

10th June, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 91

Greetings from St Margaret's, at the end of a busy first-week-back after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations last weekend. I trust this letter finds you in good health and spirits, particularly if your son or daughter has been taking GCSEs, BTECs or 'A'-levels. We've been very impressed with the way students in Year 11 and in Year 13 have approached their exams, especially given the fact that the last time we had a full exam season was three years ago – well done!

Please be assured that the whole St Margaret's community continue to hold all those taking exams (and their families) in our thoughts and prayers. Only this week, for example, I received a lovely card from a former student assuring us of his prayers for the ongoing exam season.

Farewell

Next week we will be formally saying 'Goodbye' to Miss Fogarty, who's undertaken a number of roles within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND') team (such as Medications Officer and SEND Administrator). We're very grateful to Miss Fogarty for her hard work in school over the years she has been with us, and wish her every success for the future.

Joint Acting SEND Managers

We have this week appointed Mrs Wiseman and Miss Singleton to the roles of joint acting SEND managers to cover an absence in the SEND leadership team. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have any questions about our SEND provision; Miss Singleton can be contacted through [this e-mail address](#) and Mrs Wiseman through [this address](#).

Please note that this is a temporary arrangement until (at the latest) the end of term. I'm delighted to be able to let you know that a new SEND Co-ordinator will be joining us in September, and I'll introduce her to you in the first *Parental Update* of the new school year.

Open Evening

Our Year 7 Open Evening (for admission to school in September 2023) will take place on **Thursday 7th July** and this year will be an on-site event – we're very much looking forward to opening our doors to all prospective Year 7 students for the first time for three years! Longer-standing parents may recall that students usually finish slightly early when we have on-site Open Evenings, so that my colleagues have time to set the school up for the evening. This year, just for our Open Evening on Thursday 7th July:

- Year 7 will finish school at 2:00pm;
- Year 8 will finish school at 2:15pm;
- Year 9 will finish school at 1:45pm;
- Year 10 will finish school at 2:00pm; and
- Year 12 will finish school at 2:15pm.

If this slightly early closure presents you with insuperable childcare difficulties, we will be able to supervise a small number of students in school until the time they would normally finish school. If

you would like your son or daughter to stay in school, please let me know through [this e-mail address](#). In the event that it is necessary, priority for this provision will be given to younger students and to those on our SEND register.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that, as previously advised, **Friday 24th June is an INSET Day**, and the school will be closed to students all day.

Catering

I'm sure that all of us will have noticed how much food prices are rising at the moment, and our catering operation in school has not been immune from inflationary pressures either. There's an interesting article from a national newspaper [here](#) which gives some examples of how much school catering prices have gone up.

We've therefore regrettably had to take the decision to increase the prices in our canteen; from 1st September, the price of a standard meal will rise from £2.25 to £2.40.

I'm aware some St Margaret's families may be significantly impacted by this increase. If that applies to you, you may wish to check whether your family is entitled to Free School Meals – and you can do this (and apply for Free School Meals) online, [through this webpage](#).

Yong Person's Advisory Service ('YPAS')

Dr Silverstone writes...

"I would like to inform all parents and carers that YPAS offers mental health support on a drop-in basis. Their 'Crisis Drop-In' clinics are designed for those who are struggling with emotional and psychological distress. Any children (or their parents) who consider themselves to be in a state of crisis or to feel lonely, isolated or in need of a listening ear can find a safe space with trained professional staff to listen to and support them through difficult times.

"The drop-ins are located in their three community hubs: the Central Hub is at 36 Bolton Street (L3 5LX); the South Hub is on Lyndene Road (L25 1NG); and the North Hub is on Croxdale Road (L14 8YA). Times vary for each of the hubs, but they are all open frequently. Details of the service, including times and days, can be found [here](#). The YPAS website (ypas.org.uk) also provides information about their other services aimed at young people and their parents and carers."

Finally

Our next fortnightly *Update* would have been due on Friday 24th June, but due to the INSET day that day, it may appear slightly later. Our final update of the school year will be published on Friday 8th July.

In the meantime, do enjoy a restful weekend – and do please continue to hold all those involved in the current exam season in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.