

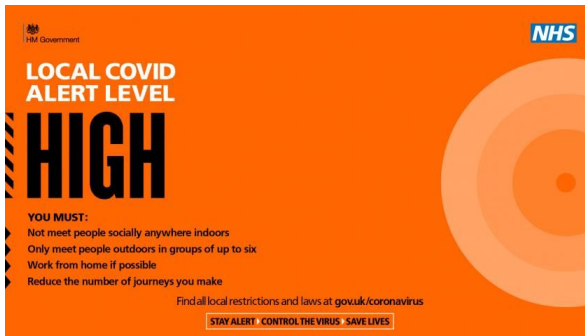


St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Monday 19 October 2020



Dear Families

We have almost come to the end of the first half of the Autumn term and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this very difficult period. Since the return in September, we have been pleased with the attitude and positivity students have shown in adjusting to the new routines and adhering some of the restrictions that are in place to keep us all safe.

It has been a very different experience in school this half term, but students have on the whole settled well and are focused on their learning, appreciating being back in school with their teachers and their friends.

Half Term Dates

So that we can plan for any further changes that may affect schools, we will have two staff professional development days. This means students will **break up** for half term on **Wednesday 21 October 2020**. We will all **return** on **Monday 2 November 2020**.

Tier 2 Restrictions

You will no doubt know that from midnight on Friday 16 October, London was placed in Tier 2 restrictions and is now in **HIGH** alert. The new restrictions mean that different households should not mix indoors and that socialising outdoors is limited to 6 people, which includes children. This will mean that during half term you ensure that your child does not mix indoors with others who are not a member of the household, likewise, does not meet up with groups of friends outside the permitted number. We all need to be responsible and adhere to these new restrictions, we have to look after one another and do what we can to minimise the risk of transmission of this contagious virus.

Face Coverings

When your child returns after half term, we will be in the full grip of the Tier 2 restrictions and it means that students in all London Secondary Schools will continue to be required to wear face coverings when moving around indoors but not in lessons. Students should have at least two face coverings (kept in a plastic bag) one to use on public transport, and one for use in school in areas where social distancing is not possible, for example corridors and communal areas. Face coverings can be the wear once disposable or a fabric type that is washed daily.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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

St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

Registered Number 07984073. Registered office: 155 Tulse Hill, London SW2 3UP

WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



Today, I did a virtual presentation to the whole school and explained that students will need to wear a face covering in school from **today** onwards, until further notice. We provided some students with a disposable face covering, but expect that all students will come prepared tomorrow, as wearing a face covering in communal areas for staff, students and all visitors is now **COMPULSORY**.

If your child has a health, anxiety, physical or hidden disability reason for not wearing a face covering you should let their Progress Leader know, and also send an email to the school so that we can have this on our records to inform the staff of this exemption. We want to also reassure you that members of staff will not ask a student why they are exempt. Please visit the government website for further information [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own](#).

It is really important that face coverings are worn correctly and you provide clear instructions to your child on how to wear it to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. [How to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#) Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching , including to remove or put them on, and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. We have reinforced, and will continue to reinforce these instructions in school.

The Tier 2 restrictions that have now been put in place will be reviewed by the government after one month, so about mid November. We will also be able to review the use of face coverings based on the government's next steps.

Please be assured, the safety, health and wellbeing of our school community is paramount. We are doing all that we can to mitigate the risks and our risk assessment will be reviewed and updated in light of these new changes. I will let you know when the updated version of our risk assessment is available on our website.

Amendment to the start time for Year 11

After half term, Year 11 students should arrive at school in time for registration at 8.30am. We are reinstating Tutor Period so that we have more time with Year 11 to prepare them for their all important public examinations.

Amendment to the start time for Year 12 and 13

After half term, Year 12 and 13 students should arrive at school in time for registration that will start at 8.30am. We are reinstating Tutor Period to ensure students have a holistic post 16 experience enabling them to prepare more widely for university and apprenticeships.

Wishing you and your family a safe, peaceful and relaxing half term.

Best wishes



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher