

10th September, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental update 70

Welcome to another parental update! It's been great to see so many eager St Margaret's students getting used to coming to school again this week – and it's been amazing to be able to welcome them back on site.

However, the start of term has not been without some 'teething issues' – it's taking longer than anticipated to set up Teams for the new school year, for example, and our entire computer system suffered a two-hour outage yesterday morning. I'm sorry for any inconvenience such issues may cause, but we're confident that most of the issues have been resolved now, so it's full steam ahead from here on in!

Timings of the day

A reminder that the timings of the day are as follows:

Year-group	Start time	Finish time
7	8:30am	2:45pm (2:00pm on Fridays)
8	8:45am	3:15pm (2:15pm on Fridays)
9	9:00am	3:15pm (2:30pm on Wednesdays)
10	9:30am	3:45pm
11	9:15am	3:30pm
12	Usually 9:30am	Usually 3:30pm
13	Usually 9:30am	Usually 3:30pm

I'd stress that the start-time is indeed a *start*-time; on Assembly days, for instance, the Assembly will start at the time indicated, and we are no longer admitting late-comers (as it can distract from the worship taking place). It would therefore be prudent to ensure students are in the large yard a few minutes *before* the times indicated above.

At the same time, we'd be grateful if students did not arrive more than 15 minutes before their start time, as this will increase the extent to which year-groups mix in the school yard – something we are trying to avoid. Regrettably breakfast is not available for early arrivals at this stage.

Thank you as ever for your support!

Office 265 Guidance

It was remiss of me not to mention last week that Mrs Roberts is now leading our Computer Science Department; I'm sure you'd want to join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

She's asked me to let you know that *"All pupils have been given a Microsoft Office 365 account which includes Outlook e-mail and One Drive access, lots of storage space for work, and online access to a range of software applications. The Computer Science and IT department has been working with Year 7 this week and most students have now set up their individual accounts.*

"Please visit [the Remote Learning area of our website](#) for detailed information about the applications available and for more help."

Reports

Paper copies of reports for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 are being sent home today (Friday); reports for students in Year 11 will be sent home on Monday. Apologies that these were not sent out last term, but we wanted to give as many students as possible the chance to take their assessments (despite the high levels of self-isolation that were necessary last half-term).

If you have any questions about this please do e-mail Dr Manwaring through [this address](#).

Calendar of events

We'll be circulating a calendar of events for the term next week, but for now I'd like to mention that we've decided our Open Evening on Thursday 23rd September will be held virtually. We would rather have held it onsite but feel that, given current infection rates, the risk is too great – and the health and safety of students, staff and visitors is, of course, a top priority. Please do spread the word, though, as we're keen for as many Year 6 families as possible to find out more about us!

I'd also like to give you advance notice about three Parents' Evenings this term:

- Year 13 Parents' Evening will be taking place **onsite** on Wednesday 29th September;
- Year 11's first Parents' Evening will be taking place **virtually** on Wednesday 24th November;
- Year 7's Parents' Evening will also be taking place **virtually** on Tuesday 7th December.

A reminder too that school will be closed to all students (and staff) on Monday 6th December.

Dr Silverstone writes...

This week I would like to share with you a Home Office pilot programme called 'StreetSafe' which lets members of the public flag areas on a map where they don't feel safe, regardless of whether a crime has taken place. Hosted on the national policing website and aimed primarily at women and girls, StreetSafe will enable members of the public to drop a pin onto a map anonymously and describe factors that cause them concern, or to feel unsafe. These could range from a poorly-lit walkway to instances of public harassment. In this way, concerns can be raised with police, whether or not a crime has been committed.

The information will be used alongside other key data by the police and by other stakeholders to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities. Changes and improvements could range from installing CCTV and street lighting across a park or common, to introducing night-time patrols led by officers or members of the local community, such as Neighbourhood Watch groups.

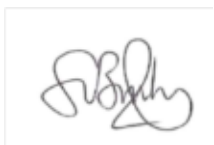
If you or any of your family wish to use StreetSafe, you can find it [here](#).

Finally...

I'm sure I'm not the only school leader who is inspired, every day, by what our young people can achieve – and this week I'm sure many of us will have been inspired by young Emma Raducanu's remarkable run to the US Open Final. I'm a great believer in using such inspiring stories to motivate young people – it's likely to be something I touch on in next Monday's assemblies!

Whether or not you're following the tennis, I wish you a peaceful and happy weekend.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.