



VERITAS

SAINT MARTIN'S

*Catholic Academy*



**Parents  
Guide to  
Saint Martin's**



# An introduction to Saint Martin's Catholic Academy

*Saint Martin's,*

'Learning the **BEST** that has been

**THOUGHT & SAID**

*& knowing that we are loved by* **GOD'**

Our mission is with passion and expertise, to teach children about the most important, fascinating or inspiring concepts that are known; enabling pupils to become superb mathematicians, well-read English scholars, philosophers, Historians, musically creative or learned in which ever area we teach.

More important is knowing that God loves us and our task is also to make that love known to each pupil in our care. At the heart of Catholic Education is the belief that every child is created by God for some special purpose. Our task as educators is to enable pupils to grow and develop their talents, to thrive in this life that God has given them. This is not always easy and requires us to love, forgive, to set uncompromising standards, to be tenacious and go the extra mile for each child in our care.

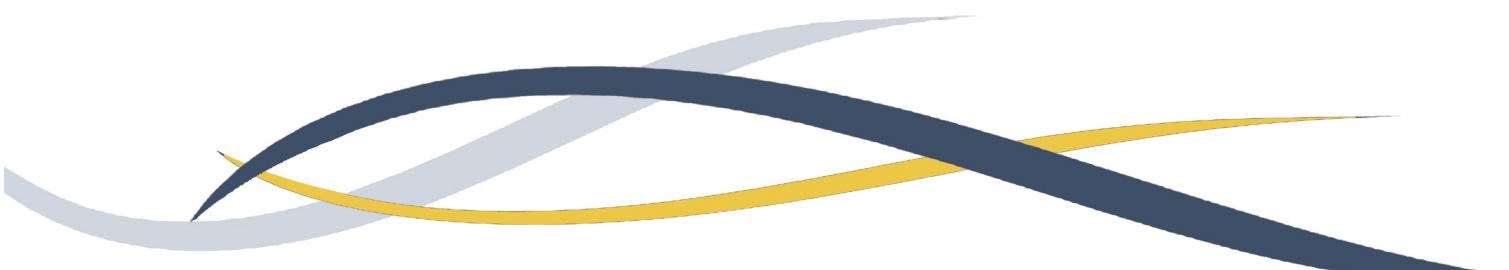
We are immeasurably grateful to all of our community who subscribe to our mission and vision to provide a Christian education for our young people. We have created this Bootcamp booklet for parents/carers so that you are given all the information you need to fully support your child in their transition to secondary school life. We have attempted to cover all the queries that have been raised by previous cohorts but please speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

Our ethos is inspired by our origins, our school was originally founded in the 1940's by the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena based in King William's Town, South Africa. This history of providing a traditional high quality education, founded on Christian beliefs and values still runs deep within Saint Martin's life and ethos.

We set and maintain exceptionally high standards for pupil effort and behaviour. All students are expected to be well behaved, polite, charming and kind at all times. No excuses. The senior leadership team will support staff in maintaining these standards and expect to be called upon if needed.

Allied to our Christian ethos is a belief in social justice and that every pupil, from whatever background or ability, is entitled to a high quality Education. We believe that every pupil, when taught expertly, can achieve. This is achieved through calling upon the best research as to what makes for effective learning and expressed in a strong emphasis on the teacher as the expert and a knowledge rich curriculum.

We have developed a Knowledge rich curriculum, designed to develop memory and a student's ability to recall information. Intelligence is malleable, in other words, pupils who put in more effort, who practise, who learn and memorise more ideas and knowledge, become more intelligent than those who do not. Individual facts are of little use; however, if you acquire more factual knowledge, you are able to build a mosaic of information that is a prerequisite for deep understanding. In essence, the more you know, the more you are able to learn and understand. Knowledge is like Velcro, the more you have, the more that sticks.





# Catholic Life

Every day at Saint Martin's we strive 'to draw out the best' in the young people we teach. Not only in our lessons by 'teaching them the best that has been thought and said' but in our tutor groups, on trips and even in the corridors.

At Saint Martin's this is fundamentally underpinned by Gospel values . We have special occasions when small groups, classes, Year Groups or the whole school gather together for religious celebrations. These celebrations may be led by a Priest, visitor or a member of staff.

We want everyone to feel welcome and a part of every celebration.

## **ACTS OF WORSHIP**

We have an Act of Worship everyday, either in House Groups or in Assembly. The theme for Act of Worship is taken from the themes for the week and follow the Church Year. Students are encouraged to take part in leading the Acts of Worship. Prayers we use include our School Prayer, the Our Father and a prayer asking Mary as the mother of Jesus to help us become closer to God – we call this prayer The Hail Mary.

## **MASS**

We have whole school masses, several a Year. This is a very special and prayerful occasion when Jesus Christ is present to us in the Eucharist, and the body and blood of Christ that the Priest has blessed. Catholics who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Holy Communion) may take Communion. Those who are not receiving Communion should place their right hand on their left shoulder, bow their head and the minister will give a blessing.

All students participate in Acts of worship and liturgies. There will be lots of opportunities to be involved and create these liturgies which are student led. During the school year we also raise money and have charity events for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) and local charities including the Foodbank.



# Supporting your child in Year 7

There are so many exciting opportunities in Year 7. It is a real chance for students to explore new subjects and get stuck into all manner of extra-curricular activities, such as sports and enrichment clubs, or joining the school council, not to mention making new friends. So even before they start, it's worth talking to them about throwing themselves into school life and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Once they have joined us, a key way to support your child is to encourage them to take responsibility for their own school life. It will be helpful if you initially assist them with packing school bags each evening and getting into good routines, but encourage your child to take ownership when they are ready. Have them pack their bag the night before and you check to make sure everything is in it.

They will need only their things for that day, not all of their school equipment:

***Planner (will be given at school)***

***Pencil case- black pen, green pen, ruler, rubber, pencil, calculator (minimum)***

***USB memory stick***

***Prep book (will be given at school)***

***Reading Book***

***Knowledge Organiser Folder***

***Book for lessons 1 (will be given at school)***

***Book for lessons 2 (will be given at school)***

***Book for lessons 3 (will be given at school)***

***Book for lessons 4 (will be given at school)***

***Book for lessons 5 (will be given at school)***

***Drink and Snack/Lunch/ Money for food***

It's a good idea to have a copy of their timetable in a central place, so you can check what needs to be brought to school each day. Try and work out a weekly routine, look at their planner and check homework together and agree when independent study will be completed, then help or quiz them when needed. Ensure that your child has a quiet place to complete their homework away from distractions such as phones or tablets. Have a box/drawer/place at home to keep booklets/books that they do not need to take to school with them.

Have their uniform out ready the night before so that the morning is a calm time to prepare for the day, not rushing looking for clothes. Remind them we have uniform rules because we are training them to be professional in their adult working life. If they come to school looking unprofessional (ties and top buttons undone, jackets round your waist, skirts rolled up, shirts untucked, grotty trainers, over-tight trousers), people (employers) will assume that they will conduct themselves in the same way. Teach them to have pride in their appearance.



## Supporting your child in Year 7 cont.

Moving around for lessons is something new for most Year 7 children and as a result uniform and equipment can easily get mislaid; our lost property pile grows and grows as the year progresses. So please ensure that all clothing and equipment is clearly named (both names) and encourage your child to keep track of their belongings.

Do also please remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone it must be switched off and kept in their locker throughout the school day. Smartphones, smartwatches and phones with cameras are not permitted at school and will be confiscated if discovered; we would appreciate your support enforcing this rule, which we have implemented with our students' wellbeing in mind. If you need to contact them call the school office.

Finally, it may sound obvious but it is really important to talk to your child and listen to them. Try and build in time for talking about what's going on at school, support them in improving their resilience, how to accept that when teachers give you constructive criticism, it's intended to help you improve (in lessons and in behaviour).



## Saint Theresa's Pastoral Care and SEND Department

In the time that your child spends with us at Saint Martin's Catholic Academy, they will become aware of a part of the school called: St Theresa's. This is our welcoming Pastoral area and SEND department which support students with Special Educational Needs. Your child might never need the support of this department but there might also be times when they need some extra help, for example, they may need some emotional support for their mental health or they might be struggling to keep up in class and want to explore what is on offer to help.

Students might already know that they will want support from our Pastoral and SEND Team and we look forward to working with them. You may find that your child never needs this support but it is always good to know that there is a team of approachable and skilled Learning Support Assistants and teachers here to offer help, guidance and support if and when needed.

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to drop in and talk to us.

**Mrs Kelly SENDCO**

**Mrs Hunt Pastoral Support Officer and Assistant SENDCO**



# Safeguarding

*Saint Martin's is a safeguarding community where:*

***'Everyone sees Everyone hears Everyone is responsible'***

Saint Martin's is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support all families if they are in need. We are committed to working with parents and carers positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents and carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. Similarly, staff will not tolerate any abusive, violent or aggressive behaviour towards them. We respect parents and carers' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard a child from harm.

**The Designated Safeguarding Team are:**

Mr Gray, Mr Del Busso, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Abela, Mrs Thompson, Mr Blissett & Mrs Chapman.

**The Safeguarding Governor is:** Leo Burton

## Safeguarding policies

The School's safeguarding policy; Health and Safety policy and E-Safety policy are all available on the school's website ([www.saint-martins.net](http://www.saint-martins.net)) or from the main office.

## Main Principles

- ◆ The school will ensure that the welfare of children is given paramount consideration when developing and delivering all school activity.
- ◆ All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- ◆ All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm in accordance with this guidance.
- ◆ All pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support from the senior management of the school who will follow this policy guidance in doing so.

## Notifying parents/carers

The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a child with their parents or carers. This will be handled sensitively and the DSL will make contact with the parent or carers in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure. However, if the school believes that notifying parents or carers could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from an external agency. A lack of parental engagement or agreement regarding the concerns the school has about a child will not prevent the DSL making a referral to Children's Services in those circumstances where it is appropriate to do so.

**In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, the school requires parents and carers to provide accurate and up to date information regarding:**

- ◆ **Full names and contact details of all adults with whom the child normally lives;**
- ◆ **Full names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different)**
- ◆ **Emergency contact details (if different from above);**
- ◆ **Full details of any other adult authorised by the parent/carer to collect the child from school (if different from the above).**
- ◆ **Up to date medical and disability information**
- ◆ **Parents/carers are encouraged to share information of external agency involvement prior to admission to our school.**

The School will retain this information on the pupil file. The school will only share information about pupils with adults who have parental responsibility for a pupil or where a parent has given permission and the school has been supplied with the adult's full details in writing.



# Supporting Organisation Helplines

All students will have access to this support information in their school planner.

**Health for Teens**—07520 615387  
[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk)

**Childline**—0800 1111  
[www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline)

**Youngminds**—Supporting all aspects of young people’s mental health  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**Youngminds crisis messenger**—text YM to 85258  
This is a crisis text helpline for young adults experiencing a mental health crisis.  
Free, confidential support 24/7.  
[www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help)

**NSPCC**—0808 800 5000  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/self-harm](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/self-harm)

**Harmless**—support for self harm and low mood  
[www.harmless.org.uk](http://www.harmless.org.uk)

**Kooth**—free online support until 10pm  
[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

**B-eat**—support for eating disorders  
[www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

**Papyrus**—suicidal thoughts  
[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

**Turning Point**—support for alcohol and drugs  
[www.turning-point.co.uk](http://www.turning-point.co.uk)

**Calm Harm App** - an app designed to help people resist or manage the urge to self-harm.  
[www.calmharm.co.uk](http://www.calmharm.co.uk)

**Stem4**—a charity that supports positive mental health in teenagers .  
[www.stem4.org.uk](http://www.stem4.org.uk)





# Attendance Expectations

The better a child's attendance the better their outcomes will be at GCSE, the reverse is also true, poor attendance has a huge impact on a child's success in school. "Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school. The Government expects schools to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence, ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled and act early to address patterns of absence. Parents/carers are expected to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at Saint Martin's Catholic Academy attend regularly and arrive to school on time". **DfE guidelines, 2016**

At Saint Martin's Catholic Academy our ethos is one of commitment to the improvement of attendance within the school. There is clear evidence that students whose attendance is higher have a greater opportunity to secure their full potential, in terms of both their emotional and academic progress. A clear link has been established between good attendance, progress and the best exam results for future choices whether they are applying for university, apprenticeships or work.

As with every aspect of Saint Martin's we have the highest expectations of our students and therefore we expect all to strive for 100% attendance. We review the attendance of all our students weekly and will provide you with attendance letters if your child's attendance becomes a cause for concern. Consequently, we like to work closely with parents/carers, knowing your continued support will enable your child to ensure that they have the best opportunity to attend and to achieve.

There are a number of ways that parents/carers can assist in this:

- Where possible, make all appointments after school hours. Your child's attendance is crucial during morning and afternoon registration.
- Refrain from taking your child out for holidays in term time, in line with Government legislation
- In the case of illness, send your child to school unless it is contagious. If you are in doubt, please contact our attendance officer (option 1). After the third consecutive day of illness you will need to provide medical evidence.


As always, we appreciate your co-operation, working together to ensure the best possible future for your child.



## Pastoral care

Pastoral care is part of every pupil's entitlement in their school life. It can be defined as the promotion of pupils' personal and social development and the fostering of positive attitudes to school, learning, other members of the community and oneself. Pastoral care is central to academic achievement. A child who is emotionally and physically healthy is better able to reach their full potential. The school is a community in which each person is valued as an individual.

The form tutor has prime duty of care for the members of their form, being the first port of call for concerns relating to your child. If you have specific questions relating to a certain department then the form tutor will be able to direct you.



## Things to know

The school looks to educate our young people to make positive and healthy choices at all times and has a structured assembly based around pastoral themes to achieve this.

**Equipment For lessons-** All students should be equipped to work every day with a pencil case containing black/blue pens, pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, a ruler, a green pen. A scientific calculator may also be required for certain lessons. If a student does not have these basic items then they may receive a behaviour point. Replacement items can be bought during the school day from the main office.

**Arrangements for Pick up after school / during the day-** we receive a lot of messages regarding changes to pick up routines which can be a timely task. Could we ask that where possible, arrangements are made before the school day with your child.

**Trips-** all are booked through our Parent Pay system. Places are usually allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Some trips can become oversubscribed and places maybe decided based on behaviour and attendance.

**Lost property-** items should kept in lockers at all times. Any items found around the school will be handed into the main office for 48 hours and then will taken to either the PE department or premises office. We would advise placing name tags in all items.

**Contact details-** please ensure your child writes up to date contact numbers written in planners so that if they need to contact home this can do done quickly.

**Sets-** your child will be placed in teaching set for the core subjects. The reason for their setting is based on their KS2 data as well as the baseline tests that they have completed during their transition days.

# School Systems and Communications

In order to communicate with parents effectively for all manner of things from trips to school reports we, as a school, subscribe to a number of online portals. To receive the most up to date information from the school please ensure you have access to the following services, and activate your accounts. If you have any issues accessing your accounts please contact the school office after the Summer break on 01455 212386.

**Our phone lines are open 8.30am—4pm Monday—Friday, term time only.**



Saint Martin's use **Arbor** as a database for all personal student information such as emergency contact details, medical needs and parental consent. You are able to access and update some of this data for your child via the **Arbor Parent App**. The App also allows you to view your child's timetable and see any Merit and Demerit marks that they have been awarded.

You can download the **Arbor Parent App** from their website and log in using your email address supplied to the school during the application process back in March.



**ParentPay** is an online payment and communication service that enables parents to pay for items such as school trips, non-uniform days and locker hire etc, quickly and securely. We also currently use ParentPay for regular school communications, such as school letters, email and text. It's important to activate your account in the Autumn term to ensure that you are kept up to date with all school related activity. Your username and Password will be provided by the school in August.



We use **Go 4 Schools** to track student academic progress throughout their time here at Saint Martins. This progress is communicated to parents in a termly school report. Each parent will be given details of how to create a Go4Schools account enabling them to view their child's progress via their school report. The reports can be downloaded and saved or printed for use in the future. The school do not send home paper copies of the school report. Parent's will be notified when a new report has been uploaded and is available to view. Your account will be accessible via the **Go 4 Schools website** and not the mobile app, further details will be sent home in the Autumn term.



**Satchel:one** is a simple online homework calendar your child can use to keep up to date with all of their homework. Teachers will assign your child's homework via Satchel: one and it will give you all of the information and tools to get involved and support your child. Also it can be accessed online and through the **Satchel:one app** on iOS or Android.

# Uniform Expectations

**Swifts** in Hinckley and **Hole in the Wall** are stockists of our uniform. Other suppliers are available to purchase uniform items from, however all items worn must adhere to our strict uniform policy. We have the **highest expectations** regarding **school uniform**, **behaviour** and **work ethic and there will be zero tolerance of any non compliance**. Where there is pride in appearance and good behaviour, by implication, there is a **positive attitude** to learning. If a student chooses not to adhere to our School Uniform Policy then sanctions will apply. Which can include after school detentions and inclusions.

## May we remind all parents and students of the following:

- Shirts must be tucked in at all times and ALL buttons fully fastened.
- Ties done up properly.
- Skirts must be knee length
- Trousers cannot be skinny fit.
- Blazers always worn, unless permission is given to remove it.
- Jewellery of any description may not be worn in school, including earrings. This rule applies to girls and boys. Watches may be worn.
- Extremes of hairstyle, including unnatural colours or shaved sides, are not permitted. The Principal will be the final arbiter of what counts as 'extreme'.
- Make-up (including thick eye brows) or nail varnish must not be worn in the Academy. If make-up or nail varnish is used, students will be asked to remove it. False, acrylic, or gel nails are not allowed for health and safety reasons.

## SHOES

**PLAIN BLACK LEATHER, ACADEMY TYPE.  
MUST BE POLISHABLE.**

We expect all pupils to wear school shoes in line with our uniform guidelines.

The guidelines on shoes is being strictly enforced. Please see the examples shown if you are unsure about acceptable shoe styles.

If you have any queries about the Academy Uniform Policy please see the school website for clarification, or contact the school office.



Plain black shoes that can be polished.



No trainer style, canvas, elaborate decoration, Velcro or high heels.



# Uniform Expectations - PE Kit

## GIRLS



### Mandatory

Royal blue SM skort or shorts  
Royal blue SM polo shirt  
Royal blue SM sweatshirt or hoodie  
Plain royal blue football socks  
Indoor and Outdoor Trainers  
Pack of hair bobbles (to be kept in PE bag)

### Optional

Black SM leggings  
Football boots  
Shin pads

## BOYS



### Mandatory

Royal blue SM shorts  
Royal blue SM long sleeved rugby top  
Royal blue SM polo shirt  
Plain royal blue football socks  
Indoor and Outdoor Trainers  
Football boots

### Optional

Royal blue SM hoodie  
Black SM tracksuit bottoms  
Shin pads

**All PE kit MUST have initials on.**

**This MUST be done at either Hole in the Wall or Swifts.**



# Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones are an integral part of the modern world and we know that the majority of students will own a mobile phone. They are useful for parents/carers outside of school so that you can keep in touch with your children at all times. However we would recommend a basic phone that does not give a child access to social media (See below). At Saint Martin's students must turn their mobile phones off once they arrive on the school premises and ensure they are placed in their lockers until the end of the day. There are rare circumstances where subjects may require students to have their phones i.e. certain food technology lessons.

**Apart from this there will be zero tolerance and phones will be confiscated for a minimum of 24 hours and must be collected by a parent/carer.**

If a student has forgotten their locker key they can hand their phone into the main reception for safekeeping.

## Social media use

Social Media is damaging to a child's mental health ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55826238](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55826238)). We frequently highlight the dangers of social media and smart phones as the majority of abuse, bullying, sexual exploitation and other damaging incidents, especially out of school, involve social media. Unfortunately, the majority of our students will have social media accounts (despite most having a minimum age of 13) so we recommend parents dissuade or put controls on their use. We will offer lots of advice on E-Safety and we would ask parents/carers to check your child's internet use regularly to ensure that they are not putting themselves at risk. Cyberbullying has become an issue nationally since the mergence of Social Media and the school will not tolerate unpleasant behaviour of any kind towards our students. Whether in school or not, the school can and will impart sanctions if a member of our community is found to be cyberbullying. **Please contact a member of staff if you have any concerns.**

## Sanctions

As a parent / carer of a Saint Martin's students we appreciate your full support in maintaining exceptional standards of behaviour by ensuring your child understands and adheres to all of our school rules and policies. Any sanctions that occur from poor behaviour, lacking equipment, incorrect uniform etc. are the sole responsibility of the students. **There is no option to opt out of after school detentions**, whether they be same or next day, if this sanction is used. Saint Martin's also holds no responsibility for getting students home if we put them in detention as per Section 5 of the 1997 Education Act in choosing a school that uses this form of sanction you are agreeing to support its use when deemed necessary.



# Behaviour Expectations

At Saint Martin's, we believe that children thrive when there are high expectations of their behaviour, and when there is recognition of excellent effort. Every child has the *right* to be educated in an environment that is safe, respectful and conducive to learning, and a *responsibility* to try their best in order to fulfil their potential.

**Kindness — Good Manners — Hard Work**

## Merits

To acknowledge and encourage maximum effort, Merits are issued when students excel in terms of attitude, whether it be in how they complete a piece of work or how they represent the school in an extra-curricular activity. Each week, Form Tutors will share a 'Wall of Fame' with their group, celebrating the efforts of the highest achievers. Students among the top three achievers for their year group in a given week receive a congratulatory letter, while the very highest achiever also receives a voucher that can be exchanged for a snack in the canteen. Of course, such acknowledgements should not serve as the main motivator for trying hard. By keeping acknowledgements quite simple, however, it is hoped that they can offer gentle encouragement without diverting students from the reality that learning and personal development provide their own rewards.

## Demerits

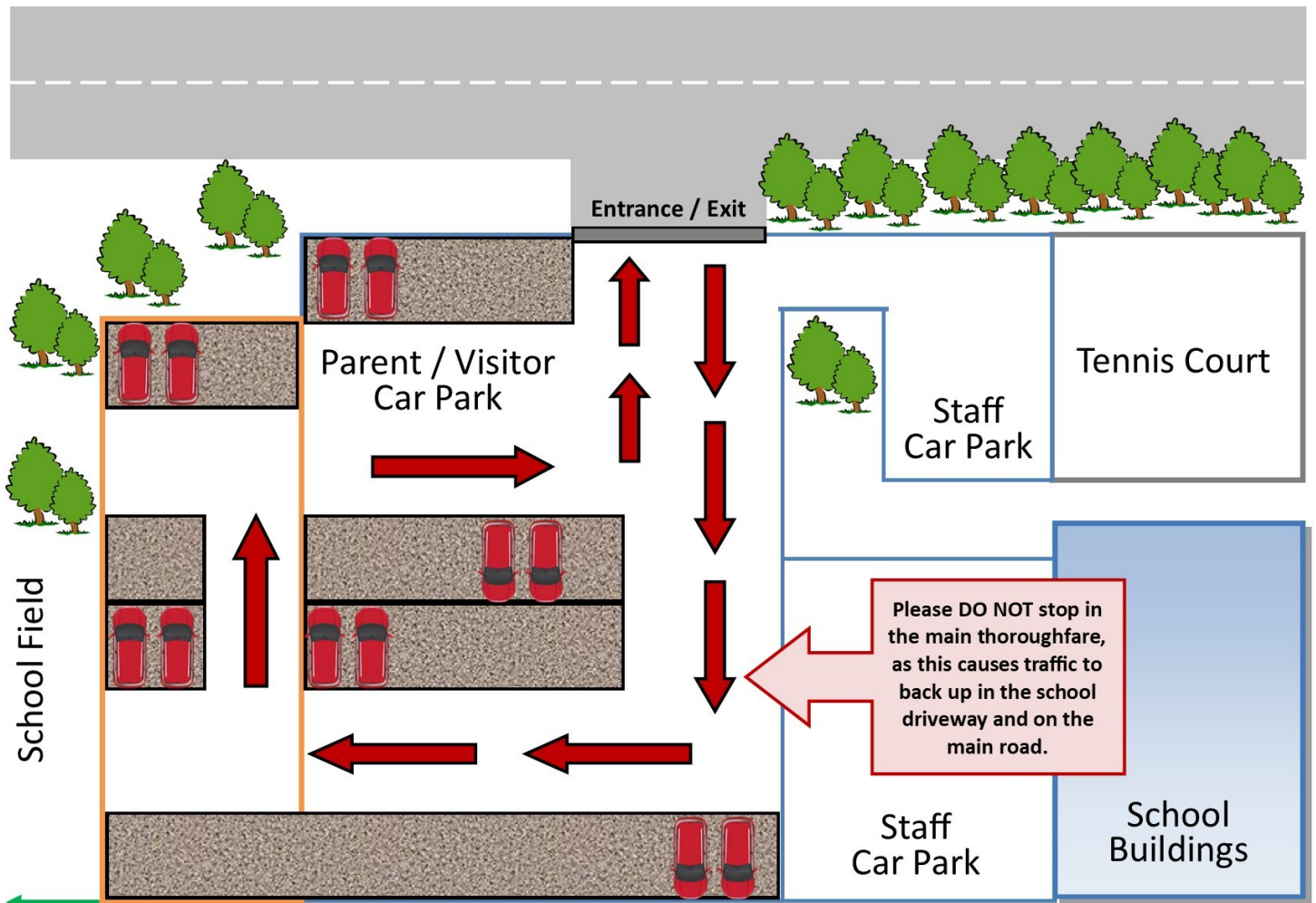
As well as Merits, we also issue Demerits when a student does not try as hard as they should, and when behaviour harms the well-being or learning of others. For relatively minor misdemeanours, a student might receive just one or two Demerits. Such points would **not** necessarily be issued because the student has *misbehaved*, as such, but rather because there is an aspect of their approach to school (e.g. organisation) that needs to be tweaked, and the Demerits serve to flag this. Repeated or more serious misdemeanours can carry up to five Demerits – in such cases, a student would typically be set a sanction (e.g. an after-school detention) for the incident. Sanctions are also issued each week for students who receive five or more Demerits for incidents that did not trigger an immediate sanction. The severity of the sanction set in this scenario is affected by the number of Demerits the student has received that week, and how many they have received in total. At Saint Martin's, we exercise the option given to all schools to issue sanctions that take place after school – **parents should be advised that such sanctions do not require parental approval**. By choosing Saint Martin's you are expected to support our behaviour expectations, there is no option to 'opt out' of detentions. Through the consistent application of Demerits and sanctions, a safe and productive learning environment is maintained that is in the interests of all in the Saint Martin's community.

**A SIMS app exists to enable parents to monitor the Merits and Demerits given to their child. Access details will be provided early in the academic year.**

# Parking, Transport & Security

Being such a rural school, many parents/carers need to pick up their sons or daughters by car. The logistics of getting so many cars on and off site within 20 minutes or so is a challenge. Although we have significantly expanded the parking facilities, we are still tight on space. We rely on the patience and politeness of drivers, so your co-operation is greatly appreciated. For drivers who park in the surrounding roads, please be aware of local residents who need constant access to Convent Drive and the other side roads. We are due to have a new entrance and exit system by next year which will speed up traffic. The current carpark layout is below.

The gates will close automatically at 9.00am each morning and re-open at 3.00pm (2pm on Mondays) ready for you to collect your child. If for any reason you do need to visit the school during the day, you can use the intercom which connects you with the School Office staff who can then let you in. **We would appreciate your co-operation with not trying to gain access to the car park before 3.00pm when collecting your child, to maintain security and ensure the safety of our students.**







## Parking, Transport & Security

Many of our students live in Stoke Golding and the surrounding villages and therefore walk to school. If this is the case for your child please ensure that they do not enter the school via the carpark but instead use the pedestrian entrance on Convent Drive.

For the safety of our students and staff, if your child arrives at school by car, please ensure they **DO NOT** walk across the staff carpark to enter the school building. It is expected that when they exit the car they walk straight towards the pedestrian path that leads toward the Saint Hubert mobiles, from there they make their way towards the main building. Students arriving by bus will be dropped off in the bus loop outside the school ground and will walk through the tennis courts and head towards the Saint Louis entrance.

If you need to collect your child during the school day for any reason please make your way to the school office to sign them out. This is so that registers are accurate and in the event of the fire alarm sounding we know that your child is no longer in the building. Students will not be permitted to leave the school building without a parent or carer collecting them from the front office.

*Beaver bus transport is not provided through the school. Although we do have contact with Beaver bus on occasion, if you have an issue or concern you should raise this directly with Beaver bus and not through the school office. Thank you*



## Parental Contact

Parents / Carers are welcome to contact the school at any time. In the first instance you should speak to your child's Form Tutor if you have any questions or concerns. **Please be considerate of the fact that, in most cases, our Form Tutors are members of teaching staff and will be in lessons for most of the school day as well as having break or lunchtime duty, or be responsible for bus duty after school.** Therefore we kindly ask that you give at least 24 hours for staff to return your call. If the matter requires an urgent response please inform our office staff who will be happy to ensure that your enquiry is dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

**Saint Martin's Catholic Academy is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from abuse.**

**Please respect all of our staff members.**

**Verbal abuse of staff by parents or visitors will not be tolerated and action will be taken if this occurs.**

**For the protection of our staff, phone calls may be recorded.**


# Knowledge Organisers

We know that knowledge and memory underpin learning, confidence and success. That is why we use cutting-edge neuro-scientific findings and research to support memory in all our students. Neuro-scientific research is teaching us to think differently about teaching to maximise learning:

- our **short-term memory can only hold between 4 and 7 items of information** at a time.
- if we do not re-visit that knowledge within **3 days and regularly**, we lose it.
- that's like **learning on a Friday only to have forgotten it by the Monday**. Scary.

## Knowledge Organisers

With the highest expectation for all students, we produce a Knowledge Organiser for every module in all subjects. A Knowledge Organiser sets out the essential 40-50 facts of the module. It is issued at the start of a module and teachers select different sections for students to learn at home and commit to memory. In turn, these facts are secured in class through Knowledge Check-Ins – short, regular, low-stake quizzes that support student learning and memory.




## Geography Knowledge Organiser: Brazil

There are **13** countries in South America and they are listed below with their capital cities...

**Argentina** → Buenos Aires  
**Brazil** → Brasilia  
**Bolivia** → La Paz  
**Chile** → Santiago  
**Colombia** → Bogota  
**Ecuador** → Quito  
**French Guiana** → Cayenne  
**Guyana** → Georgetown  
**Paraguay** → Assuncion  
**Peru** → Lima  
**Suriname** → Paramaribo  
**Uruguay** → Montevideo  
**Venezuela** → Caracas

**Where in the world is Brazil?**  
Brazil is located in the Southern Hemisphere on the continent South America. It shares a border with 10 other South American countries. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the East of Brazil. The Equator runs through the North of Brazil and the Tropic of Capricorn runs through the South of Brazil.

**Did you know?**  
Brazil is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world and it also has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest population.



**Brazil's ecosystems –**

**The Tropical Rainforest** – It covers about 40% of Brazil and teems with plants, animals and insects

**The Caatinga** – Semi-arid (like a desert). The plants here are mainly shrubs with very few trees

**The Mata Atlantica** – 500 years ago the coast was covered in thick forest but most of it has been cut down

**The Pampas** -These are grassy plains. Many cattle ranches are here.

**The Pantanal** – The world's largest swampland

**The Cerrado** – This is savanna

**Some facts about Brazil...**

Language: Portuguese  
Currency: Real  
Population: 206.1 million  
Highest Mountain: Pico de Neblina  
Motto: Order and Progression  
Area: 8.515 million km<sup>2</sup>  
Capital: Brasilia

**Key Terms:**

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** – the total value of all the goods and services produced in a country, in a year

**Life Expectancy** – how many years a new baby can expect to live, on average

**Adult Literacy Rate** – The % of people aged 15 and over who can read and write a simple sentence

**Population Pyramid** – a bar graph showing the population, divided into males and females in different age groups

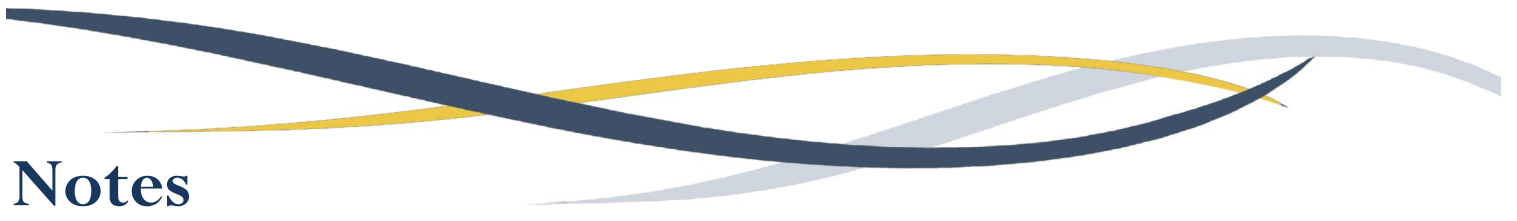
**Undernourished People** - % of the population who don't get enough to eat, and live in hunger.

**Favela** – A collection of shacks built on waste ground, without permission.





# Notes



# Notes