



St Margaret's Academy

Snippets

24th August 2018

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year which I'm delighted to say has got off to an excellent start. I would like to extend a special welcome to parents and carers of the children who have just joined us in S1.

We have started this session celebrating the exceptional performance of our young people in their National Qualifications, and over the coming weeks I will share some details of the results in the 'Subject Spotlight' section of the next bulletin.

The headlines are...

48% of students in S4 achieved at least 5

National 5 qualifications (up 5% on last year).

43% of students achieved at least 3 Highers in S5 (up 1% on last year)

I am excited by the challenge of building on the success this year and will continue to ensure that all of our young people receive the highest levels of support and assistance from their teachers.

On Tuesday morning, we welcomed 200 new S1 pupils through the doors at St Margaret's Academy. It was a delight to see their high levels of enthusiasm and excitement as they begin their secondary school journey. For parents supporting their child through this transition from P7 to S1 for the first time, I fully appreciate that it can be a very nerve wracking experience for both you and your child. However, please be assured that we take every possible step to ensure your child has the best possible start to secondary school, and I would encourage you to come and talk to us if you have any concerns or queries.

Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for continuing to support the work of the school and I look forward to a happy and successful year for all our young people

- Mr G McDowall

A great start to first year!

First Years have had a busy start getting to know the school, their teachers and their timetable.

The S6 Buddies have been beside them all the way and already many have found their feet and independence.

Next week they will follow the bell so no more early lunches! On Tuesday all S1 pupils were issued with their welcome pack and everyone has a PIN to enable them to access the catering facilities. If you had an existing i-pay impact account this should have transferred with your child. All parents are encouraged to open an account so that payments can be made electronically for lunches, trips and so on. Details on how to open an account will follow.

A Digital Parenting magazine was also included in your child's Welcome pack. We hope you find this useful as we work together to develop digital life skills and build Digital resilience.

If you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to call us and speak with their Pupil Support Teacher.

Well done to all the First Years! Get a good sleep this weekend and we look forward to your first full week next week. Mrs C. Melville (Depute Head)



New staff

We are pleased to welcome a number of new staff to the school

Miss L. Cochrane – English, Mr K. Creaney – RE, Miss R. Adams – Physics, Mr D. Baxter – English, Miss S. Christmas – Chemistry, Miss L. McKeown – RE, Miss C. Saunders – Music (former pupil)

During the holiday period, our learning support and nurture teacher, Mrs C. Wilson, left to take up a new post in another school. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Currently, we are in the process of recruiting two new deputy headteachers. The application process is still ongoing and we hope to make the appointments within the next few weeks.

Safe and sound

Thank you for your co-operation with the drop off/pick up arrangements as the front of the school gets very busy at the start and close of the school day. Please don't park on the pupil crossing area at the foot of the front stairs as this is the main route to school for pupils arriving on foot. Pedestrians have priority on the school premises at all times.

For health and safety reasons the drop off area is the pavement area on the school side of the road only and the circle area at PE is for turning and to ease the flow of traffic.

The bus park is for buses only. Pupils walking home should not use this route and cars should not enter the bus park for drop-off or exiting the premises.

Thank you again for your co-operation with these arrangements.



Message from Fr Simon

There was a great response to the first Mass of the new academic year yesterday morning. Coming to Mass regularly really does help us feel we belong to a very special family.

Contact details

If you would like to update any of your contact details then please contact the school via email or alternatively call the school office during term time
wlmargarets-ac@westlothian.org.uk or 01506 497104

School uniform

School uniform can be purchased from Academy Uniforms

www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk and can be delivered to your home or the school

The school uniform policy can be accessed at

<http://stmargaretsacademy.org.uk/article/21208/Uniform-Policy>