

Friday 22nd September 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 125

Welcome to another edition of *Parental Update*, the fortnightly newsletter for St Margaret's parents.

I trust your son or daughter has settled well into the routines of the new school year. Of course, "settling in" means different things to different students: some students are getting used to a brand new school; some will be studying new subjects; many will be in new rooms with new teachers; and for everyone the self-discipline of study will need to have been reactivated after several weeks off. If your son or daughter is experiencing any difficulty in getting back into their stride, please let us know – we're here to help.

New Colleagues

Last time I mentioned a number of new members of the teaching staff who are joining us; this time I'd like to mention **Mr Dearden**, one of our Learning Support Assistants. Having spent some time with us through a supply agency, I'm delighted to be able to let you know that Mr Dearden will shortly be joining our staff on a permanent, part-time basis. Welcome to the team, Mr Dearden!

Contact details

I appreciate that if you get a new e-mail address or mobile 'phone number, your child's school know may not be top of the list of people you want to tell! But it is so important that you do; if we don't have your e-mail address, we won't be able to keep in touch with you when it comes to notifying you of Parents' Evenings *etc*, and if we don't have your 'phone number we won't be able to get in touch with you on the very rare occasions when we need to during the day. Please remember to keep us informed of any changes to contact details throughout the year. Thank you!

Multi-Academy Trust

I expect this is the last *Update* I will send you before we join All Saints Multi Academy Trust! We're still on course to join them on Sunday 1st October, and I'm delighted the joining process has gone so smoothly. Over the last few months we've benefitted hugely from working with them, sharing good practice and reflecting on their observations as they get to know us.

One of the changes resulting from our joining All Saints is that there will be a complete change in our Governance arrangements. Our current Board of Governors met for the last time this week, reviewing our 2023 external Exam Results amongst other items on a busy agenda. From 1st October there will be a new Board of Governors in place – called a Local Academy Council. It will be smaller than its predecessor, which partly reflects the fact that some of the current Board's responsibilities will henceforth be carried out at a Multi-Academy Trust level.

Currently we have three parent Governors on our Board – Paul Cliff, Ian Griffiths and Joe Shelston. I am grateful to all three for their valued service to our school over the last few years. There will be one parent representative on the new Local Academy Council, and the Chair of All Saints' Trust Board, Matt Elliott, has written a letter to ask you if you'd be interested in joining the new Council.

Please could I therefore ask you to take the time to read his letter (appended), consider whether you would like to serve our Academy in this way, and (if so) let Suzanne Deveney, Clerk to the new Council, know by **9am on Friday 6th October**? Thank you.

Free school meals

Might you be entitled to claim Free School Meals? If you are, **please do so**, even if your son or daughter prefers a packed lunch – St Margaret's gets a significant amount of money for each child who registers for Free School Meals! Further details can be found on the poster attached to this letter.

Homework timetables

Mr Slater writes: *"Please find attached a copy of your child's homework timetable.*

"An 'ALL' or a tick indicates homework will be issued if your child has a lesson in that subject on that day. If a class code is displayed, homework will be issued to this class only. Please check the Class Charts timetable for the class codes.

"From next week teachers will set homework tasks following this timetable and this will be recorded in Class Charts. The homework timetable is a guide to show the maximum number of pieces of homework your child will receive. Sometimes it is not suitable to set homework and students can complete independent revision/research instead."

Transformation

I mentioned in the last *Update* that we have recently updated our School Vision and Values. At the heart of our School Vision is the statement that St Margaret's is an *"inclusive, ambitious, transformational learning community"*. But what does that word *"transformational"* really mean?

I'd want to point to two ways in which we seek to *"transform"* our community. Firstly, there's the power of **education**. Learning something new changes us a little. Maybe there's a new word we've learnt – in which case, we will be slightly more able to express ourselves in future. Or maybe there's a new skill we've practised – in which case, we will be slightly more able to perform a particular task in the future. Either way, we've changed – we've grown. The sum of lots of these little changes is a *transformation!* And that's what we seek both for our students and for the adults who are part of our community.

But as Christians, we believe we can also be transformed through **faith**. By faith, Moses transformed the lives of the Israelites. By faith, David overcame his enemies, transforming his kingdom and the security his subjects enjoyed. By faith, Jesus Christ enables us to approach God personally, transforming how we relate to Him.

So whether it's through faith or through work (and learning), transformation is very much on the agenda as far as our school is concerned!

We'll be in touch again on Friday 6th October.

Yours faithfully,

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

Stephen Brierley

Principal.



Liverpool
City Council

FREE School Meals* & Extra Funding for YOUR SCHOOL

The extra funding up to £1,320 (primary) & £935 (secondary) can be used by your school for, educational visits, school activities, equipment, extra tuition or additional teaching staff.



go to:

liverpool.gov.uk/free-school-meals



Don't let your school miss out – **APPLY NOW!**

* for conditions see overleaf

You could
save over
£400
per year

You can apply for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- **Universal Credit** – your household earned income must be less than £7,400 (£616 per month) a year (after tax and not including any benefits).
- **Income Support.**
- **Income based Jobseeker's Allowance.**
- **Income related Employment Support Allowance.**
- **Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.**
- **The guaranteed element of Pension Credit.**
- **Child Tax Credit** – (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190.
- **Working Tax Credit** run-on, this is paid for four weeks after Working Tax Credit ends.

If you qualify your child will be able to get a free healthy and nutritious school meal until they finish the stage of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in in 2023, even if your circumstances change and could save you over £400 per year.

You could also raise an extra £1,320 for your child's primary school and £935 for your child's secondary school, to fund valuable support which could include educational visits, school activities, equipment, extra tuition or additional teaching staff.

This additional money is available for every child entitled to free school meals and will continue for up to six years.

Even if you don't want your child to have a meal, don't let your school miss out on this important funding that will benefit your child. If your child is in reception, year 1 or 2 and automatically gets a free meal we still need you to apply so your school gets this additional funding.





Dear Parents,

Parent Governor Vacancy

As you will be aware, St Margaret's will be joining All Saints Multi-Academy Trust ('MAT') on 1st October 2023. As Chair of the Board of Directors of All Saints MAT, I am delighted to welcome St Margaret's into our family of schools.

As part of that move, St Margaret's current Governing Body will be dissolved, and a new body (known in our Trust as a Local Academy Council) will be created. All current Governors' terms of office – including those of the three current Parent Governors – will cease. I know that the team at St Margaret's want to put on record their thanks to the current Parent Governors – to Paul Cliff, to Ian Griffiths, and to Joe Shelston – for the time and commitment they've given to the role over the years.

The new Local Academy Council will be smaller than the current Governing Body. It will comprise 9 people in all, and one of those 9 seats is reserved for a parent of a student on St Margaret's role at the time of the appointment. I am therefore writing to you to ask you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school to serve on the new Local Academy Council. If we receive two or more nominations, then a ballot will be held.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Members of the Local Academy Council need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school, an interest in the welfare of St Margaret's children, and the time and willingness to get involved. Any particular skills they may have, such as legal or financial skills, can be very useful. Members of the Local Academy Council also need what are known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience, I would strongly encourage you to please consider applying.

We expect members of the Local Academy Council to:

- attend and fully participate in the Council's six meetings a year (one every half-term);
- wherever possible, support school events such as Prizegiving, concerts, services etc, and
- commit to attend training to support them in their role.

In return, we commit to providing:

- a real opportunity to play an important role in supporting, shaping and influencing the work of the school;
- a structured induction;
- access to quality training; and

- informal feedback on your contribution to the governing body from time to time.

I should point out that some people may not be eligible to stand as a member of St Margaret's Local Academy Council. A full list of exclusions is given on the reply-slip below. In addition, because of the very high priority we attach to safeguarding, all members of the Local Academy Council are required to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at St Margaret's, please do not hesitate to contact the school via Mrs S Deveney (sdeveney@stmargaretsacademy.com). And if you feel you would like to put yourself forward for this important role, please complete the slip below and return it to Ms S Deveney at school by 9am on Friday 6th October.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Elliott
Chair of Board of Directors
All Saints Multi-Academy Trust

To: Suzanne Deveney, Clerk to St Margaret's Church of England Academy's Local Academy Council

I wish to stand for election as the parent member of St Margaret's Church of England Academy's Local Academy Council.

Name: _____ 'Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of birth (for identification purposes): ____/____/____

Please confirm each of the following statements by ticking each box:

- 1 [] I am the parent/carer of a child currently at St Margaret's (please state your child's name: _____, and form: ____)
- 2 [] I have not been employed by St Margaret's CE Academy for more than 500 hours in the last 12 months
- 3 [] I am aged 18 or over
- 4 [] I am capable of administering and managing my own affairs
- 5 [] My estate has not been sequestrated
- 6 [] I am not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order
- 7 [] I am not subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order)
- 8 [] I have not ceased to be a Governor at another school by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006
- 9 [] I am not disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision)
- 10 [] I have not been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which I was responsible or to which I was privy, or which I by my conduct contributed to or facilitated

