



# St Margaret's Academy

It has been a short but thoroughly enjoyable first week back. Despite some illnesses for staff over the Christmas break, we've recharged and it was great to get back to it when we came in for our training day on Tuesday. On Wednesday it was clear the children were happy to return too which created a lovely atmosphere in school.

Our start of year assembly on Wednesday morning was all about *Dreams and Goals*. This is our PSHE theme for the first half of the spring term. We shared and discussed a really intriguing video of a man climbing steps to reach the top. He kept falling off and it reminded us to be resilient and aspirational if we want to succeed. It also gave us the opportunity to discuss if what we see on the internet is reliable; especially important in this age of fake news and social media influencers. Here's the link to the video which is worth a watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_DA3dgRSrw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_DA3dgRSrw)

Our composer of the month for January is Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), still going strong over 250 years later. His Moonlight Sonata provided us with a chilled start to the year.

## Curriculum News

As shared on our Facebook page, this week we launched our *7 Skills of St Margaret's*. These are the skills we have identified that are applicable to all subjects. We will be working with your children to help them and staff, embed these in our learning journey as per our vision which drives all our improvement work:

*We want ourselves and the children in our care to be successful, resilient and inquisitive learners who are happy and well-equipped to participate positively in the community and wider society.*



Look in the Computing Blog to see videos of how Year 6 got on with programming [variables into games](#) and how Year 3 programmed [sequences into music](#).

## Partnership between School and Home

Working closely with you at home is an area we've been trying to improve this year following the isolation of lockdowns. You should hopefully have received an invite for a start of spring term curriculum meeting with your teachers. Dates can be found on the school website as well as on this newsletter at the bottom.

The school website is also designed to help you at home with useful information. Some key places:

- [Curriculum Overview](#) tells you everything about our school curriculum, **with links to each year group for all the year and term's information** and **links to all the subject blogs**. This can be found under the 'Curriculum' tab
- [Subject specific information](#) tells you everything you need to know about each subject and found under the 'Curriculum' tab.
- Useful [Resources for Parents](#) has a range of ideas and tips to help us with parenting (not related to the curriculum) which can be found under the 'Parents' tab.
- The [calendar](#)

## Termly Curriculum Overview and Collectables

All the information you will need for this term's curriculum is found under the 'Curriculum' tab on the school website. In here you will find the overview for this term, letters home and subject collectables. The collectables are designed to help you at home to see what the expectation is for that year for that subject. They are designed in a child friendly manner so we can use them in school and you can discuss them at home. We want to help your children *collect* knowledge and skills over the year. The spring term information will be up to date by the end of next week and additional collectables may be added as the term progresses.

## Staffing News

Congratulations and good luck to Naomi Williams in the kitchen and to Amy Williams in the Hearing Support Centre. Naomi is leaving us to train as a paramedic to help booster the ranks of the NHS and Amy is leaving to train to be a Teacher of the Deaf in Devon. Naomi has been an integral member of the kitchen team for 4 years helping bring that extra richness, fun and nutrition with the lovely food and warm occasions that have complimented our work in the curriculum. Amy has been with us for 2 years as a Deaf Inclusion Worker, helping the team fully engage our pupils in the whole school life. Both always brought a big smile to their job and we wish them all the very best.

Welcome to Jo Terry who replaces Naomi in the kitchen. Welcome also to Adam Mallandaine who joins our sites team as an extra pair of practical hands for the big maintenance jobs that are ever on-going.

## Help with Rising Costs – Reminders

- Do you need help with child care? If so, try this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help for households – very useful government website: <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>
- This community kitchen has some very affordable meal options and is well worth a look: <https://www.turningheads.org.uk/community-kitchen/>
- The PTA has lots of quality school uniform for a small donation – see their FB page
- Martin Lewis: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- Free uniform and help with rising costs: <https://www.punkagainstopoverty.org/>
- Try here for cheaper broadband: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

A happy weekend to you all.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



4th January 2023	Pupils return to school
6th January 2023	Year 4 Spring Term Parent Meeting 3.15pm
9th January 2023	Year 3 Spring Term Parent Meeting 3.15pm
10th January 2023	Parent Coffee Morning in the woodland Den 9.15-10.15am (come and chat to our pastoral team)
10th January 2023	Year 1 + 2 Spring term Parent Meeting 3.15pm Year 5 Spring term Parent Meeting 3.15pm
23rd January 2023	Foundation stage parents evening
25th January 2023	Foundation stage parents evening
26th January 2023	Foundation stage parents evening