

Tuesday 11th July 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 123

Welcome to the final *Update* of the academic year! As I'm sure you know, we finish for the summer holidays on Friday 14th July; school will close to students at around 12:30pm so that we can say 'farewell' to a number of colleagues who are leaving us. In particular...

- **Miss Baskerville** has been teaching in our Art Department (amongst others!) since September. She settled remarkably quickly into life at St Margaret's and it scarcely seems believable she's only been with us for 12 months! We wish her every success in her future endeavours.
- **Miss Doyle** has been here slightly longer, working as both a teaching assistant and as a teacher at times. She's leaving us following a recent maternity leave and we wish her every happiness with her growing family.
- **Miss Houston** has taught Maths at St Margaret's with great panache for two years now. We've greatly valued her contribution to the Department and will certainly miss her presence around school.
- **Mrs Jones** first joined us ten years ago, and has been teaching Biology ever since – as well as, latterly, serving as Deputy Director of Sixth Form. We're very sad she's moving on to pastures new, but she leaves secure in the knowledge that she has made a lasting impact on a number of our students' lives. All the best for the future, Mrs Jones!
- **Mr Kidney** joined us in 2019 as a teacher of Religious Studies, and he has contributed to other roles within the school since then too (notably as Acting Deputy Director of Sixth Form when Mrs Jones was on maternity leave). We're delighted he's secured a promoted post in another part of the country, though naturally we're very sad he's leaving us!
- **Mr Parry** has been teaching in the PE Department on a part-time basis for a couple of terms, and is leaving us having secured a position in a similar school. We wish him every success in the future.
- **Mr Wadsworth** has actually been teaching in St Margaret's for longer than all of the above combined! He first joined us in 1990 and so has seen (by my calculations) over 5,000 students either join or leave our school. He is a legend within the Maths Department and we will certainly notice his absence from school when we come back in September. We wish him every happiness after such long service to the students of our school.

I'm delighted to be able to report that we have been able to appoint new colleagues to fill the roles that are being left vacant; we will introduce you to all concerned in the first *Update* of the new school year (which will be published on Friday September 8th).

Secondment

In addition to the above colleagues' departures, I can advise you that we have agreed that our Director of Sixth Form, **Mr Lawton**, will be seconded to the Academy of St Francis of Assisi ('ASFA')

as a Senior Deputy Headteacher for the academic year 2023/2024. ASFA is a founding member of All Saints Multi-Academy Trust ('ASMAT') – the Trust we'll be joining next term – and we're delighted to be able to support the in this way.

In Mr Lawton's absence:

- **Dr Silverstone** will lead our post-16 provision, and will remain as Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- **Mr Gibbons** will step up to be Director of Pastoral Care, overseeing the work of our team of Heads of Years; and
- **Mr Jones** will act as Head of Year 11 in Mr Gibbons' place.

All of these arrangements will be in place for the duration of the 2023/2024 academic year.

There have been some other changes to our Senior Leadership Team next year too with some of our Associate Senior Leaders staying on in post next year (we're grateful to the support from ASMAT which will enable this to happen), and two new Assistant Principals (including our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) joining us too. Again, full details will feature in the first *Parental Update* in September.

Results Days

Mr Lawton will still be around for our Results Days! Post-16 Results will be issued from **8am** on **Thursday 17th August**, and Year 11 Results from **8am** on **Thursday 24th August**. We'd encourage Year 11 and Year 13 students to come early – especially Year 13 students, as an early start can make all the difference in the (usually very unlikely) event that you need to go through the UCAS Clearing system to get a place on a degree course.

New School Ties

A quick reminder that we're changing our ties from September! In fact I was delighted to see one student wearing a new tie this week – the first student to do so, I think. If you haven't bought a tie yet, they are available through our usual uniform stockists.

Sports Desk

Our annual Sports Day took place last week – happily the weather held for once! A very large number of students took part, and the overall winners will be revealed in our end-of-term Assemblies on Friday 14th July. For now, though, many congratulations to all who took part!

A number of our sports teams have achieved particularly well this term...

- Well done too to all our athletes who recently competed in the Liverpool Schools Athletics competition at Wavertree Athletics Track – a fantastic effort and performance by all those involved. Two of our students have been selected to represent St Margaret's as part of the Merseyside Schools Athletics Team, and will take part in the English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham. What an achievement!
- Congratulations to our year 7, 8, 9 and 10 cricket teams who have all progressed to the Liverpool Schools Cup final. Good luck to all our teams! (Stop press: I'm told the Year 8 team won their match and so are city champions – many congratulations!).

- Good luck to our year 8 and 10 Basketball teams who have made it through to the Liverpool Schools Cup Final for their year-group.
- A good number of our students have reached very high standards in other sports (*eg* one of our Year 9 boys recently won the Under 16 Lancashire Schools Golf Championship). Well done to everyone who takes part in sport outside school – we are proud of you!

Chess Club

It was a privilege to attend a prize-giving ceremony at Chess Club yesterday, following our teams' very creditable performances at a local Chess Tournament earlier this term. Over 90 students were present – an astonishing achievement for a Club that's been only been in existence for a few months. Thank you to Mr Martin for his enthusiasm and amazing hard work in setting it all up!

After the ceremony there was a quick staff *vs* students match, in which – with typical thoughtfulness – our students very sportingly chose *not* to embarrass the staff in front of such a large crowd, and instead allowed us to labour to a 4-1 victory. Thank you!

Welcome back in September!

Our new term starts for students on **Tuesday 5th September**.

- Our new Year 7 students should report to school for 8:45am (on the small yard – so please come onto the site *via* the gates at the end of Church Lane, in between the school and St Anne's Church).
- Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should report to school for 11:30am (also on the small yard).
- Students in Year 12 should report to school for 8:45am.
- Students in Year 13 should report to school for 1:00pm.

Finally...

After another full-on year at St Margaret's, I know that many of our students (not to mention our staff) are ready for their summer break. Rest is, of course, a very Biblical concept: if God rested after his work of creation, it's obviously not unreasonable for us to rest after our work is done too. Whether you're staying in Liverpool or travelling further afield, I wish you – and all St Margaret's families – a restful, peaceful summer holiday. Do stay safe!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.