



Wednesday 6th December

Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 130: Christmas arrangements

I'm writing to let you know of a couple of school events that are happening in the run-up to Christmas.

Christmas Jumper Day: this Friday

For a number of years now, we've celebrated national Christmas Jumper Day to support the Save the Children. This year's annual event is being held this **Friday, 8th December**. If your son or daughter would like to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blazer, they'd be more than welcome to do so (though they should still wear the rest of their uniform, including a shirt and tie, as normal). All we ask is a (suggested 50p) donation to the Save the Children for the privilege.

Please note that we certainly don't expect anyone to buy a Christmas jumper for the occasion! – it's simply a fundraiser for a good cause if your son or daughter happens to have one in their wardrobe!

Christmas Carol Service

As mentioned in *Parental Update 129*, this year's Carol Service will take place on Thursday 21st December (the last day of term). The following arrangements will apply.

- All St Margaret's students, including the Sixth Form, and including those of other faiths and of none, should attend the Carol Service.
- Unless they are told otherwise (*eg* because they are involved in the music), students must report to the Liverpool Cathedral, St James' Mount, Liverpool L1 7AZ as follows:
 - Year 7: Arrive at 10:30am (please bring, drink, snack, and a packed lunch. Students on Free School Meals may collect a packed lunch from the canteen at 1:10pm on Wednesday 20th December).
 - Years 8 to 13: Arrive at 12noon.
- Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship should contact me at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com by **3pm** on **Friday 15th December 2023**. Such students must report to school at 12:15pm instead, where alternative arrangements will be made for them. They should bring a packed lunch to school (as the canteen will not be open) (again, students on Free School Meals may collect a packed lunch from the canteen at 1:10pm on Wednesday 20th December), and will be dismissed at 1:45pm. Please note, this option is only open to parents who exercise their right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship and who let me know beforehand (as described above).

- We recognise that some students, especially those with additional needs, may struggle with independent travel to the Cathedral. If this is the case for your son or daughter, please let me know by email at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com by **3pm on Friday 15th December 2023** as we may be able to assist.
- A full register will be taken between 12noon and 12:30pm. Our usual 'First Day Response', will be in operation (prioritising younger students): we will contact you if your son or daughter is not at the Cathedral and you have not let us know why beforehand, but please bear in mind that students will only be with us for a short amount of time that day. **We kindly ask that you let us know in the usual way before 10.00am if, on the day, your child is unable to attend due to illness.**
- There is a period of silent prayer in the Cathedral at 12noon, which students are asked to respect.
- **The Carol Service starts at 12:30pm.** All parents, grandparents, family and friends are warmly welcome to join us!
- Students will be dismissed from the Cathedral at the end of the service (which we anticipate will be around 1:30pm) to start their Christmas holiday.
- Further information about Liverpool Cathedral can be found here: [Accessibility: Liverpool Cathedral](#) and here [How To Find Us: Liverpool Cathedral](#).

I'll be in touch with our regular *Parental Update* this Friday.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley

Principal.