



Monday 9th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 126

Good evening! I trust our latest fortnightly letter finds you in good health and spirits.

You'll doubtless notice a new logo atop this *Update*! We're proud to have joined All Saints Multi-Academy Trust at the start of this month, becoming the fourth school in the Trust. Already Trust staff have given generously of their time to ensure our 'on-boarding' goes smoothly; colleagues from the Trust are becoming an increasingly familiar sight around school.

We've started making arrangements for a Welcome Service, to mark such a significant moment in the life of our Academy. Once the date has been finalised, I'll let you know!

Open events

Following on from the success of our Open Evening last term, we're holding an Open Morning and an Open Afternoon later this month for any prospective students and parents who would like to see us in action. The events will take place:

- from 9:30am to 11:00am this Thursday, 12th October; and
- from 1:15pm to 2:45pm next Thursday, 19th October.

If you – or anyone you know – would like a tour of the school and a conversation with me, please could you book in advance by contacting jholmes@stmargaretsacademy.com? We'd love to welcome you and show you St Margaret's in action!

World Mental Health Day

This week we're marking World Mental Health Day (which this year falls on Tuesday 10th October) in a number of ways – for example through each year-group's Collective Worship. We'd also like to raise some money for a very worthwhile charity called [Young Minds](#) by allowing all students to wear **one item of yellow clothing** in place of their normal school uniform on **Friday 13th October**. So if your son or daughter has always wanted to wear a yellow football shirt, or a pair of yellow socks, to school – this is their chance!

All we ask in return is a small cash donation (we suggest 50p) which will be collected by student volunteers during the day. Students are equally welcome to donate if they don't wear yellow!

We'll let you know how much we raise in our next *Update*.

Sports Desk: Head of PE Mr Parkes writes...

"Would you like to follow our SMA PE Instagram page? If so, please head to [sma_pe_liverpool](#)

We will be using this social media outlet to celebrate our results and performances, as well as making important announcements for students and parents.

"As a PE department, we would really like to congratulate all Year 7 students for their enthusiasm and engagement both in and out of their PE lessons over the past 4 weeks. It's been fantastic to see how involved everyone has been. Keep it up! Well done to the Year 7 'A' football team in their first game representing St Margaret's, running out as 13-0 winners. It's great to get off to a winning start! And well done to all our other football teams in Years 8 to 13, all of whom have progressed to the second round of the English Schools Football Association National Cup.

"A massive well done to our Under 16 rugby team who recently beat Hutton Grammar School 25-13 in early rounds of Lancashire Cup. This was a great result against a very prestigious rugby school. All our players put their bodies on the line.

"I can also report a fantastic start to the cross-country season last week with students from Years 7 to 11 taking part in an event at Calderstones Park. Our Year 7 team finished second; the Year 8/9 team finished third; and the Year 10-13 team also performed very creditably. Well done to all who took part!"

Parent Governor election

Many thanks to the six parents who have kindly offered their services to serve as a Parent Governor on our new Local Academy Council. (The Local Academy Council is the new name for our Board of Governors, which has been reconstituted as we have joined All Saints Trust).

We now need to elect **two** Parent Governors. On behalf of Mrs Deveney, who is the Returning Officer for this election, please could I ask you to:

- read the 'electoral addresses' of the six candidates (maximum 200 words; see next page);
- vote using the form provided on the last page of this *Update*; and
- return your vote (following the instructions given) by **9am on Wednesday 17th October?**

Please note: for your vote to be counted, **you must also state the name and form of the pupil for whom you have parental responsibility**. This is simply to ensure the legitimacy of the voting process and the information will not be used for any other purpose.

Every adult with parental responsibility for a student currently on our roll is entitled to vote.

Finally...

I mentioned World Mental Health Day earlier; we've chosen to mark the day this year because the importance of young people's mental health cannot be understated nowadays. If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's mental health, **do please contact us**: your child's Head of Year, or [Mr Gibbons](#), will be able to point you in the right direction. We're here to help!

We'll next be in touch on Friday 20th, when we'll let you know the outcome of the election.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Brierley
Principal.



Ngunan Adamu – Year 8 Parent

My background as a journalist and multimedia trainer equips me with strong communication skills, which are essential for effective engagement with fellow governors, school staff, parents, and the wider community as a school governor. My keen interest in national and international politics reflects a commitment to understanding complex issues, making me well-suited to contribute to educational policy discussions.

My dedication to women's affairs through my media training academy iWoman Academy CIC and gender equality aligns with the goal of creating an inclusive and equitable educational environment. I am passionate about advocating for diversity and inclusivity within the school's policies.

Being a school governor will allow me to continue my positive impact on the local community and education, in line with my aspiration to be internationally recognised for my work. My international recognition as a presenter and social entrepreneur enhances my effectiveness in this role, bringing a wealth of experience and a global perspective to the table. It showcases my ability to engage with diverse audiences and navigate complex challenges successfully.

Moreover, my extensive network, cultivated through my journalism and entrepreneurship, will prove invaluable in building relationships within the school community and collaborating with stakeholders, further enriching the decision-making process as

Mary Anastan – Year 7 Parent

My son has a free school meal.

My son goes by car for transport.

My son has great education at St Margaret's.

Shaqil Chaudary – Year 7 Parent

Hello my name is Shaqil; I have a son in year 7. Professionally, I work as an academic in a local university. I am a subject head and over the past 23 years have been involved in all aspects teaching, learning and assessment (TLA) in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Currently in my role, I manage a group of talented academics, supporting, developing and maintaining the quality of TLA of a number of programmes offered by the university. My experience in higher education has involved many aspects/processes from interviewing potential students to congratulating successful graduate students. I have previously served as a governor to Booker Avenue Infant School (2017-2020) and The Blue Coat School (2013-2022). I believe this variety of experience will inform decisions and offer alternative insights to the Local Academy Council, to the benefit of our children.

Like every parent I want our children to fulfil their potentials. If elected, I aim to challenge and inform decisions where appropriate to ensure the excellent teaching within the school is maintained and progressed. I believe I have a range of skills which would be of benefit to the school to continue their excellent work and it would be a privilege

Ruth Halewood – Year 8 Parent

I am a mother of two boys aged 13 and 10, my eldest is in year 8. I am a committed Christian and active member of my local church. I am a qualified teacher and during my 18 years teaching I have taught in every key stage and have been Head of Department of R.S in two comprehensive schools. I love St Margaret's and all you stand for and I am keen to support the Local Academy Council in any way needed. I have good organisational and interpersonal skills. I love teenagers and I am passionate about the education and wellbeing of the whole child regardless of background and beliefs. I currently have the time to help as I work one day a week performing administrative tasks in my husband's company.

Siobhan Hughes – Year 8 Parent

My son is in year 8 at St Margarets and since the day he started I have been bowled over by the nurture, care and provision that is in place for the boys at the school. It is for this reason that I would like to put myself forward as Parent governor in order for me to be part of this and also to develop the school family in striving to be the best they can possibly be. I have a wealth of educational experience having been a primary school teacher for 21 years, a SENCo for 7 years and a governor in a special needs school for 6 years. In all of my roles the children are at the heart of everything that I do. Having parent, school and community links are key in order for the children to be the best that they can be and in my role as governor I would like to strengthen these links. I have a strong faith and am heavily involved in my Parish church delivering the Baptism programme, organising the Eucharistic ministers and delivering children's liturgy. If I am successful in being elected as parent governor I promise to fully support

Mike Taylor – Year 7 Parent

I would like to stand for Parent Governor not only because my son has started at St Margaret's Academy in September this year, but also because I believe I would be an appropriate representative of all parents. During my careers as a Quantity Surveyor within the Construction Industry I have learned to tightly manage budgets in high pressure environments. I have the skills to intrinsically manage finances on major infrastructure projects (>£100M) and present updates and forecasts to Board Stakeholders. As a certified member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators I also assist, in a party representative role, in the resolution of disputes between parties to a Contract. This involves having an understanding of the procedure of Adjudication as a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution and requires knowledge of and ability to interpret and apply the law. Given these skills I am able to contribute added value in the form of financial/commercial management and guidance around approaching disputes and procedural advice to achieve resolution. I also believe that I am able to truly represent all parents given my fundamental grounding as a parent of 3 children and having grown up within the local community, living in Liverpool all my life.



Election of Parent Governor

October 2023

- Write '1' opposite the name of the candidate who is your first choice, '2' opposite the name of the candidate who is your second choice and so on.
- You can mark as many choices as you wish but you must number them in order.
- Do not mark your ballot paper with an 'x' or a '✓' or any other mark or symbol.

Ngunan Adamu	
Mary Anastan	
Shaqil Chaudary	
Ruth Halewood	
Siobhan Hughes	
Mike Taylor	

- Place this ballot paper in an envelope, and seal it.
- You **MUST** also write the name and form of the child for whom you have parental responsibility on the outside of the envelope.
- Please return the envelope *via* your child, or by post, to Mrs S Deveney (Returning Officer), in school by **9am** on **Wednesday 17th October 2023**.

THE SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

The following both explains the mechanisms and philosophy behind the single transferable vote has been adapted from a paper by the Electoral Reform Ballot Services.

The STV is a system which is deemed to ensure that, as far as possible, every vote has a positive part in helping to elect a candidate, that no voting power is wasted, and that no voter has a greater influence on the result than any other.

The system gives each voter **ONE** vote and makes that vote transferable. Voting papers are completed by placing the candidates into a preferred order using the figure '1', '2', '3' etc. The figure '1' represents the vote and is mandatory. The rest are contingency markings and optional but important as they can influence the final result. For that reason the voter is recommended to express preferences until s/he is unable to differentiate between any remaining candidates.

When votes are counted, the Returning Officer works to a Quota. This is the number of votes a candidate requires to be certain of election and is calculated to a simple arithmetical formula (number of votes cast divided by 3, plus 1).

If a candidate has more votes than the quota, s/he is elected. If this does not happen immediately, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated, and their votes are transferred to other candidates (the voter's second or subsequent choices) – *ie* the contingency markings come into play. This avoids votes being wasted as would be the case in a first-past-the-post election.

Under no circumstances can a later preference count against an earlier preference.