just enjoying a bike ride (as I'm intending!).

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.