

9th October, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update 29

Another week has passed, so I am taking the opportunity to update you with news from St Margaret's. I trust this update finds you in good health and spirits; this update comes with my best wishes particularly to all those who are self-isolating, and my thoughts and prayers particularly for those in our community who have tested positive.

In the past week, we've received news of six positive tests from pupils or members of staff. In fact, all these notifications were received over the weekend or on Monday (5th October), so those needing to self-isolate have already been informed. If you do receive a positive test during a period when the school is closed (eg at a weekend), please e-mail admin@stmargaretsacademy.com immediately, and if you are able to, please copy me in too (scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com). If there is a need for self-isolation, we may then be able to let affected families know before the students set off on their Monday morning journey to school.

Speaking of journeys to school, please could I ask you to remind your son or daughter to **wear a face-covering** if s/he uses public transport? This is a Merseytravel requirement, because it helps keep the buses safer for other users. We've received reports recently that some St Margaret's students are not wearing masks – so a reminder would not be amiss. Thank you.

In non-Covid news, I'm pleased to announce that we've appointed three colleagues to join the Senior Leadership team as temporary Associate Senior Leaders – viz Mr Gibbons, Mr O'Gorman and Mrs Roberts (the latter two are, in fact, continuing the work they did last year in that capacity). All three will continue to work in their substantive capacities too – so Mr Gibbons will still be Head of Year 8, for example – but they'll have a senior, 'whole-school' role too alongside to complement their current work. I'm sure you'd want to join me in wishing them every success in their roles.

We're holding a Virtual Open Evening on Monday 12th October for any Year 6 families who may be interested in joining us in September 2021. It all starts online at 6pm; full details can be found on our website. Do mention it to anyone you know with 9- or 10-year-old boys!

We're expecting announcements imminently on further national lockdown restrictions, and fairly soon on arrangements for exams in 2021. We'll summarise any key messages for our school community in next week's Update.

Finally, as the sunsets get earlier (and the news seems gloomier) with each successive day, it might be a good idea to remind ourselves that *these times will pass*; that for every winter, there is a spring; and that for every Good Friday, there is an Easter Sunday! Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day, so I'd encourage everyone to follow the charity Mind's advice and "*do one thing for better Mental Health*" tomorrow – go for a walk, or do something creative – see [here](#) for details.

With best wishes for a healthy weekend – physically and mentally,

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.