

Friday 19th August, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 94

Welcome to a 'Special Edition' of our newsletter for parents! A particularly warm welcome to new Year 7 parents – we hope you already feel part of the St Margaret's family, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming your son into Year 7 in just over a fortnight's time.

We don't normally write in the holidays, but we thought it would be worth sending a letter out to everyone now to remind you of arrangements for the new term, and to share some amazing news from the first Results Day of the summer...

Level 3 Results Day, 2022

This time yesterday, a number of our outgoing Year 13 students were opening their BTEC and 'A'-level results, anxious to find out whether they'd got the grades they needed for University, for an apprenticeship, or for whatever they planned to do next.

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that very, very many students got the grades they needed! Our pass rate was an astonishing 99.5%, and the proportion of 'A'-levels that came back with an A* more than doubled, from 3% in 2019 (the last year of exams) to 7% this year. Our BTEC results were equally strong, and as a result there was a great deal of joy and excitement around as students finally had official confirmation they'd be able to follow their dreams.

As a school we're thrilled for each and every student who gets the grades to go on to further study or to enter the world of work, and it would be invidious to pick out any one individual – but I must share that one of our students got a place at Cambridge University to read Maths! What an amazing achievement! We wish him – and all our Year 13 students – every success as they start a new chapter in their lives in the next few weeks.

The start of next term

As you'll be aware, our 2022/2023 academic year starts for students on **Monday 5th September**. Detailed arrangements for each year are as follows:

- **Year 7 students** must be on the large yard at 8:45am (which means arriving at the front of school at 8:40am).

- **Year 8 and Year 10 students** must be lined up on the large yard at 11:15am (so again, please arrive at the front of school at 11:10am).
- **Year 9 students** must be lined up by 10:45am (so arrive at 10:40am please).
- **Year 11 students** must be lined up at 11:00am (so arrive at 10:55am please).
- New **Year 12 students** must report to the Sixth Form Centre at 8:45am.
- Returning **Year 13 students** must report to the Sixth Form Centre at 10:45am.

All students will finish the day at 3:20pm.

From Tuesday 6th September, the new school day arrangements will be in full operation. All year-groups (including the Sixth Form) will start the day at 8:45am and finish at 3:20pm (except for Thursdays, when the finish time is 2:55pm to allow for staff training).

Equipment

Dr Manwaring has asked me to remind you about equipment for next term. All students will need a pencil case containing:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Two black or blue pens | • An eraser |
| • Two green pens (not felt tip) | • A glue stick |
| • A ruler | • A highlighter |
| • A pencil | • A protractor |
| • A pencil sharpener | • A Scientific calculator |

In addition, students who did not return their whiteboard packs to us for safekeeping at the end of last term must ensure they bring them into school on Monday 5th September.

We appreciate that with the rapidly rising cost of living, it may be difficult for some families (such as those entitled to benefits) to provide a full set of equipment for their students. If this is the case for you, please e-mail mdarcy@stmargaretsacademy.com in confidence.

Dates for your diary

As well as our traditional Year 7 Welcome Eucharist, we'd like to hold 30-minute information events for each year-group early in the new term. The details are as follows:

- The **Year 7 Welcome Eucharist** will take place on Wednesday 7th September in St Anne's Church. We'll have some more details for you in *Parental Update 95* (in a fortnight's time).
- The **Year 8 Information Evening** will take place in the Drama Hall at 5:30pm on Monday 12th September.
- The **Year 9** event will follow on from the Year 8 one, starting at 6:15pm (on Monday 12th).
- **Year 10's Information Evening** will take place at 5:30pm on Tuesday 13th September, again in the Drama Hall.

- **Year 11's event** will follow the Year 10 event, *ie* at 6:15pm on Tuesday 13th.
- There will also be two **Sixth Form Information Evenings** on Wednesday 14th September – at 5:30pm for Year 12, and at 6:15pm for Year 13.

Finally

Our next *Update* will be sent out on Friday 2nd September, where we'll let you know about some new members of staff who are joining us, and also (we hope!) pass on some good news from the summer's second Results Day. Thereafter we'll revert to our usual fortnightly publication pattern.

In the meantime, do enjoy the last couple of weeks of the summer break!

Yours faithfully

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

Stephen Brierley
Principal.