



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the virtues we regularly look at and try to practise is that of gratitude, so in the light of this virtue, I want to take the opportunity, at the end of this academic year, to be thankful for all that has been achieved by our school community. Looking back over the past year, there is so much for which we can be proud and grateful.

Our pupils have enjoyed success across every aspect of school life. They have achieved excellent examination results, celebrated sporting success at county and regional level and even national, excelled in music, drama and public speaking, and embraced a wide range of educational visits and enrichment opportunities. Even to the last, the school has been filled with the music of Abba, Grease and other classic stage shows as our singers, musicians, dancers and dramatists have been practicing for the musical Summer Show Case over the last few days.

Whilst these achievements are important, it is the kind of people our pupils are becoming that makes us proudest.

Throughout the year I have received countless compliments from visitors, members of the public, educational venues, hotel staff and colleagues from other schools, all commenting on the courtesy, confidence, kindness and respect shown by our pupils. Whether representing us on school trips, on sporting fixtures or simply within our local community, they have been exceptional ambassadors for our school. They create the reputation that Saint Martin's enjoys, and they should be immensely proud of that.

My sincere thanks also go to our dedicated and brilliant staff. Their commitment extends far beyond the classroom, giving generously of their time, expertise and care to ensure every child is supported to flourish academically, personally and spiritually. The calm, purposeful atmosphere so often remarked upon by visitors is a reflection of their dedication.

As a Catholic school, we believe education is about far more than examination results (Although ours are always excellent!). Our mission is to help every young person know that they are loved by God, to learn "the best that has been thought and said", and to live lives of virtue. Throughout the year we have reflected together on courage, gratitude, prudence, temperance, resilience, kindness and other virtues, recognising that these daily habits gradually shape the adults our pupils will become.

Finally, we say farewell to several valued members of staff.

Paula Dednum – Worked with us for many years in numerous roles and retires as a teacher in the English Department.

Paige Furborough – a former pupil and someone we managed to recruit back to teach English, moving on to a new and exciting role in another school.

Rachel Hornsey – Retiring as an integral member of the science department she was the lead Science Technician.

Christina Kwon – A teacher in the Maths Department, moving to a teaching role in the UAE.

Lorraine Lynch Kelly – a key person in the development and success of Saint Martin's, Deputy Headteacher and then moving on to become Director of the Knowledge Hub (A not-for-profit educational training organisation which was founded by and based at Saint Martin's), now retiring.

Andy Peake – from top Leicester City FC player to Saint Martin's Cover supervisor and mini-bus driver, now retiring.

Karen Pitman – originally a member of our admin team and most recently a programme coordinator for the Knowledge Hub. Relocating to be closer to family.

Sarah Robinson – also a former pupil and subject lead for Food Technology for many years.

Elsie Halkett – Retiring after over 10 years as a Learning Support Assistant.

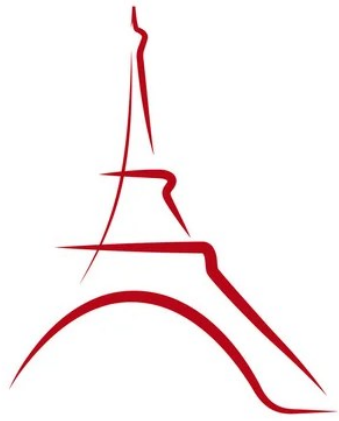
We thank them all for their dedicated service to Saint Martin's and wish them every happiness and success for the future.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Together we continue to build a school community of which we can all be proud.

I wish you all a peaceful, restful and blessed summer. May God bless you and your families.

C Wright
Principal

Our Year 11 leavers Travel and Tourism class have put into practise what they have been learning, by researching and planning a visit to Paris, which they then embarked on after their GCSE season ended as a final farewell to Saint Martin's, their classmates and Mrs Glennon, their Travel & Tourism teacher.



PARIS

Mrs Glennon had the following message about her class and this visit. "I want to say what an amazing trip with fab pupils who really represented the school in the best way possible, from trying out their French to say please and thank you, meeting all deadlines and check points, following instructions even in the heat and generally being a pleasure to spend time with, thank you to all of you for a fantastic weekend.

The highlights included chaos on the eurostar, doing Disney in 37degree heat and blazing sunshine, managing all the stairs up and down the Arc de Triomphe, despite the heat and the height for an amazing view of Paris, the biggest and best thunderstorm many pupils had ever seen, earning a well deserved rest on the river cruise having powerwalked down Les Champs-Élysées.

Thanks also to the other staff that supported this visit, everyone involved were absolute super stars!!



Primary Science

This year we have had a flurry of science activities with some of our local Primary Schools.

Year 6 students from St Margaret's have visited us on several occasions and have learnt all about light and reflection, which involved them building their own periscopes and more recently, they learn about acids and alkalis and used red cabbage indicator to identify which chemicals were acidic and which were alkaline.

Year 5 students at Westfield and St Mary's took part in a lesson about the body and body organs. We looked in detail at the structure of the heart and the circulatory system, culminating in looking at a heart dissection, where pupils got to see the structures, such as the valves, that they learn about earlier in the session.

It was a pleasure to work with all the staff and students at the primary schools and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to them for welcoming me so enthusiastically.





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PTFA Annual Update

Dear Parents, Staff, and Friends,

As we come to the end of another successful year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the PTFA through their time, enthusiasm, and generosity. The continued involvement of our school community has enabled us to organise events, raise valuable funds, and enhance opportunities for our children.

Highlights of the Year

This year, the PTFA organised a range of events and activities, including:

Refreshments stalls at various school events

Car boot

Christmas Wreath events

A Festive Quiz Night

Frozen Fridays—Which turned into Frozen treats everyday in the very hot and sunny weather we have enjoyed.

These events not only raised funds for the school but also helped bring together families, staff, and the wider community.

Fundraising Achievements

Thanks to your support, we raised just over £3200 during the year. Some of these funds have been contributed towards the replacement of the dance floor in the drama studio.

We have gone out to the students in school asking them what they would like to see the funds raised to go towards so we look forward to seeing which projects we can help with next.

We are grateful to all volunteers, local businesses, sponsors, and families who contributed through donations, attendance, and practical support.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

The PTFA relies entirely on volunteers. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our committee members, event organisers, helpers, teachers, and parents who have dedicated their time throughout the year. Every contribution, large or small, has made a difference.

Looking Ahead

Next year, we hope to continue building on our success by organising enjoyable events and raising funds for projects that will further enrich the school experience for our children. We welcome new ideas and encourage anyone interested in getting involved to join us.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the PTFA, thank you once again for your ongoing support. Together, we continue to make a positive impact on our school community and provide valuable opportunities for our children.

We look forward to another exciting and successful year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs Shelley Everitt
Chairperson



DANCING SUCCESS!!

Our amazing dance team qualified two teams for the National Championship in Cheltenham. An outstanding performance from the KS3 team earned them 2nd place in the UK! The KS4 team managed to finish 5th in the UK. An unreal achievement as a lot of our students only dance during the afterschool club, and to finish in those positions against national dance schools has to be celebrated!

Planned Giving Initiative

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 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.

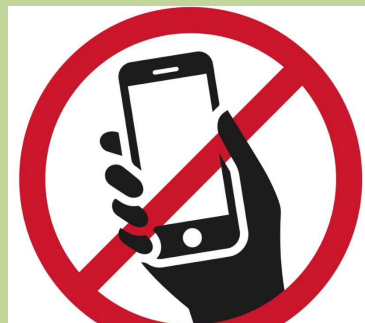
Looking After Wellbeing Over the Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we encourage families to be mindful of the impact excessive screen time and social media use can have on young people's mental health. Research by psychologist Jonathan Haidt highlights growing concerns around the link between screen use and anxiety, low mood, and social isolation in teenagers.

We strongly recommend taking time over the break to enjoy the outdoors, meet up with friends and family face-to-face, and take a break from constant online engagement. Encouraging children to read, pursue hobbies, or simply be bored can help reset their attention and support positive mental wellbeing.

For further guidance and resources, please visit the e-safety section of our website:

👉 www.saint-martins.net/parents/e-safety

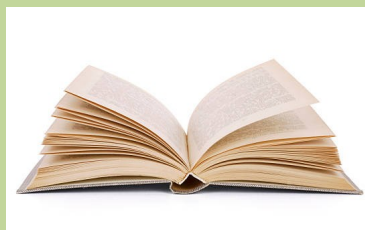


The Power of Reading Over the Holidays

Summer is the perfect time for students to unwind with a good book. Just 20 minutes of reading a day can have a significant impact on vocabulary, comprehension, creativity, and overall academic success.

Research shows that students who read regularly over the holidays are more likely to return to school with stronger literacy skills and greater confidence across all subjects. Reading also offers a healthy escape from screens, reduces stress, and improves focus and imagination.

Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, or audiobooks, encouraging your child to read for pleasure this summer is one of the simplest and most effective ways to support their education and wellbeing.



Term Dates 2026 / 27

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Student Planners

Being organised is a really important habit we like Saint Martin's pupils to develop. All pupils are expected to have a **Student Planner/Diary** to help them be organised (for notes, meetings or additional Homework information). For your convenience, we have purchased Student Pocket Planners which you can buy via Arbor.

Please note that ALL lost property items will be thrown away or donated at the end of each term. It is the sole responsibility of your child to take care of their belongings and look for them if they are misplaced.

PE lost property will be with Mr Issitt, all other items will taken to the lost property area in reception.

Thank you.

Please Note

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from abuse. Please respect all of our staff members.

Verbal abuse of staff by parents or visitors will not be tolerated and action will be taken if this occurs. For the protection of our staff, phone calls may be recorded.

Parents / Carers are welcome to contact the school at any time. In the first instance you should speak to your child's Form Tutor if you have any questions or concerns. **Please be considerate of the fact that, in most cases, our Form Tutors are members of teaching staff and will be in lessons for most of the school day as well as having break or lunchtime duty, or be responsible for bus duty after school.**

Therefore we kindly ask that you give at least 24 hours for staff to return your call. If the matter requires an urgent response please inform our office staff who will be happy to ensure that your enquiry is dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

Congratulations to our Students

A huge congratulations to all of our students who completed their examinations at Saint Martin's this summer.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Throughout the exam period, you showed resilience, determination, and maturity, and your conduct was truly fantastic. Thank you for representing Saint Martin's so positively. We wish you every success as you look forward to receiving your results.

Results Day

*Results Day will be held at Saint Martin's on **Thursday 20th August**, from **9:00am to 11:00am**.*

Please refer to the Results Day letter that was sent via email for full details. A copy of the letter, along with information about post-results services, is also available on the school website under the 'Exams Information' section.

We look forward to welcoming our students back on Results Day and celebrating their achievements with them.

Celebrating Our Young Cooks in Food Technology

Our Food Technology pupils at Saint Martins have been busy developing their culinary skills and creating some fantastic dishes this term.

Year 7 pupils have been exploring healthy eating by preparing "Salads in a Jar" inspired by the foods and principles from The Eatwell Guide. They have been learning about balanced meals, food groups, and how to create nutritious dishes that look as good as they taste.

Year 8 pupils have been creating a range of light seasonal lunches, with dishes such as chicken and quorn fajitas on the menu. They have also developed their baking skills by producing delicious raspberry buns, combining creativity with practical techniques.

Year 9 pupils have been researching healthy meals suitable for teenagers, considering the nutrients needed during this important stage of growth and development. They carefully selected and planned meals that would provide a balanced and nutritious choice.

Year 10 pupils have been working extremely hard on their end of year practical assessments, preparing, and cooking impressive two-course meals. Their commitment, creativity, and practical skills have resulted in some fabulous dishes.

Saint Martins is fortunate to have such talented young cooks, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort, and progress shown by all our Food Technology pupils.



Plas Gwynant 2026

Year 8 students took part in a week long residential to Plas Gwynant, an outdoor education centre nestled deep within the Welsh countryside. From the driveway there is an amazing view of Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon) and the surrounding lakes forests and mountains.

During the week-long stay students experienced a whole multitude of skills all linked to the theme of resilience and stepping out of their comfort zones. They achieved this by completing a whole series of activities, such as abseiling, kayaking and canoeing, gorge walking, mountain walking, rock scrambling and weaselling and orienteering, not to mention the greatest challenge of all, which was to put their duvet cover and pillow slip on in order to make their bed.

Students experienced the rigours, wonders and beauty of the beautiful Welsh countryside and pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones – with most doing the abseil off Eagle rock and jumping in the Llyn Gwynant from Elephant rock.

The trip was a pleasure to lead and the students, as always, conducted themselves brilliantly, displaying excellent behaviour and manners throughout.

Details will be out soon about the trip for next year's year 8.



The Big Sleep Out 2026

It was a small taster of what youth homelessness feels like. Cold, uncomfortable, eye-opening.

We started the evening with a visit from Mr Del Busso and his ice cream van — such a kind and unexpected treat to kick things off. Thank you!!

After that we gathered in the dining hall for prayer led by our students, followed by a talk from Lawrence House, Fr Frank, and Fr Michael. It set the tone perfectly and reminded us why we were there.

Huge well done to all 38 students and 4 staff who took part!

All money raised will go directly to Lawrence House, helping young people facing homelessness get the support and stability they deserve. We raised £2706.50.



MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Recently, Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the annual UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This 60-minute, 25-question multiple-choice competition encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in problem-solving. We entered over 60 students, who collectively achieved an impressive 18 Bronze certificates, 21 Silver certificates, and 8 Gold certificates.

Those who achieved Gold were then entered automatically for the "Junior Kangaroo" follow-on round of even trickier questions. Well done to Felix F, Oliver H and Abigail M for achieving Bronze, Douglas T for achieving Silver, and Charlie R for achieving Gold!

BEST IN THE EAST MIDLANDS!

One of our Year 11 students, Olo G, achieved outstanding success recently in the Maclaurin Olympiad. This was following his outstanding work in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Not only did he perform exceptionally well in the Maclaurin, but he also achieved the highest score in the whole of the East Midlands.

Olo's excellent performance earned him a medal, certificate, and book in recognition of his achievement. He also received a letter of congratulations and a certificate for coming first in the region.

Congratulations to all of our students who took part, and especially to Olo for his remarkable achievement.

PROM 2026



Huge congratulations to our 2026 leavers, who celebrated their Prom last week. Students and staff dressed to impress and danced the night away at Bosworth Hall Hotel. Wishing them all the best of luck with their next big adventure.

This term we have been very creative within Divinity. We have taken part in Spirited Arts Competition for the first time.

I have entitled my artwork as 'Care for the Common Home.' My painting represents a response to Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' in which we are asked to listen to the cries of the earth. But through the help of modern technology more people can become aware of these letters so that together we can help the poor live better lives in a fair and healthy world, we can help build better water cleaning facilities, better health care systems and more access to food supplies for all those in need because everyone in our creation matters.

Our workshop for Year 9 students who stayed in school on the trips day, focused on God's beauty in Creation as Ambassadors of Hope. We looked at the following reflection from Cafod A Prayer For Those Who Protect God's Creation | CAFOD and explored art techniques used by Andrew Goldsworthy artist and environmentalist and Elizabeth Wang a Catholic artist whose faith inspired her paintings.

Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement who spent most of her life with the poor, loved the Dostoevsky quote, "Beauty will save the world." She saw immense suffering and injustice, and a devotion to the beautiful was her response. If you see and acknowledge beauty in something or someone, it becomes awfully difficult see haphazard destruction of creation and people and do nothing.

My artwork which builds on the inspiration of Elizabeth Wang's Radiant Light image, represents beauty which is in everyone and everything as we are lovingly made Imago Dei. My artwork shows that even the wilted plant and flowers can still shine and show beauty. This shows equality in everything linked to the theme of 'Acceptance' this week in our school family. Like my artwork, we all have a reason to keep going and shining even on those days that show less light.

My artwork represents the path of life with God. The sticks represent our path; they are not all straight as each, and everyone's path of life is varied and different. At the top the beauty of flowers shows God's eternal love for us and the

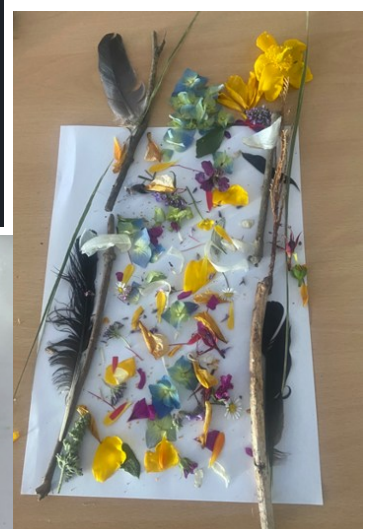
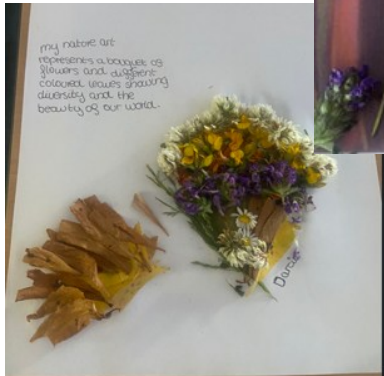
promise of eternal life. Some flowers are scattered may be in our own scattiness we are called to make a difference to the people we meet each day. As stewards of the earth, we are called to protect our Common Home and flourish together as one family. We are God's greatest artwork.

My nature picture is an angel. It has no face to show that anyone no matter who you are or where you come from matters. We are called to be the Stewards and Guardian Angels of Creation.

Some examples from our students in Year 9 today

Thank you Mrs Taylor for inspiring us.

On behalf of our Department, we would like to 'Thank you' for your continuous support and wish you and your families a lovely holiday.





We have recently launched IGNITE

Over the next five Thursdays, members of our Chaplaincy Team will come together to explore faith, discipleship, and leadership, growing in confidence as young people called to make a difference in our school and wider community.

A huge thank you to Jane for kicking us off with a fantastic opening session on Love and faith. Through discussion, reflection, and shared experiences, our students began thinking about what it means to live out their faith in everyday life.

Faith, reflection, growth... and ending our session with donuts. A wonderful start to what promises to be an inspiring journey. Watch this space!



Our Year 8 students enjoyed a dedicated Vocation Day, spending the day off timetable exploring an important question: *What is God calling me to do with my life?*

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to meet and engage with a range of inspiring guests who shared their own experiences of faith, service, and vocation. Through talks, discussions, and question-and-answer sessions, students were encouraged to reflect on their gifts and talents and consider how they can use them to serve others in their future lives and careers.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from CAFOD and the SVP, Sister Mary, alongside Joe Hopkins from the Nottingham Diocese, Jane Henderson, and many other guests. Each speaker offered a unique perspective on vocation, helping students to understand that God's call can be lived out in many different ways, whether through family life, professional careers, voluntary work, religious life, or service within the community.

The day was a valuable opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of vocation and to reflect on the impact they can have on the world around them. We are extremely grateful to all of our visitors for giving their time and sharing their experiences, helping to make the day both thought-provoking and inspiring for our Year 8 students.



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.

Homework Club

Homework club will **be available until 4:35pm**, Monday to Friday It will only be available for students who want to study, complete homework or read. It will be a silent study area.

Students will need to reserve their place with the library staff by the end of lunch each day. If parents/carers know that a slot will be needed on a regular basis for a term, this can be booked in advance by emailing: library@saint-martins.net

Attendance

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

the best opportunity to attend and to achieve.

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

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

Things to remember

Equipment for lessons

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

Coursework

It is extremely important that students meet coursework deadlines set by the school and also be prepared for whatever the conditions of the coursework are. These are set out by the exam board including the tasks involved in the course. Provision of all coursework materials will also need to be provided by parents, your support with this is vital. If the course requires a text book, it will need to be purchased to support in class learning. This isn't optional as those without will be at a disadvantage.

Drop off and Pick up Arrangements

We have received a lot of messages this year regarding changes to pick up routines which can be a timely task. Could we ask that where possible, arrangements are made before the school day with your child.

Contact details

Please ensure your child writes up to date contact numbers in their planner so that if they need to contact home this can be done quickly.

Can we ask that should your address or contact details change that you notify the school immediately as it can be a safeguarding matter if we need to get hold of you.

Pastoral care

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

The school is a community in which each person is valued as an individual.

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

Sporting Results

Barcelona Sports Tour 2026

Every two years, our talented Year 8 and Year 9 football and netball players have the opportunity to take part in our highly anticipated sports tour to Barcelona. Former participants regularly describe it as "the best school trip ever" and one that should not be missed!

The trip is packed with exciting experiences, including a day at a thrilling theme park, a visit to the vibrant city of Barcelona, time to relax on the beach, and, of course, two days of competitive football and netball fixtures against teams from across Europe.

This year, 60 students represented the school and once again made the trip a huge success. Our four netball teams were outstanding, with every team stepping up and performing brilliantly throughout the tournament. Our A Team were crowned overall champions, while our other three teams also impressed, with two narrowly missing out on a place in the semi-finals.

Our footballers also produced some excellent performances. The Year 9 team had a particularly successful tournament, finishing as overall runners-up and demonstrating great skill, determination and teamwork.

As always, the trip provided unforgettable memories, opportunities to develop sporting skills, and the chance to build friendships and confidence. We are incredibly proud of all the students who represented the school so positively and look forward to returning in two years' time.



PGL Barton Hall Netball Tour

Each year in May, our newly formed Year 7 netball squad travels to a PGL centre for an exciting weekend of netball, team building and outdoor adventure. This year, we headed to Barton Hall in Devon for another fantastic trip.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather, enjoying sunshine throughout the weekend, which allowed the girls to make the most of the excellent facilities on offer. A particular highlight was the outdoor swimming pool, which proved to be very popular during their free time!

On the court, we entered three netball teams, and the girls were outstanding from start to finish. Across the weekend, they achieved numerous victories and competed in several closely contested matches.

Our A Team had a particularly impressive tournament, progressing all the way to the final. After a hard fought match, they were narrowly beaten in the closing minutes, finishing as deserving runners-up.

The girls were a credit to the school both on and off the court, and the trip provided a wonderful opportunity to develop friendships, build confidence and create lasting memories. We are already looking forward to next year's tour!



A Fantastic Year for Netball

This has been another outstanding year for netball at our school, with our teams achieving some incredible successes. Our students have represented the school, resulting in one team qualifying for the National Finals, another reaching the Regional Finals, and several teams being crowned Leicestershire Champions.

In recognition of these achievements, we were delighted to be invited by Hannah Joseph from Loughborough Lightning to take part in a special netball workshop. This was a fantastic opportunity for our players to learn new skills, take part in competitive match play, and gain valuable insights from an elite athlete.

The highlight of the day was a question-and-answer session, where the girls had the opportunity to learn more about Hannah's netball journey, her achievements, and the dedication required to succeed at the highest level. It was an inspiring experience that we hope will encourage many of our students to continue pursuing their own netball ambitions.

incredibly proud to have had two former students go on to play for Nottingham Forest Netball, one present student representing Loughborough Lightning, and many others achieving county-level honors.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work, commitment and passion of our players. We look forward to seeing what our talented netballers can achieve in the future.



Sporting Results

World School Games Netball

At the end of June, our U15 girls' netball team travelled to Loughborough to compete in the World School Games. This annual event is always a highlight of the sporting calendar, giving the girls the unique opportunity to compete against teams from around the world, an experience they thoroughly enjoy and look forward to each year.

Despite competing during one of the hottest weeks of the year, the girls produced an outstanding performance, finishing as runners-up in the Plate competition. They narrowly lost the final to Streatham & Clapham High School, who had earlier this year finished as runners-up in the National Finals.

Every player gave 100% effort, showing excellent teamwork, commitment and perseverance by fighting until the final whistle in every match. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented the school.



Area Athletics Championships

This year, we were proud to have two students selected to represent Hinckley & Bosworth at the Leicestershire County Athletics Championships.

Despite extremely challenging weather conditions and persistent rain throughout the day, both athletes demonstrated great determination.

Johnette A/O competed in the shot put and delivered an outstanding performance. She narrowly missed out on first place, with victory being decided by the smallest of margins on the final throw of the competition.

Sorom E represented the school in the 200m sprint. After an impressive performance in the heats, she secured a place in the final. Sorom continued to perform brilliantly, finishing 6th overall in the county, a fantastic achievement.

Both students represented the school and the district with pride and should be incredibly proud of their performances. Congratulations to Johnette and Sorom on their excellent achievements.

Rounders

This year, many students took part in rounders training in preparation for the local tournaments. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather throughout May and June, many of the scheduled competitions were cancelled.

Despite the disruptions, our Year 7 and 8 girls were able to compete in one local tournament, which featured six teams. Both of our teams performed exceptionally well throughout the competition. The Year 7 team won their group, while the Year 8 team topped the other group, earning both teams a place in the final.

The final proved to be an exciting all-school contest, with the match remaining incredibly close right until the very last ball. With the scores level, the result came down to the number of players out, with the Year 8 team narrowly claiming victory by the smallest of margins.

It was a fantastic showcase of skill and teamwork from both teams, and all of the girls should be extremely proud of their performances. We hope for better weather next year so that even more students have the opportunity to compete and enjoy rounders fixtures throughout the season.



Well done to some of our Year 9 students who completed their Level 2 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership in their core PE lessons. This takes two terms to complete. Another great achievement for those who don't necessarily take part in sport and show a passion to become a coach in the future.



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 and 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 emergence 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

Pentecost Term 2026

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