



19th June, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 17

I trust this latest weekly update finds you in good health and spirits as we gradually emerge from the lockdown we have all experienced for the last three months.

Partial re-opening next week

Over the last two days, personalised letters to every Year 10 and Year 12 family have been posted out from school. These have set out our plans for the next three weeks as we re-open, on a rota basis, to small numbers of Year 10 and Year 12 students from Monday 22nd June. In summary, our plans are as follows:

- Each Year 10 boy is being offered three days in school over the next three weeks. The main focus of their time in school will be one particular subject, and generally they will be working in small groups (of no more than 10) with their subject teacher during this time. There will also be a focus on ensuring their continuing well-being for part of each of the three days.
- Year 12 students are also being offered three days in school over the next three weeks, focussing on one particular subject (which they have chosen) with (in almost every case) their subject teacher. The maximum group size will be 6 students. Again, there will be additional support for students' well-being (and for their 'next-step' plans), and this support is likely to feature more prominently in the second and third weeks of their time in school.
- There have been a number of changes in the set-up of school to enable our students and staff to stay as safe as possible as we re-open. For example, we have reshaped the school day to include a 'split' morning break and lunch-time (to minimise the number of students circulating round the building at any point), and lunches are being delivered to the classrooms where Year 10 boys are working (regrettably this provision is not available for Year 12 students). Starting and finishing times have been varied as follows:
 - Some students start at 8:45am and finish at 2:30pm.
 - Other students start at 8:50am and finish at 2:40pm.
 - Still other students start at 8:55am and finish at 2:50pm.
 - A final group of students will start at 9:00am and finish at 3:00pm.

As you would expect, the whole re-opening process is underpinned by a full, constantly-evolving and externally-scrutinised Risk Assessment, which we've published on our website.

We've deliberately not laid out any plans yet for the last week of term. This is partly because we want to evaluate how our current provision works out before finalising anything further, and partly because we will want to exploit whatever additional relaxations of the re-opening rules may be forthcoming – if any!

Any Year 10 or Year 12 family who has not received a letter by the time they receive this update is asked to e-mail scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com over the weekend, and I will endeavour to e-mail you a copy from home.

Onsite 'childcare'

We will continue to operate childcare as we partially re-open next week, albeit with a number of changes. Regrettably we will need to start charging for school dinners, and the accounts of those entitled to Free School Meals will be credited with the usual amount every week. In common with Year 10 and Year 12 returners, we will not expect blazers to be worn to school, although apart from that relaxation, full school uniform (including school shoes) will need to be worn. Those attending childcare are in a different 'bubble' from other groups in school, so must not mix with them; as a result, we will be using different rooms to those we have used to date.

Our numbers attending our ongoing childcare provision continue to grow, averaging around 14 students a day (*cf* just 4 in our first week, back in March). If your son would like to come into school and you qualify for a childcare place (due to you or your partner's status as a key worker, or due to your son's vulnerabilities), please e-mail me at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com.

Online learning

Dr Manwaring writes the following message to students:

"As we approach the final four weeks of term we would like to encourage you to remain focused on your learning and make these final few weeks really count. Try to complete the questions as thoroughly as possible, and perhaps make extra notes whilst completing the Oak National Academy lessons. If you are beginning to experience a bit of 'lock down weariness' do remember that, at some point relatively soon, we will all be back in school; at that point we will need to build on the learning that is taking place now – so do keep going!"

Free School Meals

The Government's decision to continue the Edenred system throughout the summer holidays means that parents receiving vouchers under this scheme will continue to get weekly shopping voucher e-mails (£15 per child per week). I will shortly be working on the Edenred website to ensure the next four weeks of vouchers are set up and ready to be delivered from Monday 22nd June.

We're aware that a number of St Margaret's families have recently experienced changes to their personal circumstances, so if you want to check whether you are now eligible for these vouchers, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. There's also some information on our main school website.

Year 9 options

I am continuing to make progress through the list of queries about Year 9 options. Please accept my apologies if you are still waiting for clarification.

With best wishes for a peaceful weekend,

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.