



St Margaret's Academy

Snippets

31st August 2018

Message from the Depute Headteacher

It has been a busy start for the Pupil Support Team right across the years – everything from skill sessions in tying ties to early University applications. The Senior focus at this time of year is supporting students in their individual learning pathway choices through their school and college curriculum, apprenticeship days and work experience opportunities. If you are able to offer any support to us in these areas we would be delighted to hear from you.

The safety and wellbeing of everyone in our school community is always our top priority. S6 students attended West Drive and this experience will help them to reflect on their responsibilities as road users as they become young drivers.

We have welcomed a number of new students to St Margaret's alongside all our new First Years. Supporting students as they settle into a new school is a key aspect of the work of Pupil Support. Our aim is to make sure everyone feels welcome, cared for and confident to enable them to flourish, fulfil their potential and be best prepared for the path they choose to follow in life.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to the parents and carers of our First Years and new students to come in to school for a 'Cuppa in the Café' on Friday 7th September. Please pop in any time between 9:30am and 10:30am for a chance to meet and chat with the wider Support team.

In the meantime if you would like to share a student's success or discuss a concern please get in touch and ask to speak to your child's Pupil Support teacher.

See you next Friday!

- Mrs C Melville

New courtyard area

Our fantastic new courtyard area will open to pupils on Monday. The area has been transformed over the past few weeks and I know that our pupils are really keen to see what it looks like. Over the coming weeks we will be adding some new outdoor furniture to the courtyard and pupils will be given access to this area during interval and lunchtime.



Subject spotlight - English attainment

The Department of English would like to congratulate our young people on their commendable achievements in the National Qualifications last session (2017-18).

The department is keen to offer National 5 and Higher English courses to as many of our learners as possible and so our entries for these courses are high. Last session 124 learners in S4 were entered for the National 5 English qualification (which is 73.6% of the S4 roll) and we are pleased to report that 87.3% of these candidates attained a pass, with 71% achieving a grade A or B. Furthermore, 25 pupils in S5 and S6 also attained National 5 English at grade A-C.

Learners attaining a National 5 English qualification in either S4 or S5 have now been welcomed into Higher English classes for this new session. We are also pleased that 51 of our Senior Phase learners attained a National 4 English qualification last session, which means these successful candidates are now encouraged to go for National 5 English this year. We wish all our Senior Phase learners the best of luck as they begin their efforts towards the next step in their English qualifications, and we will work hard to support all our learners through what, no doubt, will be for them a very busy academic year.

The department of English is also very pleased and proud of the hard efforts and well deserved successes of learners who sat Higher English last session. The number of candidates in S5 and S6 sitting Higher English was 121, and we are happy to report that 76.9% of these candidates achieved a pass at grade A-C. We are now delighted to find that quite a good number of these young people now feel encouraged to hone their knowledge of language and literature by working towards an Advanced Higher English qualification this session... we wish them well!

We very much appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping us work towards the very best possible outcomes for learners in English National Qualifications, and should learners or parents/carers have any concerns or worries, please do contact the PTC, Ms Renfrew, who will endeavour to alleviate any concerns and seek the best solutions and support for you.

For the latest news from the English faculty visit...

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stmargaretsacademyliteracy/>



Have your say - Join the Parent Council

St Margaret's Parent Council is a group of parents that represent all parents! We meet every month during term time to hear and discuss issues affecting the school and to voice our and other parents' suggestions and concerns. Our next meeting is on the 24th September from 7-8pm with a 'cafe conversations' session from 8-8.30pm. Anyone with a child at the school is welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

Message from Fr Simon

To express gratitude is at the heart of everything we do in the Church as the Eucharist (Mass) is the central act of worship ... and 'Eucharist' means 'to give thanks'. Someone once said that if the only prayer a person ever prayed was 'thank you' it would be enough.



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Timetable update



It is now the case that the majority of pupils who were hoping to study S3 computing have this on their timetable, however, if there are any pupils who are still wishing to add ICT please speak with Mrs Wright asap in the Main Office on Monday 3rd September.

By now all pupils should have their courses confirmed. If there are any S4/5/6 pupils who have any outstanding changes to be made please speak to Mrs Wright. Course confirmation letters will be issued in September and we need to ensure everyone has the options which will lead them onto a positive destination.

If any parent has a query about their child's timetable please contact Mrs Wright in the first instance:
isla.wright@westlothian.org.uk

Aim High, Aim Higher

After School Higher/N5 Opportunities

We have had great success previously with our after school Highers/N5 programme. This allows pupils to study for an additional qualification in certain subject areas outside the school day either over one or two evenings a week from 3.30pm-5.00pm. Courses on offer this session will be:

Higher Sociology

Higher Health and Food Technology

N5 Maths

If anyone is interested in studying Higher Sociology they should attend a taster session on Monday 3rd September where you can hear more about what the course entails and how you will be assessed. This will be held in U16 at 3.30pm. If you are interested in studying Higher Health and Food Technology you should attend a taster session in the Health and Food Department on Monday at 3.30pm. If you are interested in N5 Maths please speak with Mr Conway to see if this would be a suitable pathway for you.

Results in these classes have previously been excellent and as a school we have had great success in allowing our pupils the opportunity to widen their curriculum as well as pick up additional qualifications for university and college. If you wish more information about the programme please speak with Mrs Wright who can advise.





Contact information

Next week you will receive the annual data check form. Can you please amend any of the details and get the form back to us ASAP. If you have any concerns or queries then do not hesitate to contact us. Full details on how to contact us are listed below.

ST MARGARET'S ACADEMY
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CONTACT US

 <p>EMAIL westmargrets-sc@westlothian.org.uk</p>	 <p>APP Report absences</p>
 <p>PHONE (01506) 497104</p>	 <p>POST St Margaret's Academy Howden South Rd West Lothian EH46AT</p>