



9 December 2016

Dear Parents / Caregivers

We look forward to welcoming you to 2017 as a member of the St Margaret's College Boarding Community. We hope that this will be a particularly happy and successful year for your daughter as she accepts the challenges and opportunities that await her.

The management team of the Boarding Community are looking forward to the year ahead, welcoming new families and continuing their association with current girls and parents.

Please find enclosed:

- Boarders' Information Update form for you to complete and return.

Please note we expect the girls back in house for the start of Term 1 on **Tuesday 31 January** with a **compulsory dinner at 6.00pm** on the first night back in.

For returning Year 10-12 girls, the Houses open at 1.00pm. This allows staff to settle in the new girls and meet with new parents before the excitement of all boarders returning to campus.

Houses open for Years 7, 8 and 9 and new girls into Year 10-12 at 11.00am. This is followed by a New Boarder Parent and Luncheon, while the Year 9 students begin their Peer Support.

Year 13 girls return earlier on Monday 30 January with a barbecue for parents and girls at 5.30pm. Cranmer House will be open from 1.00pm for girls to set up their rooms.

Boarders' Big Day In – Saturday 11 February 2017

This is a compulsory day in the boarding house. It is a time for all girls to integrate into the community and help establish life-long friendships and familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. For our senior girls, it is an opportunity to develop their leadership roles. We have a fun programme planned with activities for the House points competition and downtime to catch up with new and old friends. Remember to bring some fun clothing in your House colour to get into the House Competition spirit. 'Big Day In' activities begin at 6.00pm on Friday 10 February and finish at 4.30pm on Saturday 11 February. Girls are allowed approved leave after this.

Parent and Student Handbook and Boarders' Activities Programme

Please read the Boarders Section of the Parent and Student Handbook. This is our first means of communicating our structures, routines and guidelines to the Boarding Community and should be the first reference point for any queries. Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's House Manager should you require further clarification or information.

The Boarders' weekend activities will be scheduled on a weekly basis. We endeavour to include as many events and activities that are of particular interest to boarder families.

The Term Calendar, Newsletter and St Margaret's College website are all valuable sources of information on what is happening in and around the school. These help boarder families stay informed and connected.

Influenza Vaccination

During Term 1, our School Nurse will be contacting all boarder parents / caregivers to offer the annual flu vaccination through a school-run programme. The nurse works closely with the medical staff at St Albans Medical Centre to provide this essential service. It is recommended (but not compulsory) that your daughter has this vaccination administered. Living in a close boarding environment can see viruses, like the flu, spread quickly through an un-immunised group. Therefore annual protection is advisable.

For any boarders aged 16 years and under, consent from parents / caregivers will be needed before vaccination can occur. Boarders over 16 years can self-consent, but it would be advisable to discuss the vaccination with them when you receive the notification.

Student Head of Boarding and Deputy Head of Boarding

Congratulations go to Lucy Green and Sophia Neill on gaining the Head and Deputy Prefect roles for Boarding. What a great team to lead our Boarders' Council and Year 13 Boarding Leaders to ensure we continue to develop in the St Margaret's College boarding community.

If you have any queries regarding the return of your daughter to the Boarding School, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office. The School Office is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm from Thursday 12 January 2017.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Langley
Director of Boarding