



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.

Psalm 46:1-2

Monday 13 July 2020

Dear Families

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the school year. Who would ever have imagined the year would have been like this! Life is not what it used to be, but as we come out of the lockdown, we look to the future, undoubtedly, with many challenges ahead, but working to overcome them in partnership.

It has been fantastic having year 10 and 12 in school over the last few weeks, as well as more students from other year groups. It has made St Martin's feel a little like St Martin's again!

I am delighted to be able to finally write to you to tell you we are completing our plans, and in line with government guidance, we will reopen, full time to all students in September. It has been a long time coming! As you will know, schools received the government guidance a week and a half ago. We wanted to read this guidance carefully to ensure we could plan accordingly. Although it has been logistically complicated, we do now have a workable plan for September to share with you which has the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students at its core.

The government proposed that schools use a combination of social distancing and 'bubble' groups, in order to reduce large numbers of students mixing. We have planned in this way in order to allow for students to still receive a full curriculum, but more importantly to reduce the risk of transmission if someone falls ill. We are all pleased that we will be welcoming everyone back, albeit with some reconfiguring of the school day.

As a small school we have created key stage bubbles, one for Years 7 and 8, another for Years 9, 10 and 11, and the final bubble is for Years 12 and 13. Students will be located in different parts of the school and we will have staggered start and finish times as well as staggered breaks.

All schools must comply with health and safety law, and continue to follow the hierarchy of controls as below and can be found in the guidance for full opening of schools [here](#).

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

We will be updating our risk assessment and other policies in line with government guidance and these will be available on our school website.

We are planning for our return in September to be as normal as we can make this for students and staff, without compromising on safety. We have already begun to review our curriculum, pastoral systems and programmes in order to support your daughters effectively when they do return to school.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

155 Tulse Hill London SW2 3UP T 020 8674 5594 F 020 8674 1379 www.stmartins.academy

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



So that we can update you, share our plans and hear your views, we would like to invite you to a virtual meeting on google meet. Please join the 'bubble group' meeting based on the year group your daughter will be in next year and not the year group she is in currently.

Meeting for **Key Stage 3 Bubble** – Years 7, 8 (new year 7 and current year 7)
Wednesday **15 July 2020** from **4:30pm to 5:30pm**

Meeting for **Key Stage 4 Bubble** – Years 9, 10, 11 (current year 8, 9, 10)
Thursday **16 July 2020** from **4:00pm to 5:00pm**

Meeting for **Key Stage 5 Bubble** – Years 12, 13 (current year 11, 12)
Thursday **16 July 2020** from **5:00pm to 6:00pm**

The same ID will be used for all of the above meetings. If for some reason you are unable to join the meeting for your daughter's bubble, please join another meeting. To access google meet you can download the app on a mobile phone or tablet or via the web browser at <https://meet.google.com/>
The ID for our meetings is meet.google.com/axa-ttqy-zck

We appreciate that you and your daughter may be feeling anxious about returning. We intend to do all that we can to ensure all students are well supported and nurtured back into school life, given the huge emotional and educational challenges that many of them will have faced during this time.

When we return in September, we will have a staggered start to support the reintegration of all students. Each year group will have a bespoke induction programme focusing on wellbeing and returning to school. It will be important for us to help the students feel as safe and as comfortable as possible after being away for such a long time as a consequence of such an unprecedented event.

A more detailed letter with all the arrangements for the start of the new academic year will be sent to you in the coming weeks. A copy of the letter will also be on the school website.

If your child is in Year 11 or 13 you will receive a separate letter detailing how examination results will be shared. It will outline how to enrol for St Martin's 6th form and give advice to Year 13 students on securing a place at University.

It has been a long and demanding few months and we have missed the students very much. We are all looking forward to September when once again we will see the excitement of learning, hear the laughter and feel the love of the St Martin's community as we continue on our educational journey to be inspired to learn and ambitious for the future.

On behalf of the school community can I thank you for all of the schooling and support you have provided for your daughters over the last few months. You have worked hard, and we know it cannot have been easy to navigate your way through the curriculum and keep them motivated and engaged during this difficult time. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff for their hard work and commitment to you and your daughters and wish them all a peaceful and restful holiday.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings later this week and end with a poignant quote.

"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed, to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about". Haruki Murakami.

Best wishes



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher