

St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls and Sixth Form (co-ed)



11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

30 March 2017

Dear Families

How quickly we have come to the end of another term and what a term it has been! We have kept you updated with all our news on our website. This is a longer letter than usual, I apologise in advance, but please keep reading to the end!

We break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 31 March 2017. Dismissal for students will be at 12.50pm. The summer term begins on **Wednesday 19 April 2017** at the normal school time. Tuesday 18 April is a professional development day for staff. On our website you will find the dates for next term including when we break for the summer holidays, alongside the term and holiday dates, agreed by Governors, for next academic year (September 2017- July 2018).

Public examinations will begin in earnest within the first few weeks when we return. We will be thinking of our students in Years 11 to 13 as they continue to study and take part in the revision programme over the Easter holidays. Although we want all those involved in examinations to take advantage of the all the revision that is on offer and work hard during the holiday, we also know that finding time for rest and relaxation is important and this should form part of their revision regime. The date for the first GCSE is Monday 15 May and the first A Level examination is on Wednesday 17 May. All students have already been issued with their examination timetable. I am sure that you will want to join me in sending best wishes to all of our young people who will be taking examinations this year and keep them in our prayers.

As part of our Lent focus we have taken part in the 40Acts Give Generously. Each day we have a whole school Lent challenge with an opportunity for reflection. As part of our Lent programme this year, in conjunction with Prayer Spaces for Schools, we set up a prayer space for three days. This was organised by Donna Akodu, a parent of a Year 9 student, who is a member of the St Martin's Parent Partnership. We thank her very much for all the work that went into setting this up and for arranging with members of Oasis Baptist Church and Holy Trinity Church to supervise the space during the three days. It was a blessing to have this room dedicated to prayer and spiritual growth.

As many schools up and down the country, we are affected by falling rolls. This, in turn, is impacting our funding. We are at a stage where we needed some expert input to support us with our marketing strategy. To this end, Governors and I have commissioned an Educational Marketing Consultancy to work with us. They will conduct a strategic review which will involve staff, students, governors, parents, primary schools and the local community. We will then use the outcomes to plan our marketing strategy. I will keep you updated about this.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING

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We are all very excited at the prospect of a new school uniform for September. Especially the students, who have said that they can't wait for the new term to start! Thank you to the many parents who came to school to view the uniform and to vote for grey or black. We are pleased to announce that the blazer and trousers will be grey. Look out for the new uniform pictures on our website.

A change of uniform will not in itself fix some of the poor behaviour that a minority of students continue to display. They know who they are and have been spoken to by a number of staff including me and few have also met with Governors. I know for the majority this does not apply, as every day they are a model student and are a credit to you and the school, and I congratulate them. During the Easter break, please remind your daughter that we are a school of the highest expectations and values and we will accept nothing less than every member of the community to work to uphold the St Martin's expectations. You will receive a separate letter with specific details about how students will be measured for the new uniform and how it will be delivered and ready for the start of the new academic year, as well as how you can order additional items at a very discounted price.

Easter is a time for reflection and rebirth, a time to think about how the death and resurrection of Jesus has impacted our lives. I hope that during the Easter period you will have time to spend with your friends and family and it will bring you peace and blessings.

Easter Blessings from me and the school community.

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher

Looking forward to the summer term – some important dates and notices

- Summer term **begins for students on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at the normal school time.**
- Hair colour should only be the colour of your daughter's natural hair. Please remove any colour before they return. We have had to send students home who have come to school with red, purple, green and blue extensions, or bleached ends. Excessive hair decorations and clips and not allowed, nor are patterns or lines shaved into the hair.
- A reminder that under no circumstances do we allow acrylic nails, false eyelashes, tattoos, piercings, and non-prescription contact lenses.
- The measuring and fitting day for the new uniform will be all day Wednesday 26 April and if required, the afternoon of Thursday 27 April. Please ensure your daughter is in school so that she can be fitted by the specialist. Further details about this will be in a separate letter.
- Our summer extravaganza 'Around the World in a Day' will take place on Saturday 8 July 2017. We look forward to you being involved in some way. More details to follow.