



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the very long term this year, we have had a lovely few weeks with lots of Christmas events to keep our spirits high.

I would like to thank our staff and pupils for another successful term. We get numerous visitors each year and one of the things we get feedback on every time is how lovely, well behaved and charming our pupils are. As well as offering an outstanding academic education with brilliant GCSE results, year after year, we also want our pupils to become confident, charming, eloquent and successful people. This is why we spend a lot of time teaching pupils about the social skills needed to become successful people when they leave school.

This year is our 75th anniversary as a school. The graphic on this page outlines some of the interesting history and origins of our school going back to Africa and our founding by Dominican nuns in 1948. There will be a number of celebrations next year to mark our anniversary. There is more information later in the newsletter.

One of our duties as Christians is to support those most in need, so this term we have had everything from Food Bank and toy collections to visits to local care homes to sing carols. There has also been a lot of fundraising in school from the Prize Draw, Craft Market through to the sponsored Wet the Teacher Competition—Better luck next year Mr Cassidy! Thanks also to Mrs Turvey and Mrs Trotman who organised most of these Festive Fundraising events.

We also had a beautiful Carol Service that Ms Clensy led last week at Saint Pater's Catholic Church in Hinckley. We, at Saint Martin's wish to thank every member of our community that has supported these events.

This term we say goodbye to two members of staff, Mrs Bettoney from our maths department and Mrs Walton who is our Art & Design Technician. We wish them the best of luck in the future.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a happy and holy Christmas, and a happy and successful new year.

C Wright
C Wright
Principal

THE HISTORY OF
Saint Martin's ✱

SAINT MARTIN'S WAS FOUNDED BY THE DOMINICANS IN 1948

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS

Saint Martin's has a long and interesting history with its roots in Southern Africa. We were founded by a Religious Order called the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena based in King William's Town, South Africa. This branch of the Dominican order was originally founded in 1877 by a group of women from Augsburg in Germany. Although now owned by the Nottingham Diocese, our school grounds and buildings were still owned by the South African Dominicans up until 2020.

BLESSED MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

The Dominican Order has been in Hinckley since the 18th century. Our school was established in 1948 by the King William's Town Dominican Sisters, originally we were an independent girl's school called Blessed Martin in the Fields. The original school was at Stoke Lodge, a Victorian Manor House in Stoke Golding as well as the 'Saint Dominic's' part of the school, with the library and classrooms, which were built in the late 1940s. The old manor house was demolished and replaced with a convent in the early 1970's. This was eventually sold for housing and the remaining land is where we are now situated.

SAINT MARTIN'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Blessed Martin was canonised in 1962 so our school changed its name to Saint Martin's. In 1963 we became an 11-14 co-ed State school and in 2014 we became an 11-16 Academy, eventually joining with all the Catholic Schools in Leicestershire to form the Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

SAINT MARTIN

Our Patron, Saint Martin de Porres, a South American Dominican Lay-brother, provides us with an amazing model of virtue through his selfless life dedicated to serving those most in need. Saint Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. He is the patron saint of people of mixed race, and of innkeepers, barbers, public health workers and more. His feast day is on November 3rd.

OUR MISSION

Our mission at Saint Martin's is for pupils to learn 'The best that has been thought and said' and to know they are loved by God. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34), combining our mission to educate children both in mind and heart; to this end, teaching of the Christian virtues underpin the education of pupils at Saint Martin's.

**St. Dominic's Community
Christmas & New Year Services
Saint Peter's Church**

Sunday December 24th

8.00am & 9.45am—Mass in Hinckley
11.30am—Mass in Earl Shilton
6.00pm—Christmas Mass in Earl Shilton
7.00pm—Children's Christmas Mass in Hinckley
11.30pm - Midnight Mass in Hinckley

Monday December 25th

9.00am—Christmas Mass in Market Bosworth
10.00am—Christmas Mass in Hinckley
10.30am—Christmas Mass in Earl Shilton

Monday December 26th

9.30am – Mass in Hinckley
10.30am – Mass in Earl Shilton

School Calendar and
Weekly Parental Bulletin

The first port of call for information is the school website www.saint-martins.net.

The main events, like parents evenings, are published on the school calendar which can be found on the website under 'Parents'. We also publish a weekly Parental Bulletin, also under the Parents section of the website, which outlines the main events happening that week.

Please also see the 'Dates for your Diary' section of this newsletter.

School Funding

As you may be aware Government funding for schools has been significantly cut across the country. To continue our high level of education here at Saint Martin's we have set up a voluntary school fund to help subject departments buy essential resources, which are vital in supporting your child's to learning.

Any contribution is entirely voluntary and anything from £1 a month upwards would be gratefully received. We realise that lots of families are also under financial pressures so any contribution, however small, is appreciated and will be used to enhance our curriculum. If you would like to contribute to Saint Martin's on a monthly basis, then please arrange a standing order with your bank using the details below:

Name of Account: St Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust

Name of Bank: Lloyds Bank

Account Number: 63927868

Sort Code: 30-96-18

Ref: Childs Name and Year of birth (eg. Fred Smith 03)

Amount: What ever you wish to donate per month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th January 2024	School Opens for Lenten Term 1
15th—19th January	Ski Trip
25th January	Year 9 Parents Evening
31st January	Year 8 Art Trip
24th—26th January	Year 8 Alton Castle Trip
8th February	Year 8 Options & Parents Evening
Half Term Monday 19th February–Friday 23rd February	
26th February	School Opens for Lenten Term 2
W/c 4th March	National Careers Week
7th March	Year 10 Parents Evening
7th March	World Book Day
21st March	Year 7 Parents Evening
22nd March	School Closes for Easter Break
1st—6th April	Yr8 & Yr9 Sports Trip to Barcelona
School Opens Monday 8th April 2024	



BRONZE

September 2023 saw the completion of our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2022/23. The students worked extremely hard during the past year undertaking a variety of activities and two

expeditions. Students volunteered within their community, they learnt new skills and pursued physical activities to support their mental health and well-being. The Award concluded in a two day expedition, involving two 9km walks and an overnight camp. The students loved the whole experience, the freedom and the chance pursue new activities.

DofE is a rolling programme offered at the start of each Year 9 cohort, our current group is working towards their expedition in July 2023. Our next cohort will be Oct/Nov 2023.

If you would like further information please contact Mrs Abela, DofE Manager



CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS involved in village site tour

School pupils with a keen interest in a future career in construction were invited to see the new homes being delivered at a development in Stoke Golding.

Year 11 students from Saint Martin's Catholic Academy who are learning about construction and the built environment were welcomed by Miller Homes' site team to their Kingshill Park development, off Hinckley Road in the village.

The group of budding construction workers were given a safety briefing by Miller Homes' staff, before being led on a tour of the working site, furthering their classroom learning on the technical aspects to and delivery of new housing.

Tony Del Busso, construction teacher at Saint Martin's, who led the visit on behalf of the academy, said: "This was a marvellous opportunity for the students to speak to tradespeople and see how properties are constructed.

"It can be very difficult to persuade construction companies to open their doors to schools and colleges, to allow them these experiences. The school is very grateful to Miller Homes for their accommodation on the day – the students had a great time exploring the site."

A representative from Miller Homes said "It was our privilege to welcome the students from Saint Martin's Academy to Kingshill Park and offer them a tour of the working building site, demonstrating the various staff roles and sub-contractors we have on site to support the delivery of our new homes here.

"We hope the students took a lot from their visit and will put this back into practice during their classroom learning. Perhaps we will one day welcome them back at Miller Homes when they begin their employment journey into the industry.

We have a number of pre-loved blazers and other uniform items, still in very good condition, that have been donated to the school by past students. We are selling these items for a nominal charge.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Davies via the school office on 01455 212386. Thank you.



CMAT Trip to English Martyrs by Jack—Yr 10

For me, the day at English Martyrs' Catholic School was inspiring and helped us to build on the work from last year in Divinity where we studied Justice, Peace and Reconciliation as part of our unit on Catholic Social Teaching for Component 1 Origins and Meaning. A member of Pax Christi taught us all about peace (societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence) and the communities striving to achieve it in a way that enabled us to discuss and share our own opinions on the topic, with reference to Pacem in Terris, Catholic Social Teaching, and Laudato Si. Peace comes in different forms: inner peace, social peace, and global peace. Pax Christi is an international catholic movement for world peace, nonviolence, and reconciliation, and is truly inspiring for all people who want a nonviolent and peaceful world.

The Catholic Church itself teaches an idea of 'just war', in which four specific rules must be met for a war to be deemed 'just':

1. The damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
2. All other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
3. There must be serious prospects of success;
4. The use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated.

Spreading the knowledge on nuclear weapons could be achieved in school in many ways:

A 'Worship Wednesday' based around nonviolence, linking to nuclear weapons, but also the message of peace in the bible.

An assembly for everyone in our school to learn about Pax Christi, possibly with a member of their organisation to come in and give us a similar experience as at English Martyrs'.

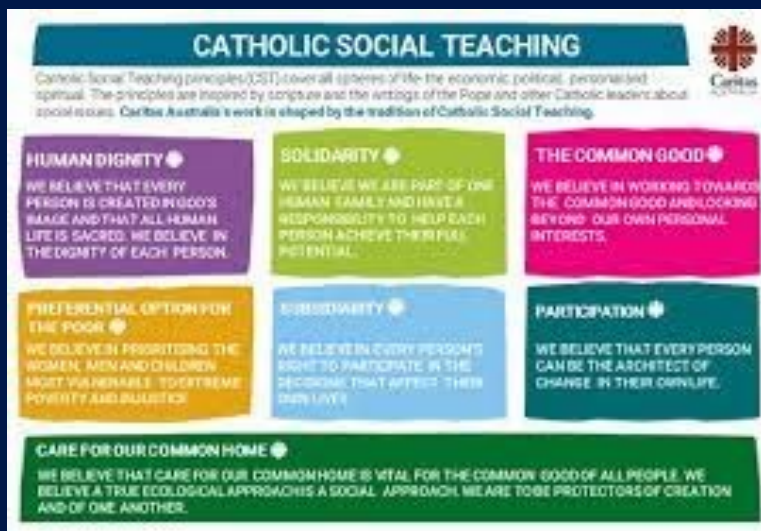
Posters and messages around the school building for information and inspiration to save further generations.

Learning about Catholic Social Teaching in Divinity.

This term we have been learning all about Laudato Si, an encyclical that Pope Francis wrote to the whole world on 'Care for our Common Home.' He says that stewardship is essentially responding to the 'cries of the earth and cries of the poor.' This links to Catholic Social Teaching which tries to reduce human suffering caused by injustice and increase co operation and friendship between all people in our world. This is because we are all created 'Imago Dei'. I think Laudato Si links to Preferential option for the poor as all people are precious to God, equal in dignity and worth.—Ava Yr7

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us to help our fellow neighbours in need, to bring justice where there is injustice. Preferential Option for the poor is one of the key teachings reminds us to be charitable and to put others before ourselves. Solidarity reminds us to stand with the poor or those in war and hardship and to consider what it must be like and what we can do. Subsidiarity is to involve those who are poor in making better decisions and opportunities for their communities. This links to Cafod's motto 'give a person a fish feed them for a day, teach them how to fish you feed them for life.' The Common Good reminds us that all people should experience the goodness of the world and be able to flourish and find happiness in God. It is to make sure that no one is left behind and that all people have what they need to develop because they are created Imago Dei.—Oliver Yr 7

I think Solidarity is the most important principle of Catholic Social Teaching. This Advent we are called to not only do things for others but act with them to build a fairer world together. We stand and work alongside others to offer hope and to shape people's destiny.—Isabelle Yr 7





Advent retreats

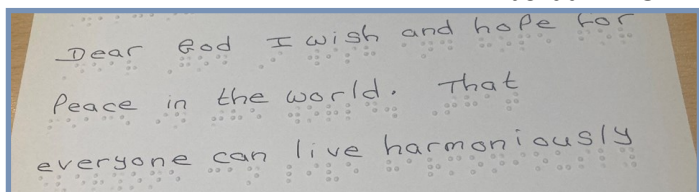
Advent is about waiting in loving anticipation and expectation. It is about the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year and symbolises the beginning of humanity's salvation. Advent is about remembering the Incarnation and it reminds us that Jesus will return at the end of time. Pope Francis emphasises the importance of vigilance this Advent, illustrating that this does not mean we live in fear but rather wait in anticipation.

On Tuesday we came to the Chapel during our Divinity lesson to spiritually prepare with Lucy and Chris. The activity that I enjoyed the best was the scrabble letters to form words that show how we can bring joy to the world. Creating these words filled me with Hope for the future. Hope is our key word and virtue this week.—Oliver Yr 8

Advent is a season of hope, waiting and expectation. During Advent, Pope Francis tells us to bring comfort to the wounded hearts and to prepare diligently to remember the incarnation. For the first Sunday of Advent Pope Francis focused on the theme of vigilance keeping watch over the things we care for and love as well as keeping our hearts ready for Christ like the servants who waited for their Master to return.

In the Chapel with Lucy and Chris I reflected during our Advent retreat on world hunger and conflict and how I can play my part to end this. In our School family, our mission is to bring in food for Hinckley food bank, a new toy for children who may need our love and support this Christmas.—Chloe Yr 8

- Jordan Yr 8



Advent is about joyfully waiting and the expectation of the Incarnation on Christmas Day when God became man in the person of Jesus fully human and fully divine. At this time, we are called to remember that God chose poverty when he took on our human condition and discard all that is superfluous and can become an obstacle on our path to holiness as Pope Francis stated. This Advent, our vocation is to be vigilant- keep watch which highlights the fact we are waiting in loving anticipation for Jesus' second coming.

In School we have reflected on what we can do to spiritually prepare for Advent. We have gathered in the Chapel to look at what we can do as individuals and as prophets of the 21st Century to make a difference in our world. An example of this was the various meditative activities. I really liked the activity that asked me to think about the unnecessary things we worry about in our lives and things that weigh down our hearts by writing them down, folding them up and putting them in a box so that physically and spiritually we cast them aside to make way for Christ.—Anabel Yr8.

During Advent, I participated in leading an Advent assembly. This helped me to gain confidence as I used the virtue of fortitude to speak in front of a year group. Our assembly was based on how we can prepare for Advent. We lit the Advent candles and we spoke about the importance of helping our neighbours, encouraging students to bring in food for the Trussel trust.—Gabi Yr 8





SAINT MARTIN'S *Festive Fundraising*

This year our Festive Fundraising looked a little different, due to the work being carried out around the school site we made the decision not to host a Christmas Fayre this year, however, below you will find details of other activities that were organised to support our fundraising efforts during November and December.

We began our Fundraising online, with most of our activities being available on ParentPay, these included the ever popular Prize Draw, Personalised letters from Santa and of course—Wet the Teacher!

Mr Cassidy was the unlucky one this year, a video of the finale is available on our Facebook page.

We hosted a wonderful night of wreath making for the first time this year. It proved to be so popular with staff, friends and family that the event was fully booked within a week of being advertised. We all enjoyed a hot drink and tasty treat, generously donated by Morrisons, Hinckley while we worked on our festive creations. Next year we will be sure to add an additional date so that parents will have a chance to enjoy this activity too.

Our Christmas Craft Market was also a huge success at the beginning of December, we had over 25 stall holders, each selling their beautiful crafts items, wax melts, candles and artwork. We also had stalls selling cards printed in school with images by some very talented students along with wooden decorations,

created by Mr Del Busso and Mr Noon in the Design Department.

This Festive season and has been full of Christmas cheer, made even better by the outstanding amount we raised—**£3644.02!!!**

Thank you to everyone involved!!



We rely on your generosity as a Saint Martin's community member, we are so grateful of you support during the festive season. Thank you to everyone that took part or donated to make it a good one!



You may remember from our end of Pentecost term Newsletter that this academic year is a special one for Saint Martin's. We are celebrating 75 years of providing Catholic Education to the Children of Stoke Golding and the surrounding areas.

We have a number of events planned in school for the coming months including the instillation of plaques commemorating our previous Principals and Head Boys and Head Girls, a 'Party in the park' style picnic for our students and a Summer Spectacular Open Day! This event will take place in June, so keep looking out for more information.

We will be looking for support from the local community for these events, including asking for memorabilia that you may have relating to the school; photos, school reports, old uniform to use as display items. If you have anything that you think we might be interested in please contact the school by phone, on 01455 212386 or email—events@saint-martins.net

More information will be available on our Facebook page in the coming weeks.

Thank you.

The Start of a Festive Tradition

On Thursday 14th December, we held our first ever Carol Service at Saint Peter's Catholic Church, in Hinckley. The two school choirs along with a group of staff joined together to present an evening of carols and readings in Church.

Thanks to Father Frank for welcoming us to Saint Peter's and to Father Matthew Pittam who travelled across the county to lead us in prayer. The Service was well received by the congregation and all those who participated. We also raised over £200 for Mary's Meals which will be doubled by the charity. Some of year 7 students said;

'I felt like we were angels, rejoicing with the shepherds at Jesus' birth'

'The Service boosted my confidence and boosted my faith in Jesus'

'it made me feel closer to God and helped me to deepen my relationship with God'

We look forward to building on this year's success and establishing the service as a yearly tradition.





SAINT MARTIN'S

Festive Fundraising

We would like to thank all the families that have kindly donated toys for this year's Hinckley and Bosworth Toy Appeal.

We were overwhelmed by our community's generosity and this will hopefully make Christmas a little happier for some children this year — *Saint Martin's Pastoral Team.*



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 7's and 8's have been busy making bread and Christmas Tree twists - both savoury and sweet, working with doughs and pastries, developing practical skills and gaining confidence with safe use of the oven whilst developing understanding of cooking times and tests for readiness.



Year 9 have made some amazing products recently in GCSE including Yule Log and Focaccia Bread.

They have worked with fortitude to a tight time frame and shown effort and diligence to complete these products with style and flair.



Christmas Window Competition

It's been another super year of showcasing our creative talents in the Admin team with our third annual Christmas Window Competition! It's been a very busy term for everyone, it was a close call for some with the deadline looming and a number of empty windows...It's a good job Mrs Franklin has keys to the school, had she not been able to stay late, she was in danger of not having her Grinch window display at all!

When all of the colourful and clever designs were finally complete, it was the job of Miss Bray and Ms Simpson (our Art teachers) to judge the splendour.

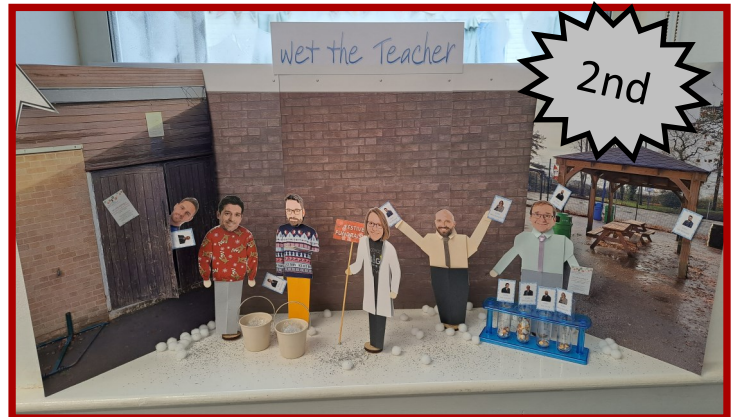
The library took a very well deserved first place with their genius take on the popular panto, Snow 'Wright', *oh no they didn't...Oh yes they did!!*

Mrs Turvey took Silver, for the second year in a row, for her miniature Wet the Teacher scene, and Third place went to Miss Hickey, Mrs Hennighan and Mrs Bowen.

It was sad news once again for Mrs Trotman & Mrs Thompson, not placing at all in this years competition, their super snowmen didn't last long in the window after the scoring was complete—not that they are bitter or anything! Maybe they should try to bribe the judges next year.



'Absolutely outstanding. We loved how interactive your design was - so much to see and do. Fantastic thought and effort. Great humour. High impact.'



'Sooooooooo Gooooood! Loved EVERYTHING about this too. Humour, crafts'woman'ship, Saint Martin's narrative and the tiny details. Genius concept!'



'Wowzers! A super striking scene. Loved the use of recycled materials. Careful introduction of 3D elements on a busy corridor. Lots of technical content too. Treats were a bonus!'



It was lots of hard work but much fun for all involved, we all enjoyed the 'friendly' competition, Miss Bray thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, saying "I Absolutely LOVED seeing everyone's hard work. Thank you for asking us to help out. Such a high standard of artistic skill among you all with a tremendous amount of thought and effort going into your designs. Enjoyed the humour and narrative too".

Sporting Highlights

You can find out about all of your sporting achievements, including results from our matches with other local schools on our Facebook Page.

[www.facebook.com/
stmartins.stokegolding](http://www.facebook.com/stmartins.stokegolding)

Manners and politeness on phone calls

At Saint Martin's, we consider manners and politeness to be a really important quality that we promote. In the same way, we expect all who ring in to the school to exhibit good manners as well. Mr Wright has instructed staff that if anyone calling the school is rude, abusive or shouts over the phone, the member of staff is to inform the caller politely and put the phone down.

LIBRARY events!

Book ownership is so important, that over the past four years we have used some of the money raised for the library to pay for a scheme called Bookbuzz for all our year 7s.



When the books arrive, they are wrapped up as a surprise gift for the class. Part of their English lesson is an opportunity to share their choices with their friends, read and enjoy a treat.

It really is so worthwhile; it genuinely causes a BUZZ around reading.

We have already raised **£28** via ParentPay, to try to raise the funds to run it next year. We will need around **£450** to sign-up for next year, so if you are able to help that would be amazing.

Bookbuzz is run by The Book Trust. They organise the scheme and this year chose 16 books, a variety



of fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels.

In the first half-term, the year 7s have an opportunity to watch videos where the authors tell them about the books and the students get to see the copies of the books.

Then they choose their favourite and Mrs Wells, our librarian, places the order.



**You can still donate
£1 on Parentpay
add Bookbuzz
fundraising to your
basket.**

CAREER *days*



In October, Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit RAF Wittering. We took a small group of students who have a genuine interest in joining the RAF in the future. They got to speak to lots of different personnel about their roles including Catering Services, Ground Vehicle staff and Personal Training.



Our Year 11 focus this term has been on their next steps after Saint Martin's. The students have been lucky enough to have presentations delivered by Hinckley 6th, Etone College, St Thomas More, KE6, NWSLC, Bosworth Academy, SMB Group and Dixie Grammar to help them decide which route to take for their post 16 option.

Applications for college and 6th form places need to be completed directly on the establishments website by the end of January.

If your child needs support with their next steps, please email Mrs Tones;

ytones@saint-martins.net



Year 7 and 8's focus this term has been on encouraging the use of Xello - Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed.

Please go to:

<https://login.xello.co.uk/>

Your child can see Mrs Tones for their login details if they do not have them



What's coming in 2024
for Bright Futures:
National Apprenticeship Week
in February

National Careers Week
during March

Administering Medicines in School

Prescribed medicines may be administered in school (by any of the first aid team) where it is deemed essential. Most prescribed medicines can be taken outside of normal school hours. Wherever possible, the pupil will administer their own medicine, under the supervision of a member of staff. In cases where this is not possible, the staff member will administer the medicine.

If a child refuses to take their medication, staff will accept their decision and inform the parents accordingly.

In all cases, we must have written parental permission outlining the type of medicine, dosage and the time the medicine needs to be given. These forms are available in the school office.

Staff will ensure that records are kept of any medication given.

Spare Epi Pens and Inhalers should be kept in the school office. These should be in the original packaging with your child's name on, please ensure that you come in to the school at the start of each term, to check that these are in date and in full working order.

Please note that if your child is due to take part in a school trip or visit and does not have their medication, as listed on the school system (e.g. asthma inhaler) with them, they may not be taken on the trip.

Non-prescribed medicines (Paracetamol / hay fever tablets) will not be held in the school office.

If your child need these type of tablets for cold symptoms, period pain etc they must be responsible for them by keeping them in their blazer or bag. Please ensure they know when to administer their next dose, students will not be supervised by a member of staff when doing this, they should also have water with them .

Please keep the school office up to date with any changes to your child's medical needs.

P=RIODEQUALITY

We believe that period products should be made available to all those who need them in education, as they are a necessity, not a luxury. No-one should be held back from accessing education due to their period.

Last Year the Department for Education (DfE) launched it's 'Period Equality' scheme to provide free period products to young people in schools and colleges across England.

The scheme offers period products, for all who need them, when they need them, in order to access education. Having periods should not be a barrier to education for any learner especially during these financially challenging times

We are remove the stigma and embarrassment that some girls may feel when asking for sanitary products in school and so far we have had an encouraging response. Both the Reception and Girls PE Office have stocks of sanitary pads, tampons and more environmentally-friendly and reusable products, and can provide these to students with the upmost discretion. Not all students may be aware of the scheme and so we will be placing 'Period Equality' posters in the girls toilets notifying them of where they can collect sanitary products from should they need them.

If any parents / carers need support in providing sanitary products while students are at home please speak to the school office, we will be happy to help.

Mobile Phone Policy

**Phones must be kept in
Lockers during the
school day**

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 brilliant for parents/carers outside of school so that you can keep in touch with your children at all times. As you know, at Saint Martin's students must turn their mobile phones off once they arrive on school premises and ensure they are placed in their lockers until the end of the day. There is zero tolerance on this, 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. The responsibility of not getting a phone confiscated lies solely with the student. If you wish not be inconvenienced by having to collect your child's phone, please ensure that they follow the rules.

Sporting Results

Football

The year 11 boys football team reached the Hinckley & Bosworth area final after winning all of their opening games. However they were beaten 7-3 in the final by South Charnwood. We have also entered them into the Warwickshire Schools cup this year - they won the opening round with a hard fought 2-1 victory against Higham Lane. This group of players have a fantastic team spirit! Hopefully they can end their time at St Martin's with some silverware. Year 10 haven't done quite so well and are on a losing streak this year - lots of work to be done before their next games!

Our year 7 girls football team managed to reach the semi-final of their competition, a great achievement considering it was the first time they had played together. A heavy 7-0 defeat in the semi-final to eventual winners South Charnwood meant that they did not progress any further. The under 14s girls football team also came close in the Hinckley & Bosworth competition, winning two games, drawing three and losing just once. This meant that they finished 3rd overall. Only two goals were conceded across the six games! They were also entered into the Warwickshire Schools cup but were eliminated in the first round, an away match at Nicholas Chamberlaine. They were really unlucky to lose the game 5-4, after coming back from 3-0 down to 3-3.

Netball

Since the beginning of September our school's netball teams have been making waves in the local netball scene. With their impressive performances and dedication to both training and matches all of our teams have become a force to be reckoned with.

We started with our Year 11's in their last year of netball at Saint Martin's who dominated their tournament and then went on to beat The Market Bosworth School in the pouring down rain to become Hinckley & Bosworth Champions. We then had the Year 10, 9, 8 & 7 netball teams play their local tournaments, who also showed the same enthusiasm and determination to become Hinckley & Bosworth Champions.

This meant that our Year 7, 8 & 10 all progressed through to the quarter finals of the Leicestershire League. The girls continued to train hard, winning lots of friendlies in preparation for these matches. All of the quarter finals were tough matches from start to finish showing exemplary behaviour on and off the court. All 3 teams won their matches and are now in the semi-finals.

The results of these matches were:

Year 7 – 15-3 against Loughborough High

Year 8 – 23-5 against Gartree

Year 10 – 30-13 against Loughborough High

In October we entered 2 teams (under 14 and under 16) into the County netball tournament at Leicester Grammar. The level of competition in this tournament is unparalleled. All of the matches were fiercely contested many of the matches ending in a draw or only one goal between teams. However, both of our teams excelled themselves and came 2nd in both tournaments beating some tough opposition, many of the schools being private education establishments. We will now go onto represent Leicestershire in February at Oundle School, Peterborough.

Congratulations to all the girls this term you have made the school very proud of your achievements and commitment to the school teams.

Basketball

In December all our girls have competed in the Hinckley & Bosworth basketball tournaments. Once again our girls have outperformed all the other schools who took part becoming area champions for Year 7, 8, 9 and KS4. In the Year 7 & 8 we had an A and B team coming first and second. The teams will now represent Hinckley in the next quarter final round. Good luck girls and keep up all the hard work. You have been amazing.

Rugby

Last week we entered our talented girls into a Rugby tournament for the first time at Lutterworth RFC. The girls had been learning rugby in their lessons and after noticing how well they were doing we decided to enter into the unknown. The girls started the day with some skills training from Leicester Tigers and then it was onto matches.

The Year 10/11 team played a very well drilled Uppingham school team who had obviously been playing together for some time. However, our girls never gave up and gave Uppingham a very competitive game only just losing.

Our Year 8/9 team were on fire in their first match winning 6 tries to 0. The girls were loving playing contact and were then asked to play Lutterworth High who regularly play rugby. The girls narrowly lost this match 4 tries to 2 but played some fantastic rugby and did amazing for their first time. We hope to play Lutterworth again in the near future.

Sporting Results



Uniform

At Saint Martin's 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 afterschool detentions and inclusions. Our uniform unites all members of the community and therefore must be adhered to by all members of the community.

If you have any queries regarding uniform purchases or choices please contact the school office.

May we remind all parents/carers 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 are 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 school. 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.

Sanctions

As a parent / carer of a Saint Martin's students we have appreciated 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 night 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.

Social media use

The majority of our students equally have social media accounts (despite most having a minimum age of 13) so we must also advise acceptable use of all social media platforms. The school offers 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 merge 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.

 Plain black shoes that can be polished.	 No trainer style, canvas, elaborate decoration, Velcro or high heels.
	
	
	
	



SAINT MARTIN'S
Catholic Academy

Michaelmas Term 2023

Our Chair of Governors can be contacted via admin@saint-martins.net