



1st May, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 10

During this period of our 'repurposing' I am writing to parents and carers every Friday to keep you informed about what is happening at St Margaret's; here is today's update.

On-site childcare

Over the last few days, I have been contacted by a small number of parents of vulnerable learners asking if their son could come into school. The offer of a childcare place for vulnerable children, and for children of key workers, remains open; if you qualify for a place and it would help your son's mental health to come into school occasionally, please do let me know (by e-mail to scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com). Please note that we will not be open next Friday (8th May), as it is a Bank Holiday.

On-line learning: Years 7 to 10

Work continues to be set daily through our Show My Homework (SMHW) system. Most of our pupils are now engaging with this system and more accessing it every day. We have been working hard to address a few issues and have now improved the support resources for SMHW on our school website. An information page can be accessed by clicking the SMHW icon on the main area of the www.stmargaretsacademy.com website. In summary:

- There are now two help guides to help parents set up their own SMHW accounts and get started. Having a parent account means you can keep track of what your child is doing. To get a PIN for a parent account please contact: ITsupport@stmargaretsacademy.com
- A video explaining to pupils how they can submit work to their teachers is available via a link.
- We have produced another help document where we explain the SMHW 'To Do' List – an organisational tool where your child can keep on top of work being set daily. In it we also look at the SMHW Gradebook which is where you, as parent, can go in order to see whether your child has actually done the work and the status for the piece of work and comments made by the teacher. Seeing a tick in the To Do list does not mean that your child has submitted the work; please go to the gradebook to find that out. The help document will guide you in the use of both these tools. A pupils' guide to SMHW is also available from this page, and as always support can be obtained by contacting ITsupport@stmargaretsacademy.com

Our Additional Learning trial commences on Monday 4th May for those pupils wanting to complete a bit more work during this lockdown period. All those pupils registered will receive an introductory set of instructions to their school email account on Monday. If your son has not received his email by lunchtime on Monday please contact ITsupport@stmargaretsacademy.com (with 'Additional Learning' in the subject-line). If you have not registered your son and would

like him to participate you can still do so using this IT support email address. Those parents who have registered for the additional learning trial will be receiving joining instructions by email, before the trial commences on Monday.

We mentioned last week that the Science team has set up an online Science helpdesk to answer any specific Science questions your son may have from his online learning (it can be found at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mqZi2EwQgUqS-SzIneqRhuGzNxEOv15BoEMXiDOIUqRUQUNUWVNSUxPMFJHMDc1MkNSSUFFVko1WiQIQCN0PWcu>).

This venture has proven to be successful, so we've created two additional subject helpdesks, for Maths and English queries, too. The Maths Helpdesk is at: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mqZi2EwQgUqS-SzIneqRhuGzNxEOv15BoEMXiDOIUqRUREZWNWIMxNDBKSExSSE1OUTJCUzdaMIQzVyQIQCN0PWcu>

...and the English Helpdesk is at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mqZi2EwQgUqS-SzIneqRhuGzNxEOv15BoEMXiDOIUqRUNUFURDMxQkhZMjBFNFRIMTJBSjFNuKJBWiQIQCN0PWcu>

On-line learning: Year 11

We want all our Year 11 pupils to be successful in the next phase of their education. What it takes to be successful at GCSEs is different from being successful at A-Levels, Level 3 BTECs or whatever comes next! Although you have fewer subjects there are different skills (*eg* working more independently) at the next stage, and the volume of work is greater because the depth and detail is more demanding.

Therefore we are preparing a series of bridging courses for subjects that can be studied in our sixth form and for courses in other centres (*eg* college). We will shortly be sending an e-mail to all Year 11 pupils (*via* school email accounts) and to parents/carers (*via* Parent Mail) providing you with a link to a form you will be asked to complete. The form will ask you to select **four** bridging courses from the following options (based on our sixth form option blocks), or will give you the choice to state that you are not intending to join our sixth form. We would encourage all Year 11 pupils and parents to discuss this over the weekend.

All Year 11 pupils will also be expected to continue working on GCSE English and Mathematics work (if you haven't done much yet, now is the time to start!) – as these courses are useful for all the Level 3 options listed below.

Bridging courses available (all at 'A'-level unless otherwise stated)		
Art	Business	History
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
BTEC Applied Science	Computer Science	Music
BTEC Business	DT Product Design	Photography
BTEC Engineering	English Language	Physical Education
BTEC Hospitality	English Literature	Physics
BTEC IT	Film Studies	Politics
BTEC Sport and Exercise	French	Psychology
Science	Geography	Religious Studies

Safeguarding

Dr Silverstone, our Director of Pastoral Care, writes:

“If you have any concerns or questions of a safeguarding nature or to do with the pastoral care of our students, the St Margaret's Safeguarding Team continues to be available via safeguarding@stmargaretsacademy.com. We will shortly be publishing an additional Annexe to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, which will be made available to all via the school website.

“We will also continue our system of form tutors e-mailing all their tutees in Years 7 to 10 every Monday morning to check in with them. Please remind the boys to reply by 10:30am on Wednesday. In future, form tutors of students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will no longer be e-mailing each week, and instead Mr Kingston and Mr Lawton will send Year 11 and Sixth Form students respectively a weekly email. There is no need for students to reply to these messages unless they have specific questions.

“Finally, I will point you in the direction of two useful resources. The first, available at https://static-www.o2.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/O2%20NSPCC%20Online%20Safety%20Booklet_AW_English.pdf, is a booklet called ‘Keeping your kids safe online’ that has been produced by the NSPCC in association with O₂. It contains useful guidance on how to help young people manage their online lives, and how to talk about all things digital with them. Second, the Anti Bullying Alliance has produced a resource called ‘Restorative Thinking and Positive Relationships: preventing and managing conflict’. Designed with the current pandemic in mind, this resource aims to help families manage conflict and stress. It is available at: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-parents/restorative-thinking-and-positive-relationships-preventing-and>

Free School Meals

This week's main order for Free School Meal vouchers was submitted to Edenred on Tuesday, but when I checked this morning, it seemed as though Edenred had yet to send the e-mails out. Hopefully they will come out later today or over the weekend!

I'm aware that some parents have asked for vouchers to be sent to a different e-mail address from the one we have on record. Please bear in mind that it takes us quite a while to cancel a previous order and then reorder the vouchers – but we are on the case, and your vouchers will be with you shortly. In the meantime, **please ensure you keep us up-to-date with your e-mail address and mobile numbers** – you never know when they might be needed! You can e-mail any updates to admin@stmargaretsacademy.com

Finally...

Special congratulations to Mr Richards and Mr Taylor who have been using our Design and Technology Department laser-cutters in school to make Personal Protective Equipment ('PPE'). We passed 1,000 items today – a real achievement!

As you may have seen from the local press, our friends at St Hilda's have been raising money to meet the costs of production of this equipment. In order to support that effort, I am going to do a sponsored bike ride (**weather permitting**) on Friday 22nd May, just before we finish for half-term. I've missed the opportunity to go out for longer bike-rides this spring, but under the current regulations, I am allowed to cycle to work and back – which for me would be a round trip of

almost 70 miles. It would, in fact, be the third-highest number of miles I have cycled in one day – and I'll be doing a day's work in the middle! (I'm a 'fair weather cyclist', so if the weather is inclement I'll do it on a subsequent Friday, lockdown rules permitting).

Rather than set up a separate Just Giving (or equivalent) page, I'd ask anyone who wants to support this worthwhile cause to give directly to St Hilda's PTA at the following webpage: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendsofsthildas-fosh?utm_id=107&utm_term=Wqyg29MjV. Please mention you're supporting my bike ride to work in the comments!

Next week's update will be e-mailed to you on Thursday as we are closed for the rearranged Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May.

Stay safe, and do please encourage your child to keep washing their hands!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.



CALM.
FOCUSSED.
SAFE.



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL