



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had some really lovely Christmas events over the last few weeks, from the Menphys Christmas Concert, one of our choirs going off to sing in Nursing Homes last week and culminating in a wonderful Christmas Concert on Monday and a community Carols and Coffee Morning on Tuesday. Our pupils have been brilliant at all these occasions, but the thing I'm most proud of is the feedback I have had from the people who they have met at the various events, the kindness, confidence, eloquence, charm and commitment they have displayed. So well done to all those pupils and especially Mrs Clarke our Head of Music who has worked so hard.

I would also like to commemorate the death of Sister Margo Verspeek, one of the last sisters to have been closely connected with Saint Martin's. She was Mother Superior for the Sisters of King Williams Town in England, Ireland, Switzerland and the Netherlands. She knew our school well and was the last of the sisters to regularly visit Saint Martin's. May she rest in peace.

We are also saying goodbye (although he's very much alive!) to one of our Lay Chaplains, Chris Fitzgerald who has been with us for two years. Chris has had a real impact on our community, and we thank him for all his wonderful work with our pupils over that time. His new role is working across numerous parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Class Of 2025 Prize Giving

The Class of 2025 Prize Giving Evening was a joyful and proud highlight of the end-of-term calendar, held in the beautiful setting of St Peter's Catholic Church, Hinckley. It brought together students, families, staff and friends to celebrate not only academic success, but the charm, eloquence and community spirit that define a Saint Martin's education.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Luke Evans MP as our guest of honour. Dr Evans presented the prizes and shared thoughtful reflections on what it means to make a success of life. Drawing on his experiences as a GP, public speaker and parliamentarian, he spoke warmly about perseverance, service, wellbeing and staying true to one's values — messages that resonated strongly with our students as they prepare for the next stage of their journeys.

The evening began with subject awards, recognising both excellence and effort. Highest Achieving awards celebrated students who achieved the top percentage scores in each subject, while Endeavour awards recognised diligence, punctuality, enthusiasm and a consistent commitment to working hard, regardless of academic outcome. Together, these awards reflect the balance Saint Martin's strives for: achievement underpinned by character.

A number of special awards highlighted students whose contributions have gone far beyond the classroom. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, James Dixon and Jessica Morris, were thanked for leading their year group with maturity and confidence. The Rotary 'Service Before Self' awards, sponsored by Hinckley Rotary Club, were presented to James Hobbs and Imogen Richie in recognition of their kindness, generosity and readiness to put others first.

The Thomas Barton Charity shields celebrated excellence across a range of areas. Jack Mann received the shield for Academic Achievement following an outstanding set of results, while Ethan Kendrick was recognised for his exceptional Contribution to Community through service, fundraising and outreach. Sporting excellence was also celebrated, with awards presented to George Sandall and Gabriella Amadi-Obi for their talent, determination and sportsmanship.

Further awards included the Veritas Association Shield for Endeavour, presented to Harry Johnson; the Contribution to the Arts award to Parisa Vara for her dedication to music and the school production of Matilda; and the Saint Martin's Distinguished Service Award to Fin Hancock, recognising his joyful spirit and lasting impact on school life. The evening concluded with the prestigious Sister Louis VERITAS Award, presented to James Dixon for exemplifying the ethos and values of Saint Martin's.

In my address, I reflected on the privilege of watching the Class of 2025 grow from children into confident young adults. I reminded students that the virtues so often emphasised at Saint Martin's — diligence, fortitude, justice and kindness — are taught because they lead to success in life. I congratulated the year group on their excellent GCSE results, once again placing Saint Martin's among the highest-achieving schools in Leicestershire, and thanked staff for their dedication and care.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to my staff who have worked so hard this term and our pupils who have (largely!) been studious, polite and a pleasure to teach as always.

Wishing all our families a very happy and restful Christmas.

C Wright
Principal

St. Dominic's Community Christmas Services

Wednesday December 24th

6.00pm Family Christmas Mass in Earl Shilton
7.00pm Children's Christmas Mass in Hinckley
11.30pm Midnight Mass in Hinckley

Thursday December 25th

8.00am Christmas Mass in Hinckley
9.00am Christmas Mass in Market Bosworth
10.00am Christmas Mass in Hinckley
10.30am Christmas Mass in Earl Shilton

Friday December 26th

10.00am – Mass in Hinckley
10.30am – Mass in Earl Shilton

Saturday / Sunday December 27th/28th

Normal weekend Schedule

Wednesday December 31st

11.30pm Watch Night Service to welcome the New Year

Thursday January 1st

9.30am Mass in Market Bosworth
10.00am Mass in Earl Shilton
12.00pm Mass in Hinckley followed by shared table lunch

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th January 2026	School Opens for Lenten Term 1
11th—18th January	Ski Trip
21st—23rd January	Year 8 Alton Castle Trip
26th January	Year 11 Parents evening
2nd February	Year 8 Options Process begins
9th February	Year 8 Parents & Options Evening
Half Term Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February	
23rd February	School Opens for Lenten Term 2
2nd March	Year 9 Parents Evening
2nd March	National Careers week begins
16th March	Year 7 Parents Evening
24th—26th March	School production
27th March	School Closes for Easter Break
School Opens Monday 13th April 2026	

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.



You spend,
brands donate.

Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite brands donate to the cause you care about whenever you shop with them.

Sign up and get started



You many have seen in recent communications that we have enlisted the support of Parents, Teachers and Friends of Saint Martin's by setting up a new PTFA, to assist with fundraising in school. The PTFA are supporting community that will raise money to fund planned projects around school, support with curriculum resources, enhance facilities, trips and enhance the experience of the students.

The PTFA is open to new members, you are welcome to come along to any of the meetings. One of their initiatives was to sign up to Easyfundraising, this platform turns your daily shopping into cash for our school. Easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to Saint Martin's. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand. You can help by signing up at

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>, selecting Saint Martin's Catholic Academy as your chosen cause, and shop online through their website or app. It takes less than a minute to sign up, and we get money for each new supporter.

Every online purchase, however big or small, will help with our fundraising goals!

Thank you

CAUSE PAGE QR CODE

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy Stoke Golding



On Friday 12th December our PTFA hosted their very first school event...a Christmas Quiz! With 11 teams taking place, the competition was fierce for some, for others it was a chance to celebrate the festive season with a Turkey cob and a good old laugh!

Our very own Mr Murphy took to the microphone as Quiz Master (teaching at Saint Martin's for well over 20 years and now a member of our PTFA).

Picture rounds, general knowledge and questions on history, geography, science and sports, our whole school curriculum was covered, which was good for the three teams of school staff, but they were no match for the winning team, well done to the 'Pheasant Pluckers' who did exceptionally well, receiving 92 point out a possible 107!

The event saw the PTFA bank a profit of £683.13 which is fantastic, and will be used to support the school with future projects. Thank you to all involved in the organising and to those that attended.



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 Arbor, this included the ever popular Prize Draw, we had 25 fabulous prizes, the top 2 being hampers donated by our school staff, along with prizes donated by local companies, we thank them all for their generosity, Jaspers of Hinckley, Stockwells, Hinckley Framers, Morrisons of Hinckley.

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 supplied by our PTFA. We've already booked in to host this event again next year, so look out for details being sent out on Arbor.

Our Wet the Teacher competition had 6 participants this year, it was close competition between Mr Issitt and Mr Cassidy, but some strategic play meant that after 5 years (and last years near miss), it was Mr Issitts turn to get soaked!!! Thank you all of the participants, this may be the last year of Wet the Teacher for a while as the students have asked for another game to 'stitch the teachers up' if you have any ideas, please do let us know.

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

We encourage our staff and students to participate in community outreach this time of year, lots of which you will read about in this newsletter, as part of our Festivities we hosted a 'Retired Persons' Community Coffee Morning for the first time, we had 30 community members join us to listen to our students sing, they even enjoyed a game of bingo, a raffle and plenty of hot drinks and treats. Our students enjoyed chatting with our senior visitors, especially when they were offered a biscuit or two! We hope you enjoy the photos on the following page.

We are so glad that we decided to organise this event, as a number of our visitors commented that they are already looking forward to attending again next year, and the staff that organised it have already got some ideas on how we can make it even bigger and better for next year!!

This Festive season and has been full of Christmas cheer, made even better by the outstanding amount we raised—**£2310.98** Thank you to everyone involved!!



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!



Catholic life

Our Reflection on our Pilgrimage of Hope

My Hope for the Jubilee Year is a reminder to all people, to stand in solidarity and not to forget about anyone. Also, to share love to all people no matter their situation. This year we are called to be anchors to peoples' storms, so that they are not alone in dealing with them. "Even in the darkest nights a star shines," Pope Francis. Be that star! If we were all like those stars, then we would create a wonderful view and we could all stand in solidarity as one big community.

Evie Year 8 Divinity

Over the last 2 years we are proud of all our Divinity students' efforts from our preparations in the Year of Prayer to their heartfelt efforts in the Jubilee Year. <https://www.saint-martins.net/home/divinity-prayer/#1712691460428-ae3b363e-378d>; <https://www.saint-martins.net/home/divinity-careers/>

Pope Francis' words in announcing the Jubilee said, 'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.

The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope'. Letter of the Holy Father Francis for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation for the Jubilee 2025

We feel that our students in the family of Saint Martin's have embraced from their hearts the flame of hope to be anchors in peoples' lives and to never lose hope even when the storms of life surround us. From winning 2 competitions in our CMAT linked to Pilgrims of Hope; our messages of Hope for our St Thomas Aquinas CMAT Feast Day, to our prayers for National Holocaust Memorial Day based on the theme 'For a better Future' to our Divinity Careers Event on 'Pilgrims of Hope'; having our photos taken with our inspirational visitors many who were parents and carers with our famous 'Pilgrims of Hope' Instagram selfie frame; to welcoming Mrs Meehan, an Old School Girl who came to Saint Martin's in 1952, who shared her memories with our new Year 7's on their second day here in our school family; our

Open Evening where we gave out seeds to plant as a symbol of Hope for the care of our Common Home; to welcoming members of different faiths into our family for our Interfaith weeks ;to celebrating the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate (our

Church teaching on social cohesion of welcoming and entering into dialogue and collaboration with other faiths) with some of our Year 11 students who had a moving and powerful Teams call with Bishop Patrick, lead Bishop for Interreligious Dialogue in this country; our pilgrimage of Hope has grown and we hope that it will bear much fruit in the days and years ahead.

In response to Pope Leo's XVI call to be builders of peace, we have had a teams calls with Victoria from JRS,

We are grateful to Victoria making time to speak to us about refugees on a Teams Call . For me the JRS is like a parent or guardian caring for the vulnerable and the poor. Matthew 25 reminds us, "I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. This quote links to Dilexit Te as the JRS break the chain of oppression and show compassion to those who have nothing. Victoria's talk reminded me that we are anchors of love to those who suffer. Like Oscar Romero a prophet of social justice we are called to become God's microphone to stand in solidarity and become the voice of those who have no voice.

Once again thank you Victoria for everything you do.

Mia Year 9

Paul Bodenham from Caritas in Nottingham Diocese spoke to some of our students in November about the dignity of the human person in relation to Pope Leo's recent Apostolic Exhortation Dilexit Te- 'I have loved you'

So, as the Jubilee Year comes to a close on 6th January 2026 we look forward to Bishop Patrick's Celebration of the Word livestream on Tuesday 16th December where we will celebrate as a Diocesan wide family of schools, the special unity we have shared and pray together for the grace and strength to continue beyond the Jubilee Year as 'Ambassadors of Hope'.

On behalf of our department, we would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Christmas Window Competition

Our fifth annual Christmas Window Competition was judged last week by our yr11 Head Boy and Head Girl along with Miss Bray, one of our Art teachers.

For avid readers of this newsletter, you will know that this competition is for non teaching staff, it's an excellent opportunity for team building but often ends up in tears and tantrums at the time of judging...and that's just Mrs Tidball's reaction!

This year the theme was 'Classic Christmas Songs' with the rules as follows:

The rules are as follows:

- ◆ window should link to the theme
- ◆ display can face inside or outside (but not both)
- ◆ one whole window and windowsill / (door), but your display should not encroach on walls, ceiling or the floor (No Music or Wording this year either!)
- ◆ Size doesn't matter...it's the quality of your design and presentation that counts.
- ◆ You will be marked out of 5 for each of the following, Presentation, Quality of preparation (neat cutting etc), Technical content (hand-made elements), Overall visual Impact, and link to the theme.
- ◆ There is also a bonus point available for if the judges can guess your CLASSIC CHRISTMAS SONG from your display.
- ◆ No bribing the judges with sweets!

There were 5 teams joining in this year, with the reigning champion (Mrs Franklin) bowing out early due to other commitments, but we were joined by the Pastoral office for their first attempt at winning a rosette.

As always the jibes and jokes came about early on as the teams worked hard to conceal the song that their window related to until judging day, a great deal of which centred around the frightening face on the mannequin, skilfully made by Mrs McGlynn.

After weeks of designing, planning, crafting and installing, all of the windows were ready and only a few of the themes had been guessed correctly.

At judging, the LSA team where disqualified, much to their dismay, due to having wording and a two way display, I'm sure they will learn to stick to the rules for next year.

Victors Mrs Trotman and Mrs Turvey where ecstatic to win the gold rosette after placing 3rd last year, they enjoyed their victory so much that they entered the next admin team meeting to 'We are the Champions' by Queen!



Can you guess all of the song titles from these pictures?

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Keeping children safe online

Advent Term 2025-2026

Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

Start with the positives

Online life can be great for learning, creativity, and staying connected. Balance helps children feel confident, not scared.

Pick the right moment

Choose a calm, everyday time i.e. a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the chat during a disagreement or when emotions are high.

Use child-friendly resources

Age-appropriate videos, guides, and tools can make safety messages clearer and more engaging.

Ask about their experiences

Use open questions: "Have you seen anything that made you uncomfortable?" "Who do you chat or play with online?" "Do you know them offline?" "How do certain apps or games make you feel?"

Keep it ongoing

These don't need to be formal, one-off talks. Regular, relaxed check-ins make it easier for children to speak up if something worries them.



Parental Controls

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- Create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- Manage the content different family members can see

Parental controls can be a helpful tool, but they have limits — so they shouldn't be seen as the whole solution. Even if you've set controls on your home broadband and your child's device, they won't apply if your child connects to other Wi-Fi networks without them. Parental controls work best as one part of a wider approach to keeping your child safe online.



More Top Tips

- **Talk it through:** Explain controls are there to keep them safe, and invite questions about the settings.
- **Use strong passwords:** Add a password so settings can't be changed.
- **Adjust with age:** Ease controls as they grow, at a pace that suits your child, not peer pressure.
- **Filters aren't perfect:** They may still see upsetting content, so keep the conversation open.

Get advice on supporting children if they have seen harmful or upsetting content online

[CLICK HERE](#)

How to start the conversation about online safety and how to navigate tricky topics

[CLICK HERE](#)

23 Schools - 9000 Pupils - One Team



—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

SM Chaplaincy

The Saint Martin's Chaplaincy Leadership Team made a special pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Carlo Acutis at St Michael's Catholic Church in Wolverhampton, joined by our friends from St Peter's, Hinckley.

The day was filled with prayer, reflection and inspiration as we learned about the newly canonised St Carlo Acutis — a young saint devoted to the Eucharist and known for using technology to share the Gospel.

A truly powerful reminder of faith in today's world, and a chance for our team to grow together. Thank you to Canon Mgr Mark Crisp for leading our pilgrimage.

Our wonderful choir helped usher in the festive season today with heart-warming visits to local care homes in Barwell and Earl Shilton. Their joyful performances filled the lounges and corridors with the familiar sounds of treasured Christmas carols, creating a truly special atmosphere for residents and staff alike.

What made the visits even more memorable was seeing residents joining in—smiling, singing, and tapping along to the beloved melodies. For many, it was a moment of connection, nostalgia, and shared celebration during a time of year that can sometimes feel quiet or lonely.

The choir's time, energy, and festive spirit brought warmth to everyone they met, reminding us all of the power of music to lift hearts and bring communities together. We extend our thanks to the care homes for welcoming us so warmly, and to each choir member for helping make this meaningful tradition possible.

We joyfully celebrated the feast day of Saint Martin de Porres.

Students gathered in the hall for a beautiful Celebration of the Word, thoughtfully prepared and reverently led by our Chaplaincy students. Together, we reflected on the life of St. Martin — a man of extraordinary kindness, humility, and unwavering faith. His life continues to inspire people around the world to live with compassion and service to others.

During the celebration, students were encouraged to follow St. Martin's example by performing at least one small act of kindness — whether at school, at home, or within the wider community. Through these simple gestures, we strive to live out his message of love, equality, and care for all.

On Wednesday 3rd December the CMAT Travelling Crib arrived at Saint Martin's. Throughout the day, the crib moved around our school, spending time in both Divinity and Chaplaincy. This special visit offered our children a quiet opportunity to pause, reflect, and pray as they considered the true meaning of Christmas. We have now passed the Travelling Crib on to St Peter's Hinckley, where its journey will continue. Over the season of Advent, it will travel throughout our CMAT family, reminding each community it visits of the hope, joy, and anticipation that this sacred season brings.

Our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day. We paused for two minutes of silence to honour the bravery, sacrifice, and service of all those who have given their lives in conflict, past and present. Our Head Boy and Head Girl led us beautifully in the Exhortation, reminding everyone of the importance of remembrance and gratitude. It was particularly powerful to see some of our students wearing their Cadet, Royal Navy, Polic Cadet, and Explorer uniforms, standing proudly as a symbol of service and commitment. In this moment of stillness, we prayed for peace in our world, for the safety of those who serve today, and for hope to guide us towards a future free from war.

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](https://twitter.com/stmartin1963)

SM Chaplaincy



In October the Secondary Chaplaincy Leadership teams from across the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust gathered at Loughborough Grammar School for a day of shared prayer, reflection, and collaboration. It was a wonderful opportunity to unite with fellow chaplains and student leaders from the other secondary schools in our Trust.

We began our day grounded in prayer, focusing on the life and witness of the newly canonised Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati. His motto, “Verso l’alto” – “To the heights,” inspired our reflections as we considered how, like him, we are all called to help each other climb the spiritual and practical mountains in our lives. His example reminded us that holiness is often found in the ordinary moments of generosity, friendship, and service.

We were also joined by members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), who led a meaningful session that energised and inspired our own SVP teams for the year ahead. It was particularly powerful to hear how small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference and how we can live out our faith through service to others.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to work in mixed groups with students and staff from the various schools. We shared our experiences—the joys and challenges we face in our chaplaincy work—as well as the many creative and impactful ways we bring the Gospel to life in our communities. There was a real sense of unity and purpose as we recognised the common threads that run through each of our schools, alongside the unique gifts we each bring.

To round off the day, we spent time developing action plans for the year ahead. With fresh ideas, renewed energy, and a deepened sense of mission, we left the gathering ready to continue building a culture of faith, compassion, and service within our schools.

It was a day of real encouragement—a reminder that we don’t climb alone, but together, as a community striving towards something greater.



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 Success This Term

What a fantastic start to the year for our netball teams! During the first term, all teams from Year 7 to Year 11 were crowned Hinckley & Bosworth Champions. Many of our teams dominated their tournaments, conceding very few goals along the way, a true testament to their hard work and commitment.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 teams have recently secured impressive quarter-final victories against Charnwood College and Humphrey Perkins respectively and now progress to the semi-finals. Meanwhile, our Year 7 and Year 8 teams are set to play their quarter-finals in the coming days — keep an eye on Facebook for updates on their progress.

The girls have also taken part in numerous friendly fixtures, also our B and C teams taking part showing excellent teamwork, skill and determination, achieving some great performances and results.

Our Year 7 players have been training exceptionally hard, and we are excited to head into the new year with all teams, as many matches and tournaments lie ahead.

In October, our U14 and U16 teams competed in the County Netball Tournament. The U16 team narrowly missed out on a place in the final after a close semi-final loss to Lutterworth High and are now first reserves for the Regional competition. However, our U14 team delivered a truly outstanding performance, becoming Leicestershire County Champions after a dominant 16–0 victory over Oakham in the final. The team will now go on to represent the county at the Regional Tournament in Oundle this January.



Football

Year 7 boys showed up in great numbers to try out for the football team. They played well during their CVL just missing out on advancing to the next round.

The development team also got some experience competing in a recent tournament gaining playing time.

Well done all the year 7s, looking forward to some more game time in 2026.

The year 11 boys played some great football. This resulted in them winning their initial CVL and moving on to the Hinckley & Bosworth final. This is where their journey ended, they also tasted defeat in the first round of the Warwickshire Cup. They've had some great results over the 5 years and really grew as a team. Next up for them is the end of year testimonial match.

Individual Sporting Achievements

We would also like to recognise some of our outstanding students who have achieved remarkable success in their respective sporting pathways:

Eden Day – Selected by Aston Villa

Elodie Debney – Selected for Leicestershire County Netball and the Loughborough Lightning Hub

Eva Orton – Selected for Warwickshire County Netball

Esther Amadi-Obi – After years of dedication and rigorous trials, selected for the Nottingham Forest Netball Team

Martha Shipton – Selected for the Loughborough Lightning U17 PDP Netball Team

Zoe Lanwarne – Selected for the U16 England PDP Pathway Team

These outstanding achievements are a credit to the girls' dedication, resilience and talent and deserve to be celebrated. As well as all the above pupils we have had many gain places in Loughborough Lightning netball hub.



Well done to all our netball players for an incredible term. Your commitment, effort and teamwork have been exceptional, and we are excited to see what 2026 will bring.

Finally, the PE Department has launched a new Sports Facebook page, highlighted at the top of the Saint Martin's Facebook page. Please give us a follow to keep up to date with our sporting successes and achievements.

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 2025

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