



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Hopeful Enquiring Respectful Organised Independent Collaborative

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the school closing?	<p>Due to falling student numbers in Lambeth and neighbouring boroughs there has been a significant decline in the number of young people living and going to school in Lambeth, meaning that we, along with other local schools, have seen our pupil numbers diminish in recent years.</p> <p>The number of pupils in Lambeth is not expected to increase for approximately eight years. Since funding for schools is awarded based on its pupil numbers, it is no longer viable for St Martin's to continue operating as a school and deliver the level of education that our young people deserve.</p>
Why did parents not get more notice of closure?	<p>We have been in discussions with the Department for Education, Lambeth Council and The Diocese of Southwark regarding the future of the school. There is a statutory responsibility around making such a decision public, and legally we could not announce a decision until it was made by the Department for Education.</p> <p>When an academy is facing closure, the Secretary of State will issue a substantive decision to proceed to closure. At this point, the academy trust must share news of the closure with pupils, parents, staff, unions, relevant LAs and schools elsewhere in the local area at the earliest opportunity and conduct a 4-week listening period. We have informed you of this decision at the earliest possible opportunity.</p> <p>The listening period is an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to be provided with information as to why the school is closing and how it is proposed the closure process will operate. This provides an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to submit their views on how the school closure process can be best managed. Parents are invited to attend our parent meetings on the following days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Years 10-13 on Tuesday 16th May at 6.15pm● Years 7-9 on Wednesday 17th May at 6.15pm <p>During these meetings, we will share plans for the closure and invite you to share your thoughts and concerns.</p>
When will the school close?	<p>The school will close to current Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils on 31st August 2023. Current Year 10 and 12 pupils will remain at St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls until August 2024 to complete the final years of their exams: this has been arranged in order to minimise disruption caused to exam students.</p>

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St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



	As an academy built on 'Love and Learning', we are determined to mitigate the impact of this event on the educational journeys of our students. We are committed to supporting our students through this change and facilitating a smooth transition between schools.
My daughter is in Year 11 and was planning to apply to the 6th Form. Where will the Year 11's apply for post-16 education?	<p>St Martin's Sixth Form is part of the South London Sixth (SL6) group, alongside Dunraven School, and The Elmgreen School. Year 11 students will be encouraged to apply to continue their post-16 education with our partner schools through the SL6 provision.</p> <p>A parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th May, 6.15pm. Information regarding the substantive decision for closure will be shared and you will be provided with an opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns.</p>
My daughter is in Year 11/13 and will need a reference for Colleges/Universities, how will she get one?	<p>As part of the process for closure, we have ensured that standard references will be made available when requested. please put your request in writing by emailing: smartins@smartins.academy</p> <p>A parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th May, 6.15pm. Information regarding the substantive decision for closure will be shared and you will be provided with an opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns.</p>
What will happen to the school site?	The school's site in Tulse Hill is owned by a charitable trust whose objectives are focused on the welfare and education of children and young people. Those objectives will be central to any decisions made on the future use of the site.
Student Placement	
My daughter is in Year 7-9, what school will she go to?	<p>We are working with Lambeth Council on a reallocation process for our current Year 7,8 and 9 students (131 students in total). Each student will be allocated a place at another Lambeth school, based on distance from your home address and/or St Martin-in-the Fields High School for Girls. All students will be offered a place at a school with a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' OFSTED rating.</p> <p>You will be given information regarding your child's school place allocation on Wednesday 17th May, as well as details of the school's ethos, location and transport links.</p>
When will my daughter start her new school?	It is intended that your child will start her new school in September 2023. Details about your child's transition will be available at the Parent and Headteacher's meeting being held on Wednesday 17 th May at 6.15pm.
How will my daughter get to her new school?	You will be given information regarding your child's school place allocation at the Parent and Headteacher's meeting being held on Wednesday 17 th May, as well as details of the school's ethos, location and transport links.

What uniform will my daughter have to wear and where will I get it from?	A Parent and Headteacher’s meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 th May, 6.15pm. Information regarding your daughter’s new school will be shared on the night and you will be provided with an opportunity to meet representatives from the allocated school.
Is there any help for the cost of new uniform for my daughter?	We understand there may be unexpected costs associated with the transition to a new school e.g., new uniform, we have made some financial support available. If you wish to use the support, please put your request in writing by emailing: smartins@smartins.academy
What if I don’t want the allocated school for my daughter?	<p>Families will receive the intended offer school place at an OFSTED rated ‘Good’ or above based on distance and this will be their allocated school. If you wish to apply for a different school from the intended offer, you are able to make the selection directly to Lambeth and they will send through the request to the chosen school. If the school is an academy, you will be required to complete their application form and you will be placed on to the waiting list for that school if they are full.</p> <p>If families also have a preference for a girl’s faith school, Lambeth have been in contact with girl’s faith school both in Lambeth and out of the borough and they can support families with this choice. If families have this preference, they would indicate to Lambeth on the form which will be sent out that this is their preference and they will try and support the request with available places.</p> <p>Lambeth will hold the intended offer school place while you undergo the appeal process; however, it is expected that your daughter will start at the intended offer school if there isn’t an offer from the chosen school. Your daughter will remain on the waiting list as an in-year admission.</p>
Curriculum	
What curriculum will my daughter follow at the new school?	A Parent and Headteacher’s meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 th May, 6.15pm. Information regarding your daughter’s new school will be shared on the night and you will be provided with an opportunity to meet representatives from the allocated school.
My daughter is going into Year 9. What option choices will she have and how will they be made?	A Parent and Headteachers’ meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 th May, 6.15pm for students in Years 7,8 and 9. Information regarding your daughter’s new school will be shared and you will be provided with an opportunity to meet representatives from the allocated school.