



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you'll know, as parents who send your children to Saint Martin's, being a Christian school is fundamental to our mission, therefore Advent and the story of Jesus' birth are really important commemorations and celebrations this term, highlighting our belief that God is with us in our world.

I would therefore like to thank all those who have joined us for our various Christmas celebrations, the Christmas Carol Service led by Miss Clensy, the Christmas Concert led by Mrs Clarke and for anyone who has supported the many Christmas events and fundraisers that have taken place this term. The final week is always lovely, with carol services, Christmas masses and lots of end of term celebrations.

Thanks to all those who have supported the Festive Fundraising, we have raised over £3200 which will go back into buying resources for our pupils, can I thank Mrs Turvey who has coordinated all the Festive Fundraising activities.

Special thanks to all families that have supported our charity fundraising like our food bank appeal. We were able to donate 419.9kg of food and toiletries to Hinckley Area Food Bank which would have had a cash value of £1,163.12 and provided 830 meals. As Principal of Saint Martin's, it is a privilege to be part of such a generous and supportive community.

Visitors

At Saint Martin's we get dozens of visitors each term because of the reputation of our school, both the academic performance of pupils and the culture of our school where we explicitly teach children how to be well mannered, charming and virtuous.

The feedback we always get is incredibly complimentary and positive about how unique Saint Martin's is. Visitors this term have been glowing about our pupils and what a lovely culture we have here at Saint Martin's, so well done to all our pupils who display such charm and impeccable manners.

School Performance Tables

This month, much later than usual, the School Performance Tables were published by the Department for Education. One of our ambitions for all our pupils is to be as academically successful as they can be, in order to have the widest options for their 6 form choices and when moving into the adult world. The main measure at GCSE is a statistic called the Progress 8 score (explained later in the newsletter) and we were among the top in Leicestershire, among the top in the East Midlands and the very top in the Nottingham Catholic Diocese. We were especially pleased that our outcomes for disadvantaged and SEND pupils were outstanding when compared to national averages. Well done to the Class of 2024 and their teachers.


Leavers

We are saying farewell to Miss Karla Fitzpatrick who has been promoted to the second in Department in a school in Wolverhampton. She sent her own message to the staff and students—

"Thankyou to the wonderful staff and students who have made my 4 and a half years at Saint Martin's so enjoyable. To start my teaching career in such a wonderful school has been a privilege and I look forward to taking all I have learnt with me to my new school, but I really will miss so many of you. Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas" K. Fitzpatrick

We thank her for her years of dedication and wish her the best of luck.

Finally, we wish all our families a happy, restful and safe Christmas, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year.


C Wright
Principal

St. Dominic's Community Christmas Services

Tuesday 24th December

6.00pm in Earl Shilton

7.00pm in Hinckley

11.30am in Hinckley

Wednesday 25th December

8.00am in Hinckley

9.00am in Market Bosworth

10.00am in Hinckley

10.30am in Earl Shilton

Weekly Parental Bulletin

The first port of call for information is the school website

www.saint-martins.net.

We also publish a weekly Parental Bulletin which is sent out via Arbor each Friday afternoon, this details any sports practises, subject intervention classes, lunch and after school clubs, forthcoming events and interesting information about the forthcoming week.

Please also see the 'Dates for your Diary' section of this newsletter for more activities taking place each term.

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

6th January 2025	School Opens for Lenten Term 1
13th—17th January	Ski Trip
22nd—24th January	Year 8 Alton Castle Trip
27th January	Year 8 Options Evening
10th February	Year 9 Parents evening
10th February	Year 8 Interim Options Process begins
Half Term Monday 17th February-Friday 21st February	
24th February	School Opens for Lenten Term 2
6th March	World Book Day Disco
7th March	Proposed Year 7 Parents Evening
7th March	Y7, 8, 9 mock exams begin
31st March	Year 10 Parents Evening
2nd —4th April	Year 9 Briars Residential
9th—10th April	School production
11th April	School Closes for Easter Break
School Opens Monday 28th April 2025	

CHRISTMAS 2024

As the Christmas holidays approach we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down

Discounted meals

There are lots of places offering free or very discounted meals for children. Kids eat free at Tesco Cafe this Christmas holiday and all year round with the Kids' Pick 'N' Mix Lunch Deal. Your child will get a sandwich, a piece of fruit, two snacks and a drink. An adult just has to buy any item in the Tesco Café (that includes drinks). Click on the cracker for more ideas!



Things to do

Click on the present to see free and low cost family friendly activities in Leicestershire including Christmas treasure hunts in libraries and a traditional nativity story telling at Leicester Cathedral.



More things to do

Action for Children have produced a list of ideas for celebrating Christmas on a budget. Click on the bauble for some inspiration.



Going away?

There may be restaurants that we don't have in Leicestershire or Rutland whose discounts you can take advantage of if you are going on holiday or visiting friends and family in different parts of the country. i.e. The Real Greek in London Click on the gingerbread man for some inexpensive food inspiration!



Christmas holiday poetry competition

We would love to see some wonderful pieces of poetry from our pupils during the holidays. The theme is 'Cosy at Christmas' so we would love to read poetry that reflects how you feel cosy at Christmas! There is a prize for the winning primary pupil and one for secondary! Poems should be sent via email along with a photo of the pupil to: kstuart-jones@aquinas-cmat.org and should state the pupil name and school name. Pupil photos should be emailed in by parent/carers and by entering you consent for your child to be featured on our social media pages. **Closing date is Monday 6th January 2025 at 9am.**

12:30 PM · Apr 19, 2024 · **250.4K** Views

SAINT MARTIN'S *Catholic Academy* FESTIVE FUNDRAISING

Each year we spend a number of weeks in the Michaelmas Term fundraising to 'top-up' our school budget to enable to provide the best we possibly can for our students, unfortunately this year, we were unable to host a Christmas fayre due to other commitments in our school calendar, however we did continue with our online games and as ever, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Below you will find details of some of the Christmas 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, this included the ever popular Prize Draw, we had 20 fabulous prizes, the top 2 being hampers donated by our school staff.

We hosted two wonderful nights of wreath making this year, opening the event up to parents and friends. It proved to be very popular again, with our guests enjoying hot drinks, cakes and a mini raffle. We've already booked in to host this event again next year, so look out for details being sent out on ParentPay.

Our Wet the Teacher competition had 9 participants this year, after 4 years of staying dry, and only £10 in it between the top two places, Mr Issitt was the unlucky one to get soaked! The video of the finale is available on our Website.

We've had a little visitor in school again this year, getting up to mischief, he brought some 'feathered' friends, the staff and students have all had great fun trying to find little rubber ducks hiding around the school site.

We have donated some of our Fundraising profits to our Chaplaincy team, they used this purchase extra items to be donated to Hinckley Food Bank.

Our students have also enjoyed singing carols at local care homes, a Christmas Concert, a Carol Service and Masses at school.

This Festive season and has been full of Christmas cheer, made even better by the outstanding amount we raised—**£3242.92** Thank you to everyone involved!!



NORTH POLE NEWS

LOST DUCKS DRIVING STUDENTS AND STAFF QUACKERS!

Twenty Four little ducks, visiting from their home in the North Pole and have hidden away in a secondary school in Stoke Golding.

'Clive the Elf', who accompanied the ducks on their journey said of his search so far, "I've searched in the hallway, the lockers, the stairs but no little ducks just some desks and some chairs. I've peaked in the kitchen; I've checked by the sink but no ducks in sight just dishes I think".

He continued his plea for everyone to join in the search "So check in the library where the books are stacked neat, and return them to me to collect your treat. Check all the corners, the rooms, and the hall, together we'll have fun, a party, a ball".

The game of hide and seek is set to continue until the end of term, when all of the ducks are returned safe and well, they may even hide again.

Principal of the school, Mr Clive Wright, (no relation to 'Clive the Elf') said "these feathered friends have taken over our school, staff and students alike, are delighted to have been invited to join in the fun!"

If you have information about the hiding spot of any of these ducks or are able to capture one, please report to the front office, where a reward is being offered for their safe return.



Photo supplied by 'Clive the Elf', he said, "this was the last photo taken of us all together when we first arrived at Saint Martin's, we'd like to take another when we are all reunited".

NORTH POLE NEWS—DECEMBER 2024

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

Christmas Window Competition

Our fourth annual Christmas Window Competition was judged last week by our yr11 Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies. We're not quite sure that they understood the assignment or quite how seriously we (the admin team) take this competition each year.

In the absence of Mrs Trotman, Mrs Turvey made sure that she explained their window in minute detail, (although she has pledged to go it solo again next year, as being teamed with Mrs Trotman, this is the lowest she has ever placed—3rd). At least they received the 'headteacher window award', a self printed certificate, although we think that's because Mrs Trotman is PA to the Principal.

In previous years, all of the windows have had such diverse concepts that we decided to all work to a theme this year, each team submitted an idea and sealed it in an envelope. The winning theme was suggested by 'The Catholic Crew', **Stained Glass Window with a Bethlehem link**. This theme wasn't received in the best manor by the other teams, but we're nothing if not professional so we all got out the glitter, sticky tape and cellophane and got to work. There was uproar on judging day, as the Chaplaincy team (who submitted the selected theme) failed to produce a window at all!

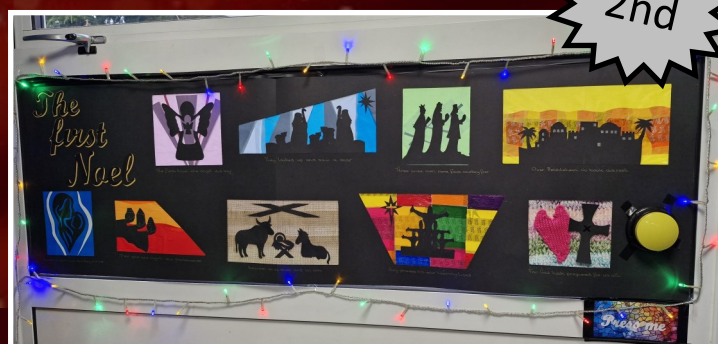
Mrs Tidball and Mrs McGlynn, from the reception office spent hours painting their window, insisting that taking part in the craft and 'banter' surrounding the competition was enough enjoyment for them...until the results were published...Mrs Tidball left no doubts about her opinion on the scores, she's still raging about it now—4th Place!!!!



2nd place went to the quietly confident Library window, Mrs Wells and Mrs Tones produced a tissue paper masterpiece worthy of their silver rosette.

The LSA Team joined in for the first time this year, despite coming in 5th place (out of 5 teams) they had a great team building experience, and more importantly, learned just how vicious the other non teaching staff can be when it comes to crafting rivalry.

There is no actual prize for the winner of the window competition, just the opportunity for 'epic bragging rights' throughout the rest of the term. Mrs Franklin definitely takes this part of winning seriously, taking home the gold rosette, she certainly isn't a gracious winner, despite not actually putting the display up herself, she has her team mates Miss Hickey and Mrs Hennighan to thank for that.



LIBRARYevents!



In October we held a Scholastic Book Fair at lunchtimes and during Year 7 tutor evening. It was really successful taking £305 which gave us £76 in commission to spend on books for the library. Many of our library council helped to man the event, it really would not be possible without their help.



Our Year 7s were able to choose a book from a list of 16 titles and take it home to keep thanks to the Bookbuzz scheme organised by The Book Trust and the amazing fundraising of our staff and students.

Our Spooky Disco to raise money for next years Bookbuzz was a great success. Lots of fun was had and many sweets, drinks and bags of popcorn were consumed.

We raised £522.50 in total. £70 of that was used to buy our own disco lights and the remaining £452.50 will go towards funding Bookbuzz 2025.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help, both staff and students. As well as all those who attended and put lots of effort into their costumes.



Books for Remembrance

During November we put together a 'wish list' of books that we would like for our Library, some to replace tired copies, some as new additions. We have received some beautiful books donations after our request, each one will have a personalised message inside, as the books have been donated in memory of a loved one.

The messages of remembrance are so moving and the books will be cherished in our library.

Thank you so much to those families who donated books, they are greatly appreciated.



This year we will continue to encourage students to use Xello – the exciting careers platform that they have access to. All students in Year 8 have had an hour using Xello during one of the PSHE lessons when they go to explore careers and learn about biases within the world of work. The way that students can log onto Xello has changed slightly (for the better!) so they can now log in through Office 365. There is a link to Xello on the student hub in the Careers folder.

Our Year 11 focus this term has been on their next steps after Saint Martins. The students have been lucky enough to have presentations delivered by Hinckley 6th, Higham Lane, 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 establishment's website by the end of January.

If your child needs support with their next steps, please email Mrs Tones at ytones@saint-martins.net

In November, Mr Del Busso and I took the Year 10 Construction group to Stephenson college in Coalville, part of the SMB college group.

The students had a detailed tour of the campus and then had a hands-on taster session with the Carpentry subject teachers. This was a great way for the students to gain an insight into their options post Saint Martins and the feedback from the trip was excellent!

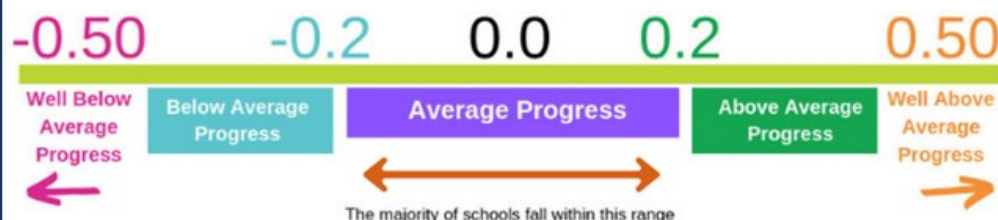


What's coming in 2025 for Bright Futures:

National Apprenticeship Week – February

National Careers Week - March

PROGRESS 8 EXPLAINED.....



The **Progress 8** score is the main measure by which schools are ranked when it comes to GCSE outcomes.

Progress 8 is a measure of how much a student has progressed between the end of primary school and the end of secondary school.

Record results

SAINT MARTIN'S GCSE RESULTS



The School Performance Tables have now been published and we have outstanding Progress* at GCSE



*The key performance measure at GCSE is **Progress 8** which indicates the progress a pupil makes in a school from Year 7 to Year 11. 0.0 is average



- **Top Progress** in the Diocese (15 schools).
- **Top 3 for Progress** in Leicestershire (87 schools).
- Children with **SEN** perform exceptionally well at Saint Martin's.
- **Disadvantaged** children & children with **English as a additional language** - all massively outperform compared to national averages.
- Well done to class of 2024 and your teachers.



www.saint-martins.net

Overall performance at end of key stage 4 in 2024 - all pupils ?

 [Show filters](#)

Showing 1 - 50 of **87** schools

1 2 [Next](#)

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils at end of key stage 4	Progress 8 ?		Entering EBacc ?	Staying in education or entering employment (2022 leavers) ?	Grade 5 or above in English & maths GCSEs ?	Attainment 8 ?	EBacc average point score ?
			Number of pupils included in this measure	Score & description					
The Market Bosworth School	Academy	156	155	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.84 ?	46.8%	94% (150 of 160 pupils)	69.2%	57.4	5.27
Manor High School	Academy	204	193	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.7 ?	89.2%	93% (161 of 174 pupils)	64.7%	56.8	5.47
Saint Martin's Catholic Voluntary Academy	Academy	163	160	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.66 ?	41.1%	96% (140 of 146 pupils)	61.3%	55.9	4.96
De Lisle College Loughborough Leicestershire	Academy	218	205	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE 0.58 ?	57.8%	93% (189 of 203 pupils)	63.3%	54.1	4.97

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.



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.

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

NETBALL

The girls' school netball teams have had an exceptional start to the year. All the teams have worked extremely hard, demonstrating remarkable skill, teamwork and determination. Their performances have not only brought home numerous victories but the teamwork between the girls has been amazing.

The netball season commenced in early September with the Year 11's. The girls competed in the Hinckley & Bosworth tournament winning every game and only conceding a few goals. These girls have been together since Year 7 and this was a great tournament to finish being Hinckley & Bosworth Champions for 5 consecutive years.

Next came the Year 10's local tournament with Hastings, Heath Lane and Redmoor. The girls out played themselves not conceding any goals and scoring a total of 54 goals out of 3 short matches. The girls then went onto play South Charnwood with a similar result, making the Year 10's Hinckley & Bosworth Champions.

We then had the Year 8 & 9 rounds of Hinckley & Bosworth winning all our matches very easily. The Year 8 girls played Hastings in the final winning 32-2.

Our new Year 7's have trained extremely hard which has massively paid off. The girls started their first 2 matches winning 22-1 and 30-0. We then had to play Hastings in the final round. The game against Hastings had been rearranged a number of times so it was a highly anticipated match. Both teams had been undefeated. St Martin's took a very early lead and after 4 great quarters were crowned Hinckley & Bosworth Champions winning 19-3.

This means we now have all our teams through to next round of Team Leicestershire. Many of the quarter finals coming up in the next few weeks.

In October our U14 & U16 teams competed at the Leicestershire County Tournament. This included several nail-biting games, demonstrating their abilities to perform under pressure. Both teams made the final, both coming second overall. This means that both teams will now represent Leicestershire in February at the Regionals in Derby.

From Year 7-11 (A and B teams) we have had some great friendlies in preparation for these matches/tournaments against State and Private schools. All of the teams have excelled themselves which is a testament to their hard work, talent and dedication to the sport and each other.

Well done and congratulations to all the girls. Have a well earned rest ready for a busy January/February.

BASKETBALL

Once again our girls basketball teams have had a great start to the season. The KS4 girls played first winning their first match 46-2 against South Charnwood. It was then the Year 8 & 9's turn last week. Both teams out played themselves winning all their matches. All our teams will now be representing Hinckley & Bosworth in the next round. The Year 7 team had a bye in their first round, so hopefully they will be as successful in the New Year in their first match.

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)

Keep up to date!

Visit our school website

www.saint-martins.net

Our home page is updated weekly with school news and information about events.

Facebook and Twitter feeds:

www.facebook.com/stmartins.stokegolding
@stmartin1963

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

There is now a huge amount of evidence to show that smartphones and the use of social media is incredibly damaging to the mental health of children. Our recommendation is not give smart phones to children or allow them to use social media. 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 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.

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



SAINT MARTIN'S
Catholic Academy

Michaelmas Term 2024

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