

Friday 16th September, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 96

Hello again from all of us at St Margaret's. We continue to mourn the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to pray for her family, her friends and our new King at this time.

As I'm sure you'll be aware, the Queen's funeral is taking place on Monday 19th September, and as a result that day will now be a Bank Holiday. **St Margaret's will therefore be closed to all staff and students on Monday 19th September.**

Congratulations

It was a pleasure to be in school last month for our two Results Days. I've learnt, over the years, that Results Days at St Margaret's are almost always amongst the best days in the school year; our students often exceed expectations, and come away beaming with delight at the grades they've managed to achieve.

This year was no exception. Our 'A'-level and BTEC results were highly encouraging, with a near-record overall pass rate (99½%), and a historically high level of A and A* grades too. It's invidious to single out any individual achievements, but I was with one of our Year 13s when they found out they'd been accepted to Cambridge University to study Maths – a very special moment! But that wasn't the only success-story on the day: great numbers of our young men and women got the grades they needed to progress onto their first-choice University, and it was a privilege to be able to celebrate with them.

Year 11's Results Day the following week was an equally joyful occasion, with large numbers of students proudly achieving beyond their expectations. Early indications are they this group of students made more progress from their Key Stage 2 starting-points than other boys did nationally. It's been a pleasure to welcome many of them back into the Sixth Form to begin various Level 3 courses – BTECs and 'A'-levels; and it's been an equally great pleasure to welcome a goodly number of new students too.

Information Evenings

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend one of our Information Evenings earlier this week (or last week, for Year 7 parents) – it was good to meet you! If you were unable to attend in person, the power-point presentations will shortly be available (and clearly sign-posted) from [the front page](#) of our website.

Road Safety

I've been asked to pass on a message from Rose Crossland, Road Safety Officer at Liverpool City Council. She writes:

"It is the start of a new academic year and for some pupils a new beginning at the school. The school environment is a safe secure place for your children to attend but we as parents and guardians also have a responsibility to try and improve the accessibility of pupils arriving to school. Inconsiderate and dangerous parking is one of the biggest safety concerns from parents outside Schools. Parked vehicles can hide pupils from passing drivers and stop pupils from being able to see approaching traffic. Several youngsters injured as pedestrians have had their view of the road blocked by a parked car.

"How would you feel if your parking contributed towards a pupil being injured?"

*"Remember pupils need to see and be seen when crossing the roads so think seriously about the location of the school and neighbourhood and consider ways you can help as a parent/guardian to improve their road safety. If you use a vehicle to drop off and pick up your child from School, please consider parking further away from the entrance & exits in a **safe legal place** and walk the remainder of the journey.*

"Do Not Park on

- ***School Keep Clear Zig Zags***
- ***Double/Single Yellow Lines***
- ***Close to junctions / Drop Kerbs***
- ***Designated crossing locations***
- ***Near School Crossing Patrol locations***
- ***On Pavements***
- ***In front of resident driveways***

*"As a reminder to all pupils make sure you have good visibility, taking your hoods down and **no distractions for example with phones or friends when near or crossing roads**. Never cross in front or behind large vehicles as you are not visible to moving traffic. When using pedestrianised crossing always check vehicles have stopped before stepping in the road.*

"Think about the safety of all Road Users."

I'd like to add an additional personal plea to the parents of those whose sons or daughters cycle to school. Cycling is a great way of keeping fit and I'm very keen to encourage students to use their bikes – **but please wear a helmet**. As I mention occasionally in Assemblies, my best friend at school died (aged 18) from head injuries he sustained in a cycling accident – in the days before helmets were widely worn. If your child cycles – please encourage them to protect themselves!

Finally

We'll revert to our normal fortnightly pattern of *Parental Updates* going forward, and so will send our next *Update* out on Friday 30th September. In the meantime I wish all St Margaret's families a restful weekend, and a Bank Holiday that, whilst inevitably a very sad occasion, will nonetheless be a fitting celebration of a remarkable life of service.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.