

Friday 13th January, 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 110

A belated Happy New Year! I trust you had a restful Christmas break, although I suspect that for many of us it has by now disappeared all too rapidly in life's rear-view mirror. But I trust that your son or daughter has settled back into the routine of a new term smoothly; do please support them as they do so, particularly regarding **bringing the right equipment to school every day** – having to lend students rulers, pencils *etc* can really take time out of a lesson. As ever, please don't hesitate to let us know if your son or daughter is struggling at all – we're always here to help.

A big **thank you** to all who were able to join us for our Carol Service at the end of last term. What an occasion it was! – an amazing hour of worship in a truly awe-inspiring setting. A special mention to the Year 7 singers, who were magnificent – well done! Putting on an event such as that is a major undertaking, so my sincerest thanks to everyone who helped make it possible, and especially to Miss Smith for working so hard with so many students to produce such a high standard of music.

Welcome!

We're delighted to welcome two new members of staff who are joining us this term. **Cameron Parry** has joined our PE team on a temporary part-time contract, and will be teaching various classes on Thursdays and Fridays; and **Kathryn Marshall** is joining the Maths Department on a permanent basis as Pedagogy and Assessment lead, teaching every day except Monday. I'm sure you'd want to welcome both colleagues to the St Margaret's family.

I'm also delighted to announce that **Jude Padfield**, vicar at St James in the City, has become a member of our Academy Trust, replacing Mike McGurk (Archdeacon of Liverpool). The Academy Trust is a small group of people who make appointments to our Governing Body and oversee their work. Mike is moving on to pastures new, and we're very grateful for his service to the school. We're also very grateful to Jude for being willing to step into his (sizeable) shoes!

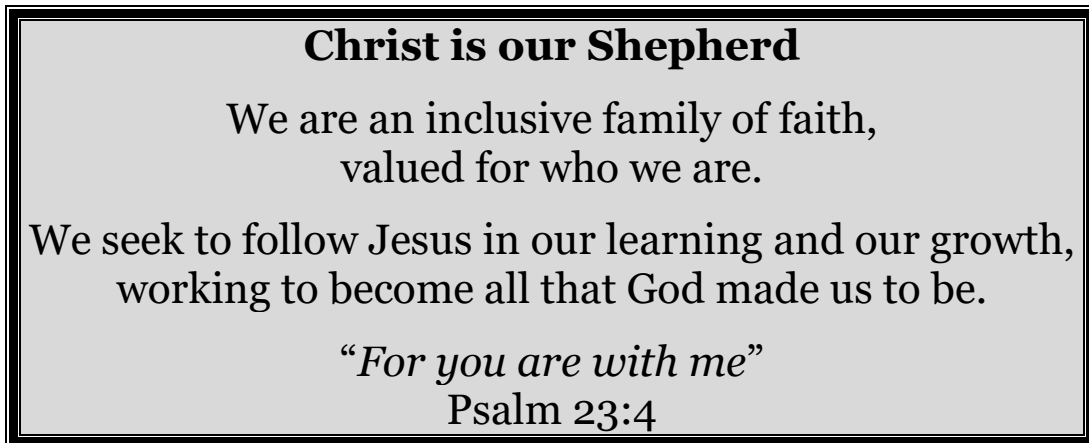
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND')

We're also welcoming **Tara McKibben** and **Colin Reid** to support our SEND team over the next few months. Ms McKibben, a former SENDCo at a local secondary school who now works for School Improvement Liverpool, is joining us on Tuesdays and will lead on Education Health Care Plans and Access Arrangements for exams; Mr Reid, who has been seconded from Palmerston School, will be in school every day except Fridays and will maintain our SEND register, develop our processes for identifying students with SEND, and oversee our team of teaching assistants – amongst other duties! Again, I'm sure you'd want to welcome both colleagues to St Margaret's.

If you want to get in touch with either colleague, you can e-mail them directly, but the easier way is probably to use the SENDadmin@stmargaretsacademy.com e-mail address.

A new school Vision

Over the last few months we've been reviewing our school Vision and Values – thanks again if you were able to contribute to our online survey before Christmas. A small group of stakeholders – students, staff, parents and Governors – has met to put together a draft new Vision statement, and we'd like to share that with you now and gauge your opinion. It is:



How does that grab you? Over the next few weeks we'll be gathering opinions and will see if any 'tweaks' need to be made before it is finally adopted. Once it is, we will review our Values to make sure they tie in with the Vision we've adopted. If you have any views, please let me know at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com within the next fortnight. Thank you!

Year 9 parents

Over the next couple of weeks, we'll be launching the Year 9 options process, when students choose the three GCSEs they wish to study alongside the 'core' six (English [$\times 2$], Maths, Religious Studies and Science [$\times 2$]). There will be a virtual meeting to explain how the system works on Monday 23rd January, and our usual Year 9 Parents' Evening will be taking place on Thursday 26th January – a further opportunity to ask questions about the courses available. The Year 9 Parents' Evening will be taking place **physically** on site, and we'll be asking students to get appointments with their teachers shortly. Please encourage them to do so!

Finally...

In our main school assemblies this week, we've started a series on the Ten Commandments by looking at the first commandment which helps us focus on what is most important in life (not a bad message either for the start of a New Year or for our Year 9s as they think about their futures). We'll be working through the other nine commandments week by week; if you're able, do take the time to discuss them with your son – despite their age, they're still relevant today!

Our next *Update* will be published on Friday 27th January – do look out for it!

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.