

20th May, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental Update 90**

Welcome to another edition of our fortnightly Update for parents. I trust it finds you in good health and spirits!

If the month of May started with an important date in the Islamic calendar, it finishes with an important date in the Christian calendar: next Thursday is Ascension Day! Ascension Day is a day that can all-too-easily be overlooked in the Christian calendar, but it's an important part of Jesus' story. At Christmas, we remember that Jesus reaches out to us; over Easter, we remember that Jesus redeems us; and at Ascension, we remember that Jesus rules over us. We'll be taking a break from our series on the Ten Commandments in Assembly on Monday to spend some time focussing on Ascension and why it matters for us today. If you'd like to ask him, by Monday evening your son will hopefully be able to tell you about it!

### Year 11 and Year 13 students

Please continue to hold Year 11 and Year 13 students in your thoughts and prayers now that their external exams have started. It can be an especially anxious time for some families, and I am sure they would value knowing that the wider St Margaret's family is thinking of them.

### Year 13 Leavers' Events

It was great to be able to celebrate our Year 13 students' time at St Margaret's both in their Leavers' Service and at their Prom last week. Both events were very memorable, for all the right reasons – indeed, we received a lovely communication from the Prom venue commending the behaviour of our students there. Those who attended the Prom certainly looked the part, dressed so smartly for the occasion. We wish them all the best not only for their exams, but also wherever the future may take them — they've been fantastic ambassadors for the school over the years, and especially during their (regrettably disrupted) time in the Sixth Form.

### Parental Attendance at 'Home' Sports Fixtures

Dr Silverstone writes: *"There will be plenty of sports fixtures between now and the end of the academic year. We know that many parents and carers enjoy watching our teams play, and we also know that many of our boys enjoy having family members supporting them. However, would parents and carers please note that for safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow family members to come onto our school grounds to watch our teams play until after 4:00pm. After this time, parents are more than welcome to come onto the field to watch our teams and support them. Thank you for your co-operation."*

### Maths Challenge Success

Mrs Maddox writes: *"Many congratulations to our Year 7 and Year 8 students who took part in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. The results are now in, and we are delighted to announce that 46 of our students achieved bronze certificates, 23 gained silver certificates and 2 Year 8 boys secured prestigious gold certificates. Indeed, one of our gold certificate winners qualified for a*

*follow-on competition called the Junior Kangaroo which will take place next month. Well done to all students involved!”.*

### Key Stage 3 Options

Next week, I will be writing out to:

- **Year 7 families** to invite you to choose between French and Spanish as your Modern Foreign Language next year;
- **Year 8 families** to invite you too to choose between French and Spanish, and also to choose between Computing and Information Technology, for next year; and
- **Year 9 families** with confirmation of GCSE choices (slightly later than anticipated).

These letters will be despatched by ‘student post’ so please do check with your son that he has received them – sometimes important letters can fester in the bottom of school bags (I speak as the father of two boys myself!).

### Key Stage 3 Vaccinations

The Vaccination and Immunisation Team have asked me to pass on these messages:

- Year 8 families: Your son’s HPV vaccine is now due! Please click [this link](#) using google chrome to access further information about this vaccination and its benefits, as this will enable you to make an informed choice regarding your son’s immunisations. Please then provide consent or decline this vaccination if you haven’t already done so to avoid receiving any further correspondence. If you require support or have any further questions please contact the Immunisation Team on 0151 295 3833.
- Year 9 families: Your son’s Adolescent Booster and Meningitis ACWY vaccine is now due! Please click [this link](#) using google chrome to access further information about this vaccination and its benefits, as this will enable you to make an informed choice regarding your son’s immunisations. Please then provide consent or decline this vaccination if you haven’t already done so to avoid receiving any further correspondence. If you require support or have any further questions please contact the Immunisation Team on 0151 295 3833.

### Finally

Our next *Update* is due to be sent out on Friday 10th June, by which time we will all have enjoyed a four-day Bank Holiday weekend to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Servant-leadership is a powerful Biblical concept, and it’s so inspiring to have such an excellent example of it in our national life. Whatever you have planned for the Jubilee celebration weekend, I hope the weather is kind!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.