

Welcome letter from the Head Teacher...

June 2023



Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing St Margaret's Academy for your child. It is an important decision you have made and I hope we live up to your expectations as we work together over the next 7 years. Building a close partnership between home and school will help us create a really positive experience for your child and success in their learning.

I started as the Head Teacher here in January 2019 after being the Head Teacher of a small village school for 6 years. Although we are a big school with up to 420 pupils on roll, St Margaret's always feels to me like a village school. Children are nurtured and cared for to help them thrive in this sometimes stressful world; they enjoy coming to school. Staff form a dedicated group of professionals who are determined to make a difference to children's lives and outcomes. We feel proud to work here with our wonderful pupils and supportive parents. I certainly feel very privileged to be the Head Teacher.

We use the following vision as a guide to remind us why we do what we do: *'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.'*

This vision is underpinned by our four school values: *kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration*. Each of these has a superhero. We have Kind Kevin, Responsible Robin, Respectful Ricky and Aspirational Amy. We promote these values through assemblies along with British values which we weave into learning across all areas of school life.

Over the course of their primary school life, children achieve well, especially in Reading and Maths and especially our more disadvantaged and able pupils.

We have an excellent group of trustees, led by James Bennett, who has one child in the school and one who has recently moved to secondary school. Please see the letter from James telling you a bit more about the work of the trustees.

A major part of our work is the pastoral support we provide, led by our experienced SENCO and Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Pike. We are an attachment friendly school with specialist teachers and teaching assistants, a dedicated Nurture Unit and a whole-staff approach to supporting all children. We have been part of the Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma programme in conjunction with Oxford University and have the *Silver Mental Health Award for Schools* from Leeds Beckett University.

Teachers work hard to design a rich curriculum that takes advantage of the unique opportunities the English Riviera provides as part of its designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Our *Curriculum Information* page has a short slide show, titled *Torbay* that reminds us of the stunning area we live in. You can also find further detail to our curriculum here. On our *Curriculum in Action* page you can view some of the learning that has taken advantage of our locality.

KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY ASPIRATION

We offer excellent sporting opportunities, led by our Specialist PE Teacher Mr Mayling. This has been recognised by the achievement of the *Schools Games Gold Award* for four consecutive years. We hold the *Healthy Schools Gold Award* and have been selected by *Sport England* to participate in further collaboration. We offer a wide range of sporting clubs and children take part in festivals and competitions. We have a track record of success in competitive regional events, right through to the south west level in a range of disciplines. Our children participate in sport more than their peers nationally on average. Have a look on our *Sports Blog* to read more detail.

A *Bronze Soil Association Award* recognises the high quality of school meals that are cooked on site using local produce. The children helped design the menu and as a result enjoy a popular daily salad bar with various options they have taste tested. If you would like to try one of our school lunches, you are very welcome to join your child one day, free of charge. We work in partnership with *Food for Life* to provide the highest quality. You can find out more about them at www.foodforlife.org.uk

We have a wonderful group of parents leading the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). They raise lots of funds for the school which help us provide more resources for your children. They also put on non-fund raising events just to provide your children with a richer experience. Any help you can provide for this is most welcome, even if it's just 1 hour of your time which will still help make a difference.

Very best wishes to you all and I look forward to working with you.

Tim Hughes
Headteacher