



7th May, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 11

During this period of our ‘repurposing’ I am writing to parents and carers at the end of every week to keep you informed about what is happening at St Margaret’s; here is this week’s update.

Under normal circumstances...

- ...we would shortly have begun our external exam season
- ...we would have been preparing for our Year 13 leaving service
- ...we would have been ready (or nearly ready!) for our Year 13 Prom
- ...we would be limbering up for our Year 6 Induction programme
- ...and, most poignantly, we would have marked the passing of Mr John Pegram, a recently-retired member of our Design Technology team, whose funeral took place yesterday.

We pass on our thoughts and best wishes to all those who are in mourning, or who are simply missing the sorts of things we would normally do as a St Margaret’s ‘family’. Whilst we await news of whatever plans the Government may have for our recovery, do pray for all of those who may be experiencing tough times for whatever reason at the moment.

On-site childcare

Numbers attending our onsite child-care provision continue to rise, with 12 students in school on Wednesday. In order to maintain social distancing we split the 12 into two groups. Regrettably we are unlikely to be able to maintain such small group sizes when things return to normal!

The students currently coming into school are, of course, the only students who have access to the school building. We have therefore been working with them this week to prepare some video material for next year’s Year 7 – such as a virtual tour of our school. I’m hoping we’ll be able to edit things together successfully, though the technology for these things is not always straightforward!

The rising numbers reflect what is happening across the City, where numbers in primary hubs and in secondary schools have been steadily increasing. If you qualify for a place in our onsite childcare provision and would now like to take one up, please do not hesitate to contact me at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com

On-line learning: Years 7 to 10

Mr Slater, who is leading our on-line learning team, this week writes about the benefits of (re-establishing) a settled routine:

“In response to the unprecedented closure of schools to most pupils, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has produced a set of resources designed to be used by schools and

parents/carers to support home learning. The EEF is an independent charity established in 2011 to improve the educational attainment of the poorest pupils in English schools. They have produced a helpful video about establishing good routines and can be viewed in the Online Learning section of our school website (<https://www.stmargaretsacademy.com/event291.php>) or by clicking this link: <https://youtu.be/MO9SDGRgi3c>. We have also included, with this update, a sheet designed to support your child's learning – offering guidance in establishing good home learning routines. Perhaps a copy could be displayed in a prominent location and completion could be praised and rewarded.”

Safeguarding

Dr Silverstone, our Director of Pastoral Care, writes:

“We have some more information to pass on to you about safeguarding and wellbeing resources that are available to all.

“First, Kooth (www.kooth.com), which is an online and anonymous counselling service funded by the NHS that has been available to our students in older year groups, has extended its remit and will now offer online counselling to students in all year groups. All that you need to do is go to the website, sign up with an anonymous username and password of your choice and you can access a wealth of mental health resources, including 1:1 online counselling with fully trained counsellors, discussion boards and a wealth of articles. Reports we have had from those who have used the service suggest that it is excellent.

“Second, please be aware that Thinkuknow (an education team who are part of the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection unit) are releasing new home activity packs every fortnight with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at home. They are divided into different age groups. For children aged 14+ go to <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/14-plus>. Activity packs for younger children (ie those aged between 11 and 13) can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s>.

“Third, you may have heard in the news that levels of domestic abuse have risen since the lockdown began. The police have asked us to publicise their silent solution for reporting to 999 and to clarify just how it works. The police have said that ‘Silent Solution is a useful way for victims of domestic abuse to contact the police, however it is vital that people are aware of how it works so that they are able to get the right support from us’ and sent the following guidance:

To ensure that they get the right support, those in need of urgent police help should...

- Dial 999
- Listen to the questions
- Respond by coughing or tapping the headset if they cannot easily speak
- If prompted – press 55 – and they will be put through to the police

“Finally, may I just remind you that if you have any concerns regarding safeguarding or the pastoral care we offer to our students, you can contact us by e-mail through the usual address – safeguarding@stmargaretsacademy.com”

Free School Meals

The Edenred system appears to have been working more smoothly this week, and a recent order will send out vouchers to those who have recently notified us of their correct e-mail addresses. In the meantime, if you have not yet received your vouchers, or if you are encountering any other difficulties with this scheme, please drop us a line at admin@stmargaretsacademy.com

Pedal for PPE

Very many thanks to everyone who, following the article in last week's *Update*, has generously sponsored my 70-mile bike ride to school on the St Hilda's Parents' Just Giving page at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendsofsthildas-fosh?utm_id=107&utm_term=Wqyg29MjV. Your support is both humbling and inspiring! But I'm delighted to be raising money for such a worthwhile cause. Rumour has it that Mrs Code, the Headteacher at St Hilda's, may cycle along with me for some of the journey...

Do encourage your son or daughter to stay focussed as we enter what may be the final lap of 'lockdown'...

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.



CALM.
FOCUSSED.
SAFE.



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

Supporting home learning routines



Planning the day

Consistent routines are important for behaviour and wellbeing in school, and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support behaviour and you will be finding new rhythms with your family. You could share this checklist with your child. Talking to them will help them plan their routines, or to re-establish them if things have slipped.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
 I woke up at a good time					
 I did some exercise					
 I had regular meals and drank water					
 I enjoyed some reading in a quiet space					
 I practised a maths skill					
 I completed some school work at my work space and chunked it so I had some breaks too					
 I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day.					
 I helped with a household job and talked to my family while I did it.					
 I contacted my friends					
 I spent some time on my creative hobby					
 My parent/carer told me what I did well					
 My goal:					
 My goal:					

