

Friday 9th June 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 120

Welcome back after what I trust was a restful half-term break – even if it does now seem a pretty distant memory!

External exams

We're just over half-way through the GCSE and 'A'-level Exam season – and I'm pleased to report that the students I've spoken to thus far report they feel their papers have gone well to date!

- If you have a son or daughter doing external exams – do please let us know if there is anything we can do to support them (or you) at this critical time.
- If you don't have a son or daughter doing external exams – please pray for those that do!

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND') Department

I mentioned last time that we had been busy appointing new staff for September – I know a number of students have been involved in those interviews (thank you!). I'm delighted to be able to report that amongst those appointments has been a new SEND Co-ordinator, who will be joining us in September.

In the interim, Mr Reid has returned to Palmerston School (from where he was seconded). For the remainder of this term we're welcoming Leah Matthews (from Faith Primary School, a member of All Saints Multi-Academy Trust) back to St Margaret's; Mrs Matthews previously worked with us before Christmas. She'll be leading our SEND work for four days a week (generally Monday to Thursday), alongside Tara McKibben (for one day a week) from School Improvement Liverpool. You can continue to use the SENDAdmin e-mail address to reach Mrs Matthews, or you can e-mail her directly at lmattthews@stmargaretsacademy.com.

Sports News

- A number of our students have been involved in some work with Everton in the Community recently, and as a result we were invited to take part in a tournament at Goodison Park earlier this week. With some great football on show, our team went on to win the tournament and lift some silverware on the Goodison pitch. Congratulations to all involved – and what a great experience! Some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students also represented our school at Finch Farm on Tuesday.
- Cricket teams in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are continuing to represent us in the Lancashire and Liverpool competitions, with some fine performances in matches to date. Well done to all who have taken part!
- Our cross-country teams have achieved highly in the various midweek leagues, with the Year 7 and Year 10 teams winning their league and the Year 8/9 team finishing second. Congratulations are certainly in order there!

- Finally, our Sports Day this year has been (re-)scheduled for Tuesday 4th July. Many of us are eagerly looking forward to it already.

News from Mrs Harding, one of our Associate Senior Leaders and Head of Religious Studies

An organisation called Tough Talk visited us this week, and spoke to a number of students in Years 7 to 10. They delivered an inspirational message linked to sport about making wise choices, which fitted in neatly with our Collective Worship every morning (see below).

A small group of Year 7 and Year 8 students to to [Quirky Quarter](#), an immersive philosophical experience, which proved to be very enjoyable.

Mrs Harding also has some information for any students in Year 9 or above who would like to learn Ancient Greek free of charge on Saturday mornings. Please [contact her](#) for more details.

Dr Silverstone writes...

"We have had several conversations recently with parents and carers who are concerned about their children and the potential for involvement in gang-related activity. In some instances, parents are unsure who their children are socialising with, or they may have noticed a change in their child's behaviour. In other cases, they are concerned that their child may be being threatened or being coerced into behaving in ways that they would otherwise avoid.

"The NSPCC has some very clear advice about gangs and gang-related activity, including what gangs are, how gang recruitment works and the potential for criminal exploitation. It is worth looking at for all parents, not just those who have specific concerns. You will find it [here](#).

"We would also encourage you to speak to us at school if you have any concerns of this nature – contact your child's Head of Year or Dr Silverstone, the safeguarding lead. Alternatively, you can email the safeguarding team on safeguarding@stmargaretsacademy.com."

Finally...

In our collective worship this week, we've continued our series on heroes and heroines of the faith, focussing on the story of Nathan from the second book of Samuel. Nathan challenged King David after he had made a big mistake in his personal life – which must have been a very brave thing to do! The challenge that was given to our students was whether they are prepared to 'swim against the tide' and say something that is right, but unpopular; the challenge for those of us in positions of responsibility is whether we are prepared to listen when people tell us things we would rather not hear.

With best wishes for what promises to be another weekend of wonderful weather,

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.