



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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

*Service Compassion Justice Perseverance*

Thursday 27 May 2021

Dear Families

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing this letter to you as we lead into the half term holiday. Students in Years 7 to 12 finish today, (Thursday 27 May). Years 11 and 13 are in school tomorrow sitting their final assessments, and in the afternoon we are having a celebratory lunch and farewell assembly.

As I often do, I apologise in advance for the length of this letter. I have set this letter out with subheadings to make it easier to read, so please stay with me until the end! There are some important changes for the next half term which have already been shared with the students.

We continue to receive notification from families about the sad loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief and sorrow. Please do contact us if there is anything we can do to support and please visit our [bereavement section](#) on our website for organisations who can also offer support at this difficult time.

## Changes to procedures from 7 June 2021

As we slowly begin to come out of the restrictions, we are making some changes, in line with the government road map. We want our students to be in school learning and are making changes to support this. Additionally, students will now be wearing full school uniform 5 days a week and bring their PE kit with them. For now, until we have further guidance from the government, students will remain in bubbles. See the changes below for the year group which relates to your child.

Year Group	Area of change	What the change will be
<b>All Year groups 7 to 10</b>	PE lesson days	Students will come to school wearing their uniform and <b>bring their PE kit to change in school.</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Departure	Period 6 lessons will be extended and departure will now be <b>2.45pm</b> (currently 2.30pm).
<b>Year 8</b>	Departure	Period 6 lessons will be extended and departure will now be <b>2.45pm</b> (currently 2.30pm).
<b>Year 9</b>	Arrival	Students are expected to be in school from <b>8.25am</b> ready for registration and tutor period that will <b>start at 8.30am.</b>
	Departure	Period 6 lessons will be extended and departure will now be at <b>3.00pm</b> (currently 2.45pm).
<b>Year 10</b>	Arrival	Students are expected to be in school from <b>8.25am</b> ready for registration and tutor period that will start at <b>8.30am.</b>

## Uniform - Dress Code

Can I be honest with you and say that it is exhausting to have to constantly challenge students about not adhering to our dress code. I do also have to say this does not apply to the majority of students who are adhering to our expectations.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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**WITH LOVE AND LEARNING**



However, we have recently been spending a disproportionate amount of time dealing with non uniform issues that take us away from supporting our key priority of teaching and learning. A growing number of students are coming to school wearing incorrect uniform, hoodies, trainers, multiple earrings, acrylic nails and fresh body piercings. Please also refer to our [dress code](#) on the school website for clarity about our uniform expectations.

We appreciate some families may have hardship at this time, we are here to support, please contact the school if you require financial support and we will aim to help where we can.

In addition students openly have their phones out and wear earpods and this becomes an issue when staff members, who are following our procedures, attempt to confiscate. Please remind your child of the rules and support us on our return to school after half term.

### **Loan of electronic device (Laptop, Chromebook, Router)**

As a result of the government's laptop scheme we were able to distribute 150 devices to students. We are now collecting these back in and over the next few weeks your child will be asked to return, in good condition, the device that was loaned to them. We will stock check the devices and have them available to use in school and to loan out again in the new academic year as the need arises.

### **Contact Tracing during May Half-term**

The government made the following statement regarding contact tracing during half term . Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

- Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate
- There will be no pupil contact tracing beyond **Thursday 3 June 2021**.

If your case meets the criteria in **bullet point 2**, which is, your child has tested positive **within the first 48 hours of being in school**, use the dedicated St Martin's coronavirus email address [covid@stmartins.academy](mailto:covid@stmartins.academy) and you will be contacted. Alternatively you can call the coronavirus dedicated mobile number **07753 498688** however, email is preferable. Please also follow the NHS covid guidance for testing and self isolation as well as contacting the school.

Please be aware that if we receive confirmation of a positive case, we may have to get in touch with families of a particular year group for track and trace if your child is identified as a school close contact. Please refer to [Covid-19 updates](#) on how a close contact is identified. As a close contact, your child will then be required to self isolate in accordance with government guidelines.

### **Twice Weekly LFD testing**

Following my previous letter you will be aware that we did have a single positive case in the school, therefore it is essential that everyone continues to carry out the twice weekly testing. Please continue to support your child to do this and to report the results to the NHS and to the school. If your child needs more tests, they can request these from Student Services.

Should your child test positive with an LFD test, it is important to get a confirmatory PCR test. To make this easier, Lambeth has provided all secondary schools with PCR test kits to keep at home and use should it be necessary. This will prevent the need to visit a test centre.

Your child will be given a PCR test kit today with a letter from Lambeth and some additional LFD tests if they require them. The letter will also be sent separately via parentmail.

A reminder that if your child or anyone in your household has tested positive or is waiting for the results of a test, the entire household must self isolate. This is very important, **please do not send your child into school until the result has been confirmed as negative**. Should it be positive, the entire household must self isolate for 10 days in accordance with government guidance.

#### **Free School Meals**

Thanks to Lambeth LA they will provide vouchers for free school meals during May half term. You will receive a total of £16.50 for each eligible child, the e voucher will come from Wonde.

#### **Free Information Sessions for Parents/Carers - Kooth**

Kooth is a professional service designed to support the wellbeing and resilience of young people and is available for 10-25 year olds in South East London. We have been working with Kooth and in the past, this organisation has come into school and delivered assemblies to our students.

Kooth is running free online parent information sessions in June. The sessions are designed to help you understand how Kooth can support your child with their mental health and wellbeing. You will receive a separate letter giving you details on how to register for the free sessions. Kooth has also produced a short video clip, [Don't do it alone](#), a new campaign for young people.

#### **Lambeth Children and Young People Readers and Writers Festival**

An exciting event for your child to get involved in during half term. This is an online Readers and Writers festival with a range of events and activities for children and Young people starting on 1 June 2021. This is the first Lambeth Library festival specifically dedicated to children and young people over 12 years. The guide for this festival can be accessed on the [letters page](#) of our website and you can book an event through [Lambeth Libraries Events](#).

A reminder that school is **closed to students on Monday 7 June 2021** for a staff Professional Development Day. They will **return on Tuesday 8 June 2021**, following any new timings that have been outlined in this letter as related to the year group of your child.

Thank you for your ongoing support and the continuous kind words, they have kept us going during what remains a challenging time for us all! Please keep in touch with all that we are doing by visiting the [latest news](#) on our website and the [covid updates](#) page. You will also find all of the letters and additional documents on the [letters page](#) on our website.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful half term. The forecast for the weather will be dry, sunny and warm too, hooray!

Best wishes



Beverley Stanislaus  
Headteacher