



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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Monday 23 March 2020

YEAR 11 CLASS OF 2015 '#I CAN AND I WILL, WATCH ME'

Dear Year 11 Students

As a year group, you were 'climbing the mountain' and on this climb you were taking the required steps to reach the summit. Taking your exams and celebrating the results in August, that was the summit!. I can imagine how you felt when you closed your eyes on Tuesday night and woke up on Wednesday morning to the news that you would no longer be taking the exams you were working so hard for.

You were all working toward your personal goals and your Year 11 motto #I can, and I will, watch me. I can only imagine how each and every one of you must have felt on Thursday and Friday, the last two days, which culminated in a sudden and abrupt end to your secondary school career.

As your Headteacher, I feel disappointed that after all your hard work and progress this year, you have been denied the opportunity to demonstrate your academic progress in the summer written examinations. However, I have said to you many times that 'education is not all about tests and exams'. It's about you, having a good character with a strong moral code, an inquiring mind and the ability to never give up. We started St Martin's together in September 2015, some of you joining a bit later. You are a very special group of students as over the years we have been on a journey of change and success and the impact of this is evident in the love, care and aspiration you have as an entire year group. I have watched you grow and develop into strong, mature, positive, loving young women, fully demonstrating our values of service, compassion, justice and perseverance. I want to pay tribute to you, alongside the staff and governors to the hardworking ambitious young women you have become.

I know Friday must have felt very strange and not all of you were in school. It was hard for me to talk to you in the last assembly we had, the last time I will see you wearing your uniform, and knowing that I will not see you in the summer to celebrate your exam results as other year 11's have. I had tears in my eyes, just like I have as I write this letter to you. However, you have a portfolio of excellent work, some positive on going assessment grades and PPE results that will all be used, alongside teacher assessment, which is now going to contribute to the assessment of your final exam outcomes.

The Government have shared some initial information about how this will happen, you can read more at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#)

I will inform you of the date that results will be available for collection. I will also let you know how to enrol for our 6th Form. We will keep our website up to date so please check on a regular basis. If you have any further queries or concerns, please email me at: headteacher@stmartins.academy

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



We will not let you leave St Martin's without having a proper 'send off'. When I know the date that school will be re-opening, I arrange a date for your leaving assembly and prom and get the details to you all. You now have a few months to continue your studies to prepare yourself for the next stage of your educational journey in the 6th Form. Think about how you are going to use your time. You will not be able to go to museums or use the public library. Set yourself a strict routine and a timetable to manage your time effectively.

- read a little everyday, particularly online newspapers
- complete the work set by your subject teachers on google classroom
- continue to develop your cultural capital and follow current affairs
- exercise
- keep a journal of reflections, your school career at St Martin's your ambitions for the next five

years

- stay safe

Should you be finding the current world affairs situation worrying, please speak to an adult. You can also visit informative websites such as BBC News round, Young minds, Child line.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

We are in unprecedented times, but you will look back on this period in your later life and remember how it shaped you as a person to continue to persevere and remain 'Inspired to Learn and Ambitious for the Future'. You will remember the good times, the times when there were tears, the laughter and the friendships you have made that will last a lifetime. You have played a vital part in the journey and success of St Martin's as a school community that has high aspirations and makes a difference. This was recognised and endorsed in May 2018 when Ofsted inspectors said 'the motto of the school Caritate et Disciplina - With Love and Learning is driven by all staff in a common endeavour to improve pupils' life chances'.

We are always here for you and #we know you can, we know you will, and we will be watching you continue on your journey to success. Remember, 'once a St Martin's Girl, always a St Martin's Girl'.

With every blessing



Mrs Stanislaus
Headteacher