

17th September, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental update 71**

Greetings once again from all of us at St Margaret's. I trust your son/daughter is now well into the routine of a new school year – indeed, I know that many of our students have 'hit the ground running'! If, though, for any reason your son or daughter is struggling to settle, please don't hesitate to let us know – we're here to help.

### Covid vaccinations

You may have caught sight of some St Margaret's students on the BBC News bulletins last Monday. The BBC chose our school as a background for their report about the announcement that all 12- to 15-year-olds are to be offered a Covid vaccination, and three of our students spoke very eloquently about the announcement.

The vaccination programme will be delivered largely through schools. I appreciate that the subject of Covid vaccinations is a controversial issue for some, so I'd want to reassure you that you will be informed in advance when vaccinations will happen in St Margaret's, and naturally your permission will be sought before any vaccine is administered. At a meeting of Liverpool Headteachers yesterday, those responsible for the programme stated that no student would be vaccinated against their parents' wishes.

If you have any concerns about Covid vaccinations in school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Calendar

Attached to this *Update* is a calendar for this term. Please accept my apologies for the fact that, for a number of reasons, we're circulating it a little later than usual. A calendar for the remainder of the academic year will be sent to you later this term.

Please note that school photographs will be taken for students in Years 7 and 9 on Tuesday 21st September. If you have a son in either year, please ensure he is as smartly-dressed as ever when he comes into school that day!

In addition, there are a couple of items from the Calendar to highlight for Sixth Form Parents...

- We'll be holding a Year 12 Information Evening at 5:45pm on Tuesday 28th September. Thanks once again to the helpfulness of our good friends next door, the evening will be held in St Anne's church. The evening will afford an opportunity for Sixth Form parents (both those new to the St Margaret's family, and those who have been with us for a number of years) to meet the Sixth Form team and to learn more about post-16 study.
- In last week's *Update* we stated that the upcoming Year 13 Parents' Evening would be held on site (*ie* physically, not virtually). However, in view of the recent increase in Covid infections, we think it would be better to hold the Evening virtually on this occasion. Full details about the appointment-making process will be sent out early next week.

### Don't miss out...!

Is your son or daughter entitled to free school meals?

If you are on benefits or unemployed you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. Free school meals save you time and money and provide reassurance that your children are eating a healthy, balanced lunch every day.

Children whose parents/carers receive the following support payments are eligible to receive free school meals:

- **Universal credit** (if earned income is included in the assessment of Universal Credit it must be less than £616.66 net per month).
- **Income support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's allowance**
- **Income-related employment and support allowance**
- **Guaranteed pension credit**
- **Child tax credit** (without Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of £16,190 or less.

All students use the same anonymous 'fingerprint' system when paying for their school meal and therefore there is no difference between a child is on free school meals and a child who pays for their meals. The current allowance is £2.25 per child per day and can be used to purchase anything from a main lunchtime meal to snacks or drinks. Even if your child does not wish to have school lunches everyday they can use this money for drinks or at break time so it is still worth claiming.

If you think you might be entitled to claim, please click [here](#).

### Dr Silverstone writes...

*"Not a safeguarding issue to pass on this week, but a note on litter.*


*"We have asked all our boys to eat only in the canteen from now on; previously they could also eat on the yard. The students have done a great job of leaving the canteen neat and tidy, ready for the next year group to come in. However, it is clear from state of the pavements on the way to the bus stops and Aigburth Vale that many of them are in the habit of dropping their wrappers and packaging on the floor. Can I please ask you all to remind our pupils that one important way that they can all look after our environment is to put their litter in the bins that are provided or, if possible, to recycle it once they get home?"*

*"Thank you!"*

### Finally...

In our main school Assemblies this week we've been talking to our students about the Christian value 'peace'. I wish all of our students, and their families, a peaceful (warm, and sunny) weekend!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.

# Calendar 2021/2022

<b>Autumn Term 2021</b>		
1	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>INSET DAY – School Closed for Students</b>
	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>INSET DAY (HALF DAY)</b> Term begins for Year 7 at 12.45pm to 2.45pm Term begins for Year 8 at 1.15pm to 3.15pm Term begins for Year 9 at 1.15pm to 3.15pm Term begins for Year 10 at 1.30pm to 3.30pm Term begins for Year 11 at 1.30pm to 3.30pm Term begins for Year 12 at 1.15pm to 3.15pm
	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 12 students University Trip Learning Workshops Term begins for Year 13 at 9.30am
2	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
3	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
4	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Years 7, 9, 12 and 13 photographs - 9am
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Virtual Open Evening – Year 7 Entry September 2022
5	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 12 Parents' Information Evening – 5.45pm (St Anne's Church)
	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Russell Group Virtual Fair – Year 12 and 13 Year 13 Parents Evening (virtual)
6	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
7	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
8	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Revision materials made available for Year 7/8/9/10 targeted assessments. CPD: Retrieval practice and the testing effect
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair – Year 12 and 13
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Last day of the half-term
<b>MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - HALF TERM</b>		
9	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	First day of the new half-term Y11 Mock exams all week
10	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Y11, Y12, Y13 mock exams all week,
	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service
11	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
12	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Year 7 and 8 targeted assessments all week
	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	1 <sup>st</sup> Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (virtual)
13	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 9 and 10 targeted assessments all week
14	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF</b>
	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening (virtual)
	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch. 12.20pm
	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 8 Fundraising Afternoon (Christmas Jumper Day)
15	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Prayer Space Week
16	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Last day of term Annual Carol Service in St Anne's Church