



Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental Update 128**

Welcome back! I trust you and your family had a restful half-term, even if it seems ages ago now! And I trust your son has settled smoothly back into the routines of school life. As ever, if you have any concerns about whether he has or not, please get in touch; sometimes a quick e-mail can enable us to put in place effective support to help a young person thrive.

### Attendance

I wanted to lead this edition of our *Update* with some thoughts about attendance at school. As I'm sure you'll appreciate, attendance at school is vital if students are to make good progress in their learning. The figures are, in fact, very stark:

- nationally, 83.7% of students with full attendance in Key Stage 4 achieved a grade 4 or better in both their English and their Maths GCSEs, but
- only 35.6% of students whose attendance was less than 90% achieved those grades.

Missing just two days of school a month means a student's overall attendance would be below 90%. Given that every day matters, please make every effort to ensure your son or daughter attends school as much as possible!

And as I mentioned in *Parental Update 127*, punctuality is important too. I'm delighted to report that lateness to school has reduced significantly since our new system has rolled out – from 3.7% before the change, to 2.5% this week. There's still room for improvement, though, especially in Key Stage 4 – so if your son is in Year 10 or Year 11, please do ensure they arrive for 8:45am on the large yard!

### Stand for the Fallen

It's not often we all gather together as a whole school (including the Sixth Form). We will do so at the end of this term, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ; and we did so today, to commemorate the passing of so many people (including a significant number of St Margaret's students) in the two World Wars and in subsequent conflicts. We were honoured that Diocesan Advisor Jane Griffiths joined us for the short act of remembrance. There wasn't room to sit, so the students stood for the duration of the event; we felt it was appropriate to 'stand for the fallen'. It was a very moving occasion and reminded us all of the great debt we owe to all those who have given their lives that we might know the freedoms that too often we take for granted.



## Governors

Earlier this week our new Local Academy Council gathered for some induction training. I'm delighted to be able to confirm the makeup of the new group:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Governors</b>
Foundation Governors (4)	Michael Morris (chair)
	Ngnuan Adamu
	Helen Aldridge
	Gina Donaldson
Community Governors (3)	Ian Greenwood
	Ruth Halewood
	Siobhan Hughes
Staff Governor (1)	Nuala Dunne
Principal	Stephen Brierley

I'm very much looking forward to working with what I am sure will prove to be a highly effective team of Governors.


## Sports Desk: Mr Parkes, our Head of PE, writes:

- Please follow us on our Instagram page: *sma\_pe\_liverpool* We will be using this social media outlet to celebrate our results and performances, and for important announcements to students and parents
- Please remind your son or daughter to bring their kit on the days when they have PE! If your child is currently scheduled to be on Rugby or Football on the field this half term, please can they bring both football boots and trainers to those lessons? With such adverse weather conditions at the minute, we sometimes have to relocate lessons at short notice. If any student is struggling for space in their bag, they can put some kit in the locker until it's needed.
- Well done to our year 9 football teams who this week progressed through to the next round of the National Cup with a hard fought 3-1 win against Archbishop Beck.
- And many congratulations to our year 7 football team who recently came in third place, picking up bronze medals, in the Under 13 Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership World Cup tournament. This was a fantastic achievement considering they played several teams above their age group.

## Finally...

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support at the start of a new half-term. We'll be in touch again in a fortnight's time – on Friday 24th November.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.