



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

04B/AcademicYearArrangements/PJ/LB

12th July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR:

SEPTEMBER 2022

I would like to thank all of our students and families for what has been another academic year of change and getting back to a sense of normality in both our own lives, and in the life of all across our community.

It has truly been heart-warming to see the positive change and development in all of our students: They learned how to cope with challenges and difficulties as we return to a new way of working and learning together. Throughout the course of the year, we have heard time and time again from many different groups that have worked with our children about how resilient, polite, well-mannered, well-behaved and just how excellent they are. As a school community, we are rightfully proud of our students and about how they are being nurtured, formed and growing into extraordinary young people. For us, excellence is becoming a real character trait and habit of each and every one of us.

As we approach the end of this academic year, we are really beginning to focus on the start of the next academic year for our community. This letter gives you some really important details, so please keep it safe and refer to it when needed.

BEFORE SCHOOL, START AND FINISH TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY FROM SEPTEMBER 2022:

- 1.1 Students will be able to gather outside the school buildings from 7.50 am. It is always the school's strong advice that students should have a waterproof and warm coat, preferably with a hood to keep them warm and dry.
- 1.2 Students will gather in specific areas of the school:
 - Year 7 will gather under the front canopy
 - Year 8 will gather at the front of the school by the Performing Arts doors
 - Year 9 will gather around the side of the building by the metal staircase leading to DT
 - Year 10 will gather at the front of the school by the top pitch
 - Year 11 will gather by the Science block
 - Post 16 students will gather in the Post 16 study room
- 1.3 **The school day for all students will start at 8.40 am.** All students are fully expected to be in their correct line up zone at this time. Any student who arrives after this time will be marked as 'Late' and will receive a 30-minute detention.
- 1.4 **The school day for all students will end at 3.10 pm.** Any student who is not involved in an after-school activity of any description must be off the school site by 3.25 pm.
- 1.5 We recognise that some medical and other appointments cannot be made outside of school. However, we do feel that non-urgent appointments (for example; an eye test or dental check-up) should be made outside of school hours where possible. In all situations where a student has an appointment and will miss some of the school day, we will need medical proof of the appointment to be handed in to the main office or email to: studentabsence@smwca.org.uk.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



FURTHER INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE SCHOOL DAY AND UNIFORM:

- 2.1 It is always the school's advice that students should have a waterproof and warm coat, preferably with a hood to keep them warm and dry. It is important to share that hoodies are never an acceptable alternative to a coat, and any student wearing a hoodie will have it confiscated on sight. Initially, it will be handed back to them at the end of the school day. However, if this becomes a persistent issue, then the garment will be confiscated for a longer period of time.
- 2.2 All students must wear their full school uniform each day of the week. Students will need their school uniform PE kit on days which they have PE. All students will revert to changing for PE in the school changing rooms from 7 September onwards.
- 2.3 In a minor change to the school uniform policy, the female uniform now requires that students need to wear **opaque tights, instead of the traditional socks**. For information, we are stating that these should be a minimum of 40 denier and upwards. Further information on our school uniform and our clear expectations can be found here: <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/parents/uniform/>
- 2.4 Guidance on school approved shoes, which came into effect from September 2021 can be found on the school website here: <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SMWCA-APPROPRIATE-SHOES-2021-2022.pdf>
Please note that these are a guide only and we do not require that shoes must be bought from Wynsors. We recognise that other stockists are available.
- 2.5 All students must have their own school bag, with all the essentials for learning. Students know what these essentials are and there is a list of this equipment in their current student planner. Students will be given a new planner in September when they arrive at school.
- 2.6 We will remain a mobile phone free site. This has been a hugely successful policy. For clarification purposes, no student should use their phone whilst on the school site. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and a CI detention given. The phone will be handed back to the student after the detention has been served.
- 2.7 In connection with the mobile phone policy, we will also be banning the use of all smart watches (Apple iWatch / Fit Bit and other associated devices). This is because many of these devices can use the signal of a mobile phone to send and receive messages and social media updates. Again, all these devices will be confiscated on sight. A CI detention will be issued and the item will be returned after their detention has been served.
- 2.8 May I also remind you of our clear and consistent message about piercings / hair colouring / hair styles, which can be found here: <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/parents/uniform/>
- 2.9 We will continue to operate same day detentions on a daily basis and these will be for either 30- minutes or 1- hour in length. Vice Principal detentions take place on a Friday evening and last for 2-hours. As we do currently, we will send a text message to all of those parents whose children have a detention.

THE TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY FROM SEPTEMBER 2022:

Please see the table below for how our school day will look like from September:

The School Day from September 2022

Year Group	Line Up / Fidei Time / Assembly	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Line Up / Period 3	Period 4	Student Lunch	Line Up / Period 5
7	8.40 to 9.10	9.10 to 10.10	10.10 to 11.10	11.10 - 11.30	LINE UP 11.30 am 11.30 to 12.30	12.30-1.30	1.30-2.10	LINE UP 2.10 pm 2.10 to 3.10
8								
9								
10	8.40 to 9.10	9.10 to 10.10	10.10 to 11.10	11.10 - 11.30	LINE UP 11.30 am 11.30 to 12.30	12.30-1.30	1.30-2.10	LINE UP 2.10 pm 2.10 to 3.10
11								
Post 16	8.40 to 9.10	9.10 to 10.10	10.10 to 11.10	11.10 - 11.30	11.30 to 12.30	Incl. travel / lunch 12.30-1.10 Period 4: 1.10 – 2.10 Period 5: 2.10 – 3.10 incl. travel		

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



WHEN DOES MY CHILD START BACK TO SCHOOL?

3.1 As we have done in the past, we will have a staggered start back to the school year. It is absolutely essential that every student is in school on the day that they should be. This is because we will be actively teaching the routines around school life; sharing important health and safety information and also handing out timetables to everyone.

3.2 We will be spending a considerable amount of time explaining to students what we are about as a school and faith community, and how to live according to our Lasallian values. These days are crucial in setting the scene for everyone. Students will not need their PE kit on these days. It is equally important to share with you that attendance at school is **mandatory** from the date below:

- **Years 7 and 12 students** will start school on Wednesday 7 September from 8.40 am.
- **Years 10, 11 and 13** students will recommence school on Thursday 8 September from 8.40 am.
- **Years 8 and 9 students** will recommence school on Friday 9 September from 8.40 am.
- **Post 16 travel and timetable** across the Trinity schools will commence on Friday 9 September.

FULL ATTENDANCE TO SCHOOL MATTERS

4 It is essential to be in school

4.1 Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The school target for every single student should be to attend at least 97% of the time. All students should really aim for 100% attendance throughout the school year. From September, parents will receive regular updates about your child's attendance and punctuality at school. You are also able to monitor your own child's attendance through the Parent Portal app on any smart device. We will be moving to this method of communicating with parents as the year progresses. For students already at the school, a letter has already been sent out to you about this. Further letters about this will be sent out in September.

4.2 Students who miss school frequently do fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Excellent attendance also shows potential employers that a young person is reliable. Research suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime.

Below is a table showing how children's percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed:

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	2 Weeks	54 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	4 Weeks	114 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	6 Weeks	174 Lessons
80%	38 Days	72 Sessions	8 Weeks	228 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	10 Weeks	288 Lessons
70%	57 Days	114 Sessions	11.5 Weeks	342 Lessons
65%	67 Days	134 Sessions	13.5 Weeks	402 Lessons

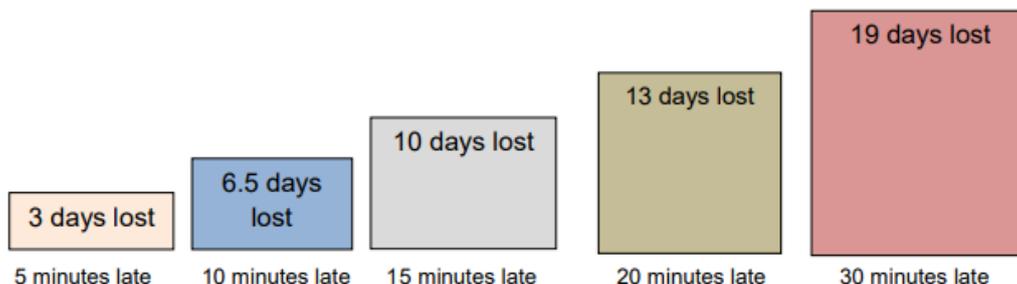
If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



SCHOOL STARTS FOR EVERY STUDENT AT 8.40 AM.

5 It is essential to arrive at school on time.

- 5.1 If your child arrives after 8.40 am, they will be marked as 'Late' and will automatically receive an after-school detention of 30-minutes. If your child arrives after 9.10 am, which is after the close of the morning registration, they will be marked in the register as 'U'. This code affects your child's attendance and the session is marked as an unauthorised absence. This has an impact on your child's attendance. This is in line with the Department for Education statutory advice. The Education Welfare Service can also pursue legal action as a result of very late arrival at school.
- 5.2 If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year:



- 5.3 We will be celebrating the excellent attendance of students throughout the year. We would also wish to share with you the following award: Any student who gains 100% attendance from 7 September for the whole year will be taken on a fully paid attendance rewards trip to Alton Towers in July. We are also opening this up to the Fidei Group with the highest percentage attendance.

I know that this is a lot of information for you to take in and absorb, but I want to ensure that every member of the school community knows what is happening and when, so that any worry and anxiety can be soothed.

As always, we are here to answer any questions or queries that you may have. If you do have any questions or queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me through the main school phone number (01782 883000) or by email at: pjohnson@smwca.org.uk

Finally, on the next page, you will see some information that may help us all over the course of the summer holidays.

Have a blessed summer holiday break, and please stay safe and take care. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr Paul Johnson
Vice Principal

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2022



COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



ASDA CAFE

Kids eat for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend from 25th July - 4th Sept 2022

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal during the school holidays

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

YO! SUSHI

Kid's eat free from 3pm-5.30pm, Monday to Thursday until 1st September 2022

THE REAL GREEK

Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

From June 27th kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend

MARKS & SPENCER CAFE

Likely But Not Yet Announced

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

MORRISONS

Spend £4.99 after 3pm daily & get one free kids meal (usually all day during half term)

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat breakfast free with every adult breakfast, daily from 9am - 12pm.

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Monday to Thursday

CAFE ROUGE

Kids eat for £1 when you order one adult's main meal. Excludes Saturdays

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Only valid Wednesdays but on all day

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

One free children's meal per paid adult meal 12-5pm daily throughout the holidays

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto

FARMHOUSE INNS

Likely But Not Yet Announced

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