

Friday 21st October, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 102

Welcome to another edition of our *Parental Update* – a special edition, no less, as I wanted to share some exciting news about some school data the Government published yesterday.

Performance Tables

Given the number of other news stories around this week (!), you may have missed the fact that the 2022 Performance Tables have been published on the .gov.uk website.

As a statistician I would be amongst the first to question whether this year's Performance Tables should have been published. They reflect on the exam results achieved by students in last year's Year 11 and last year's Year 13 – and as we all know, these year-groups were significantly affected by the pandemic. Not only that, but the pandemic impacted different schools in different ways, as we all had to send different numbers of students home at different times. Any comparison with exam results in other years, or between schools, is therefore 'statistically suspect' – and I'm glad the Government has recognised this in the caveats they have given alongside the figures.

That said, the tables have been published, and I'm delighted to report that [our Progress 8 score](#) – an official measure of how much progress our Year 11 students made during their time with us – is, by a considerable distance, **our best ever**. The score of +0.27 means that on average, our students achieved about a quarter of a grade better in each of their GCSEs than other students across the country with similar Key Stage 2 scores. That's all the more impressive when you remember that nationally, the average Progress 8 score for boys is -0.21 (meaning they make less progress at GCSE than girls). We've more than bucked that trend!

The Year 13 results are also very encouraging, although due to Covid the Government have not published any measures of progress this year. The average grades that have been published confirm that our students have achieved very well, not only in 'A'-levels but in applied qualifications too.

Many congratulations to both 'Classes of 2022', and thanks for being such great year-groups. And deep thanks to your teachers too!

Vision and Values

I wonder if I can ask for your assistance?

About 6 years ago we reviewed our Vision Statement (which sets out why we exist) and our Values (how we will work). These documents are very important in the life of our school – they're the cornerstone on which everything else we do is built. Any important documents need to be

reviewed from time to time, to check they are still fresh and authentic – so we've started the process of reviewing them again.

You have a part to play in this process! We'd love to hear your views about what makes St Margaret's special, and what sort of place we should be in the future. Please could I ask you to complete a short questionnaire for us? There are only four questions! You can find the questionnaire [here](#).

Parents' prayer group

One of our Year 8 parents has set up a prayer group where parents can pray for St Margaret's. I have to say that I really appreciate the fact that this group meets regularly to pray for our school; those of us who are Christians believe firmly that prayer changes things!

The group meet virtually on Zoom at 2pm on Mondays. You can join them through [this link](#), or by using the meeting code 704 496 1444 (password "pray").

Half-term

A quick reminder that school closes for half-term today, and reopens at the usual time on Monday 31st October. We look forward to welcoming all our students back safe and sound after the half-term break!

With best wishes for a crisp, autumnal weekend,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Brierley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley

Principal.