



St Margaret's Academy

Snippets

12th October 2018

Headteachers message

It's been a particularly busy time in the school with a number of events and excursions taking place over the past fortnight. The S1 parents evening was held last Thursday and I was particularly pleased with the high turnout. If you have any feedback that you would like to pass on then please contact the school office. Also, if you didn't manage to speak to one of your son/daughter's teachers then please get in touch with one of our Head's of House, Mrs Brennan or Miss Pettigrew.

We have had a number of visitors in the school this week, including 2 groups of teachers and school inspectors from France and Germany who are currently on a study visit to Scotland. They spent a lot of time speaking to our pupils and were impressed by their level of engagement in pupil council and extra curricular activities.

As we approach the October holiday I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school. Over the coming months I will be inviting you to engage in a number of events and forums, one of which will be around parental engagement and parental partnerships. Please watch this space for future updates.

We also have our next parent council meeting on the 12th November from 7-8.30pm in the school library. All are welcome to come along and I have attached the minutes from our previous meeting to this newsletter. I wish you and your family an enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 23rd October.

Mr G. McDowall

S6 Leadership team news

The first term as captains has been exciting and busy for us. We have helped organise the Sportathon, the MacMillan Coffee Morning, escorted international visitors around the school building and assisted with the junior assemblies, including providing support with the S1 CAT testing. Furthermore, during the pizza conference kindly hosted by Mr Bennet, we managed to secure an S6 Common Room which will provide a space for us to relax from the hectic academic day. Next term will be as equally busy as we prepare to complete our UCAS and college applications. We will also be representing the school to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. Moreover, we will be representing the students in the development of the school website. Additionally, we are assisting with the S1 Fright Night (tickets on sale now!) and the annual S6 Christmas excursion to Edinburgh. We look forward to updating you again soon. The S6 leadership team.



Subject spotlight - Social Subjects

In the **Social Subjects** faculty we offer more courses than you may realise – this includes Business, Geography, History and Modern Studies; yet also, Administration and IT, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and Sociology!

This year we were thrilled with the number of students achieving success in our faculty. These results are merely a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the students in our classes. Our S4 pupils achieved excellent results, with an increase in attainment across every single subject! At Higher level there was also success, with impressive pass rates of 85% in Modern Studies, 77% in Business and 76% in Psychology to name a few.

This year, we aim to maintain this high standard and will continue to offer the same study support and Easter school opportunities. Seniors, remember to look out for these throughout the year!

Social Subjects offers a diverse range of subjects, and may interest pupils in the Senior phase who are looking to branch out from more traditional subjects. Juniors, when looking ahead to N5 and Higher Qualifications, ask your teachers about the subjects we have on offer!

Miss H. Nisbet (Faculty Head of Social subjects and Modern Languages)

S1 update

Quick as a flash! S1 are at the end of an action packed first term in St Margaret's Academy. With the support of their S6 buddies and teachers, S1 have settled quickly into the community of our school. Pupils are now used to their timetables and are able to find their way around the building successfully without getting lost! Lots of pupils are getting involved in many of the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Highlights this term have been the first S1 football game against James Young High School which we won impressively 7-0, the annual cross country event and the energy sapping overnight sportathon! As a year group you were busy this term preparing for the poetry slam held by the English dept. Your S6 buddies are looking forward to seeing you all in your Halloween costume for the S1 Fright Night!

Helen Pettigrew (Head of House for Teresa and Sinclair)

Care for the family - left to their own devices

The charity group Care for the Family is delivering a number of conferences across the UK to support parents in looking at the impact of the digital world on parenting. If you are interested in attending any of the events then please visit <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/> or see information attached.

West Lothian Leisure October holiday programme

The October holiday programme is now available from West Lothian Leisure and can be accessed via our school website or directly at

<https://www.westlothianleisure.com/media/2407/oct-hol-prog-2018-booklet-21-08-18.pdf>



Better off West Lothian - Universal Credit

Full service Universal Credit was introduced in West Lothian in May 2018 and there is a range of support available to assist you in applying. For more information visit the website

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/universalcredit>

Parent Council Meeting – 24th September 2018

Action Points

What	Who	By When
Appointment of Secretary & Treasurer to Parent Council	Parent Council	Meeting 12 th Nov
Issuing of Parent Council Constitution to all parents in St Margaret's Community	SLT	Meeting 12 th Nov
Review academic achievement awards and presentation ceremony	SLT	Meeting 12 th Nov
Study Support sessions – ensure all parents aware to ensure pupil participation	Principal Teachers	Meeting 12 th Nov
Review study support for S3 moving to S4	Extended Leadership Team	Meeting 12 th Nov
School uniform policy	SLT	Meeting 12 th Nov

Parent Council AGM & Meeting

24 September 2018

1900-2000hrs

Parents Present	St Margaret's Staff
Aileen Nicoll	Greg McDowall (Acting Headteacher)
Annabel Drummond	Tina Melville (Depute Headteacher)
Caroline Batley	Anne Crookston (Senior Leader)
Caroline Wilson	Isla Wright (Senior Leader)
Christine Cooper	Father Simon Hughes
Claire Roy	Martin Dobie (Church Representative)
Deborah Docherty	Lynn Hynds (Clerk)
Denise Lawson	
Dominika Kozłowska	
Doug Hook	
Elizabeth Stone	
Elizabeth Traynor (Acting Chair)	
Fiona Chatterjee	
Jo Taylor	
Justin Chatterjee	
Karen Rafferty	
Lynne Yule	
Marzena Darska	
Maureen Strickland	
Mike Batley	
Naveen Pothuri	
Roz McCracken	
Susan Fleming	
Susanne Wilson	

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome led by Mr McDowall (Acting Headteacher) who outlined format of evening to those present at Parent Council for first time. All present introduced themselves and apologies were offered by Mrs Guthrie
3. Discussion amongst parents present to detail items to be discussed AOCB – this included staffing issues, interruptions to learning, Sportathon participation, academic achievement recognition, uniform policy.
4. AGM took place and the following were voted and seconded:
Mr Warwick Dredge, Chair
Mrs Elizabeth Traynor, Vice-Chair
Treasurer and Secretary roles are unfilled

Lynn Hynds is to continue in her role as appointed clerk to the Parent Council

It was noted that the biggest challenge historically has been promotion of the Parent Council. New method of advising dates of meeting have been successful due to attendance today. No immediate fundraising is expected with the exception of the annual Burns Supper Ceilidh.

5. Mr McDowall presented the HT Report which included attainment results for 2017/18 session, projections for 2018/19 and national comparisons. Information was shared on comparisons to West Lothian attainment and that of our virtual comparator school and there was discussion on CAT testing. Reconfigured structures in departments were introduced – faculties will be grouped as Collaboratives – STE’A’M, Humanities & Languages and Wellbeing and there will also be a young people’s collaborative. Discussion on the introduction of the weekly “Snippets” newsletter and improved communication on all platforms was warmly received.
6. Mrs Traynor opened discussion on points of issue raised by parents
 - Recognition of Academic Success – parents believe there needs to be more recognition of academic achievements alongside sporting achievements. It was noted that the Senior Awards ceremony could be refreshed to encourage the involvement of more families. Mr McDowall would review with staff to better promote this.
 - Study Support Sessions – very well received in previous years across S4, 5 & 6. Staff fully committed to offering support after school to all pupils. Prelims will take place in January and sessions will commence in November to assist with this preparation. In some departments teachers are already offering support after school.
 - Study lates will run again in February and March one day per week from 4pm-8pm in preparation for main SQA exams. Young people were engaged with study sessions last year, especially during Easter School. It was noted that it would be helpful for S3 to have some study support in advance of moving to S4.
 - Sportathon – parents wondered how pupils were chosen and it was confirmed that names were drawn randomly. All pupils selected have been advised of what to wear, what to bring and what arrangements will be in place during the event. Any pupils dropping out in advance of the event will not be replaced at this late stage.
 - Interruptions to learning – there were some concerns that pupils were being distracted by others from their learning. The new Relationships policy with the emphasis on being Ready, Respectful and Safe is being introduced across the school. Individual issues will be followed up by SLT.
 - Staffing – ICT still remains a priority to fill. Recent advertising has not generated any applications. S1/2 have business technology included in their timetable.
 - Uniform policy – A consistency in approach was welcomed. On arrival at school pupils are to remove outwear and ensure that they are ready for the school day. SLT will be monitoring uniforms styles and will be encouraging pupils to wear formal trousers/skirts. Jeans/leggings/jeggings are not part of the agreed uniform. Shoes should be all black trainers or shoes. Pupil support have a supply of new school uniform products available should

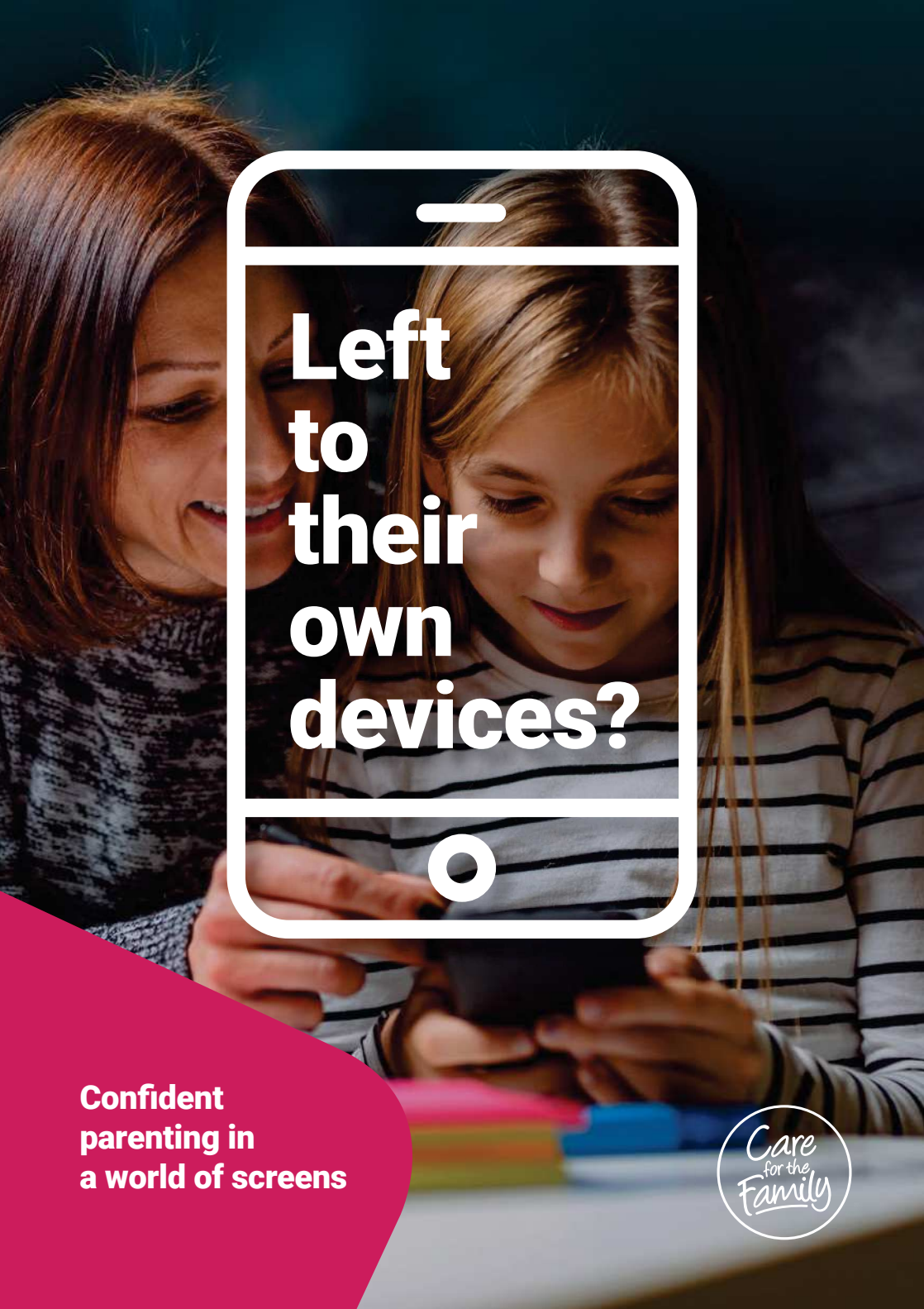
pupils be required to change. Pupils are reminded not to accessorise their uniform. No issues had been reported to staff regarding make-up.

7. AOCB

- Mrs Melville asked for feedback on the “Cuppa in the Café” for new S1 parents. It was agreed that the event was well received and should be considered for other year groups, themed and possibly later in day/early evening when more parents could attend.
- McMillan Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday and hosted by S6 Leadership. This year all pupils in S1-S3 are being invited to attend.

The meeting ended with thanks to all for attending and closing prayer

Date of next meeting confirmed as Monday 12 November 2018 7- 8pm



Left to their own devices?

**Confident
parenting in
a world of screens**



Power up your parenting for the online generation

The internet revolutionised the way that we live our lives. From smartphones to social media, digital technology allows young people to develop life skills and build connections in ways that were never previously possible.

Despite this, parents can feel out of touch with their children's online habits. Many are concerned about how to protect their children from online bullying, pornography and the pressure of the selfie culture; not to mention worries over the sheer amount of time spent on screens.

But as well as the challenges there are advantages - the internet can be used as a tool for good within families. Embracing the positive aspects of digital life together can help parents become role models and build a close connection with their children.

At *Left To Their Own Devices?*, speakers Katharine Hill and Philip Jinadu will provide parents with perception-shifting insights into today's increasingly digital world.



You'll come away with loads of practical tips on how to guide your family through the highs and lows of the digital world, including:

- How to positively engage with your children's digital habits
- The impact of the most popular social media tools
- Managing screen time
- Ways to nurture online resilience within your family.



Katharine Hill

Katharine Hill is UK Director of Care for the Family. She is a well-known speaker, broadcaster and author. Her recent book, *Left To Their Own Devices? - Confident Parenting in a World of Screens*, explores the impact of the digital world. She is married to Richard and they have four grown-up children.



Philip Jinadu

Philip Jinadu is a popular conference and event speaker, and is on the speaking team at Care for the Family. He is regularly asked to talk on themes of marriage, parenting and identity. Philip and his wife Kate lead Woodlands Metro, a Bristol church full of millennials, and they have two grown-up daughters.

Join us at *Left To Their Own Devices?* where we'll look at the impact of the digital world on parenting, including:

Being digitally native

The effects of growing up in an online-obsessed world.

The social revolution

Understand how social media has redefined the way we connect.

Selfies and self-worth

Empower your child to feel confident in who they are.

Dangers of digital

The challenges and what your family can do to overcome them.

Safeguard your family

Remain resilient while embracing all the opportunities of the digital world.

What parents have said about the event ...

“

Relevant, practical, but above all inspirational and motivational.”

“

I was reminded of the positive influence I can be in my child's life – first & foremost.”

Event Tour 2018

Reading

Tuesday 16 October
LifeSpring Church, RG1 7UY

Bristol

Thursday 18 October
St Michael's Centre, BS34 8PD

Aberdeen

Tuesday 6 November
Deeside Christian Fellowship, AB13 0JE

Edinburgh

Wednesday 7 November
St Paul's and St George's Church, EH1 3HP

Stockton-on-Tees

Thursday 8 November
Stockton Baptist Church, TS18 1TE

Tickets

1-3 tickets - £6 each

4 or more tickets - £5 each

On the door - £7 each

Special Partner rate - £4 each

Time: 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm
(doors open at 7.00 pm)

To book

cff.org.uk/owndevices
029 2081 0800

 /careforthefamily

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Please note that we don't have the facilities to accommodate babies and young children at this event.
Care for the Family – a Christian response to a world of need.
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A company limited by guarantee no 3482910. Registered in England and Wales.
Registered office: Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff, CF15 7RG.

