

6 December 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to St Margaret's College!

Starting Middle School can be an overwhelming experience for anyone. Regardless of where you have come from there are many things about St Margaret's College that may be different from your daughter's old school environment.

For some of you it has been a long wait, yet for others it has been a relatively new thing. Whatever your story – it is great to have you and your daughter as part of our St Margaret's College Middle School.

At times during this holiday your daughter will probably feel sad at what she is leaving behind, while also excited about what is to come. There will be times when she will probably even feel a little anxious – don't worry a little anxiety is a good thing. You and your daughter are heading on an exciting new journey together. To make you both feel a little more at ease, I have put together a few key dates and hints for you. I hope they help!

In 2017 your daughter will be in a Year 7-10 tutor group with about 15 girls in each. The tutor group belongs within our House system. Your daughter's Tutor will be a key person during her time at St Margaret's College.

Dates for your Diary

WEEK 1

- **Tuesday 31 January**

2.15pm - Year 7 and 8 students NEW to St Margaret's College to meet with Mrs Godfrey-Chatterton for orientation.

- **Wednesday 1 February** - Welcoming Ceremony and Day 1 of school for 2017

8.25am - Year 7 and 8 current St Margaret's College students go directly to the Chapel.

9.00am - Year 7 and 8 students who are new to St Margaret's College meet their Year 13 buddy, then meet outside the Old Girls' Atrium (hockey turf side)

All students at the conclusion of the Powhiri go to tutor time, followed by time with her ENSS (English and Social Science) teacher.

Please ensure your daughter brings her iPad, swimming togs and towel, pencil case and paper for the week as she may need these at different times.

- **Thursday 2 February**

8.25am - Tutor Time - go straight to tutor rooms - then go to House Meetings - no Period 1

9.20 - Period 2 as per timetables

10.15am - Whole school Chapel

11.05am-2.55pm - Normal school day as per girl's individual timetable

2.55pm - No Period 7

3.00-4.30pm - Sports and Arts Sign up in the Gymnasium and Old Girls' Atrium - Parents welcome to attend with daughters.

- **Friday 3 February**

8.25am - Tutor Time - go straight to tutor rooms

8.45am - Leadership Induction, Chapel - Year 1-13 to attend

9.45 am - Year 1-13 normal timetable resumes

WEEK 2

- **Monday 6 February**

Waitangi Day

- **Tuesday 7 February**

Athletics Sports - Year 9-13, Christ's College (Postponement date is Friday 10 February)

Year 7 and 8 Programme to be confirmed.

- **Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 February**

Normal school timetable resumes

WEEK 3

- **Friday 17 February**

School closes at 12.00noon for Tutor Goal Setting Interviews

WEEK 4

Monday 20 – Friday 24 February - CAMP WEEK

Year 7 - Camp will be made up of day visits and activities - please see the letter in the mailout for further information

Year 8 - Camp will be three days offsite at Glenroy - please see the letter in the mailout for further information.

Please refer to the school calendar for the remaining dates for February.

I would like to remind you that all Year 7 students will require an iPad. If you are planning on getting one for Christmas we ask that each girl is the administrator of her machine and has an iTunes account that she has credit on, as early in 2017 we will be asking your daughter to complete some setup activities with us. There is no requirement for a certain type of iPad, the Mini or the Air is fine. The only model we are not sure of would be the first generation iPad - so iPad 2 or later. We are still in the process of confirming which apps we will use for the teaching programme so we would ask that the iPad doesn't come to school loaded up with games as we will need space on these devices for the girls to create and store work.

We do ask that your daughter has a Bluetooth keyboard and a sturdy case for her iPad.

I wish you and your family all the best for the festive season and look forward to connecting with you in 2017.

Yours sincerely



Kathryn Gray
Head of Middle School