

Friday 5th May 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 118

Welcome to another edition of our fortnightly newsletter, and welcome to another long weekend! With the extra Bank Holidays and strike days at the start of this term, it feels as though the normal rhythms of school life have been disturbed a little. I trust you and your family have navigated the disruption successfully, but I'm aware that some students need extra support when routines are varied for whatever reason. If that's your son or daughter, please let us know: it's why we're here!

For now, though, there's an important matter I need to bring to your attention.

Joining a Multi-Academy Trust

15 months ago, our Governors began to consider whether our current Governance arrangements – *ie* as a Single Academy Trust – were the best option for St Margaret's. Shortly after those discussions began, the Government published a 'white paper' called [Opportunity for All](#), in which they set out their plans for every school to be a member of a strong Multi-Academy Trust ('MAT'). In the second half of 2022, our Governors identified various Multi-Academy Trusts that we might join, and considered whether we could provide an even better education for our students if we joined one of them. We had several conversations with Trust leaders and with Diocesan staff to help us discern the best way forward.

After much discussion, last term the Governors (and, separately, the Members of our Academy Trust) voted to begin the process of joining [All Saints Multi-Academy Trust](#). In March, the Diocese approved the move, and last week the Department for Education did so too. We'll shortly begin the legal process of St Margaret's becoming part of All Saints MAT – a process which we expect will be concluded at some point in the Autumn Term 2023.

So who are All Saints? And why are we keen to join them?

- All Saints is a joint Church of England/Roman Catholic MAT. The Trust is inspired by the vision of Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock in the 1970s – the leaders of the two denominations in Liverpool at the time. They strongly believed that Christians are "*stronger and better together*" – and we do too! It's worth adding, though, that St Margaret's will still fully be, and will remain, an Anglican school.
- All Saints currently comprises three Liverpool schools (two secondary and one primary), all rated 'Good' by Ofsted. All Saints has a very strong track record in helping their schools improve, and that was a key reason why the Governors concluded that joining them is the right decision for St Margaret's. Working with All Saints will undoubtedly accelerate our journey back to 'Good'.
- All Saints allows its schools considerable autonomy. Unlike some local MATs, they will not be insisting we change our name when we join them! Nor will they be imposing a curriculum or a new school uniform, and nor will the times of our school day change when we join. On the contrary, they will be collaborating with us – working together with us to improve areas where

we could do even better, and celebrating together with us areas where we have strengths to share. After all, we are "*stronger and better together*"!

From a personal perspective, I am deeply and genuinely excited about joining All Saints. There are a number of inspirational leaders working across the Trust and in its schools, and I am humbled that I can look forward to the privilege of working alongside them. If you have any questions or comments about this move, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [the usual address](#).

Sports desk

It's a particularly busy time for our PE Department at the moment!

- Our Year 7 and Year 8 football teams are both competing in their respective Liverpool Schools' Cup Final this month – good luck to both teams.
- Good luck too to our Year 10 football team, who are through to the Merseyside Cup Final (against St Francis Xavier) – Mr Parkes will confirm when a date and venue are finalised.
- Our Year 10 basketball team made it to the *national* cup semi-final, but narrowly lost a close contest. Commiserations on that count, but good luck for the upcoming Liverpool Cup Final.
- Last but not least, good luck to the Junior and Intermediate Athletics teams, who are taking part in an English Schools' Tournament shortly.

Mr Parkes has also written: "*Please [could I ask you to] remind your son he must bring full PE kit to every PE lesson? Of late we have seen a slight slip in standards from some individual students in regards to bringing a PE kit. I would really appreciate parental support to ensure we uphold the very high standards we have in PE at St Margaret's.*" Thank you as ever for your support!

Equipment

On the subject of reminders, please could you remind your son about the need to bring the right equipment to every lesson? All pupils must have the following equipment for lessons:

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|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| • Black or blue pen | • Pencil sharpener | • Glue stick |
| • Green pen | • Rubber | • A reading book |
| • Pencil | • Scientific Calculator | |
| • Ruler | • Highlighter | |

Mr Slater writes: "*Please note that while we continue to encourage students to have their own mini-whiteboards, we will be providing these in lessons for those who don't have them.*"

Finally...

In our collective worship this week, we've continued our series on heroes and heroines of the faith, and we've also reflected on this weekend's coronation. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to come together as a community to mark an important occasion in our nation's life – even if we only do so by watching the ceremony! It's also important that we pray for our King, for the Royal Family, and for all those who lead us nationally and locally (as St Paul encourages us to in 1 Timothy 2).

But however you are celebrating the coronation, do enjoy a restful, and happy, long weekend.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.

