

Friday 21st April 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 117

Happy New Term! I trust your family has had a restful Easter break and that your son or daughter is ready for a new term of learning.

And Eid Mubarak! to all our friends who are celebrating Eid this weekend. I know a number of our students have successfully completed their fast during Ramadan, and I want to congratulate each and every student who did. I'm aware of one of our Christian students who completed the fast to show solidarity with his Muslim friends, which several staff have commented is a beautiful – and typically St Margaret's – thing to have done!

Speaking of "St Margaret's things to do", I'm delighted to be able to report that our last-day-of-term fund-raising for the Syrian/Turkish earthquake appeal raised £376.30. **Thank you** if you were able to donate, and **well done** to all involved in raising such a fantastic total! The money will be sent off to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal to help people affected by the devastating earthquake earlier this year.

Staff news

- At the end of this month we are saying "*Farewell*" to Dr Manwaring, who has been a central cog in our Senior Leadership Team since she joined us in January 2018. Thanks to her considerable expertise and leadership, our subject leaders have been able to develop their curricula considerably – which means that what Ofsted calls our 'Quality of Education' has improved too. She leaves with our best wishes for a happy and successful future in a promoted position with the Liverpool Diocesan Education Trust (the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust).
- In her place, I'm delighted to be able to report that **Mrs Bell, Mr Gibbons** and **Mrs Harding** will be temporarily joining the Senior Leadership Team. They'll be carrying on their main roles at the same time (as Head of English, Head of Year 10/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Head of Religious Studies respectively), but we'll be asking other colleagues to step up to support them in those roles – more details on this next time.
- **Mr Farragher** is also stepping up to be **Acting Head of Year 7** as Mrs Hart will be absent for the next few weeks as she is undergoing a planned operation. We send Mrs Hart our best wishes during her absence and Mr Farragher every best wish as he takes on the role.

NEU Industrial Action, Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

As you may be aware, the National Education Union are taking two further days of strike action over the next couple of weeks.

Once again, I am sorry to support that with a sizeable proportion of staff likely to be absent, it will not be safe to open the school fully on these days. In view of the imminence of their exams, we will open the school for all students in Years 11 and 13 – their lessons will proceed as normal. In

addition, school will be fully open for students in Year 12, as Sixth Form students will not need the same levels of supervision if their teachers are striking.

As previously, we will also open for vulnerable students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, *viz.*

- Looked After Children;
- students with an allocated social worker; and
- students with an EHCP.

If your son meets any of these definitions please let us know through the school admin e-mail address (admin@stmargaretsacademy.com) if you would like him to attend school.

Regrettably, **school will be closed on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May to all other students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.** Work for students will be set through Class Charts.

Year 11 and Year 13 Leaving Arrangements

First and foremost, every best wish to every student taking external examinations in the next few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you, and with your families too. As the father of a Year 13 student (in a school close to where I live), I know what it's like...

Arrangements for the next few weeks are as follows:

- Our Year 11 students must continue coming to school for the duration of this half-term. Their lessons will continue as usual, although naturally they will miss them when taking a GCSE exam.
- After May half-term, Year 11 students **must** attend school for their exams, and **may** attend school for their lessons – their teachers will continue to be present in their classrooms at the normal times for Year 11 lessons, up to the last exam in their subject. Alternatively, students may choose to study at home when they do not have exams in school.
- The Year 13 Leavers' Service will be held on Thursday 11th May, and we are looking to hold the Year 11 Leavers' Service in the early afternoon of Wednesday 14th June (though this date is not yet definite). We'll confirm exact times and details shortly, but as many carers, parents, grandparents *etc* like to attend these Services, I wanted to give early notice about the dates.

Finally...

In our collective worship this week, we've begun a series on Heroes and Heroines of the Faith – starting with Abraham, a man honoured by three of the world's main religions (and over half the world's population). I think his challenge to us, ringing out over the millennia, is to have faith. The Latin word for faith (*fides*) is, of course, emblazoned on every student's blazer – so we can say, quite literally, it's close to every St Margaret's student's heart! I pray that that's true spiritually (as well as literally) for all our students as the exams approach.

Yours *faithfully*



Stephen Brierley
Principal.