



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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Friday May 14 2021

Dear Families

I hope that you are well. We are moving into different times as the government continues to bring in the changes in line with the road map to ease lockdown measures. Many of these will impact the school and we will need your ongoing support.

There are a number of items in this letter and I have separated them under headings for ease of reading.

Face Coverings

As you may be aware by now, on Monday, the government made the decision that face coverings are no longer compulsory in schools from next Monday 17 May. Whilst this is a positive move going forward, in the context of our school and in line with trades unions, we want to ensure and maintain the safety of our community. As you will be aware, we have a percentage of vulnerable members of staff, staff that have not yet been vaccinated, vulnerable students, and recently were subject to surge testing for the South African variant. Therefore, with your support, as a precautionary measure, we are encouraging all students to continue to wear face coverings, at least until half term, that is for the next two weeks.

We appreciate that some students may not wish to do this, however, the government has said that staff and visitors should continue to wear face coverings in communal areas. We believe the same should be for students. We are at a crucial time of change and we want to continue to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our community. We will provide face coverings for students who do not have access to them. Please be reminded that face coverings are still required in shops, on public transport and in other public places, so your child will need to have one with them at all times.

Home Testing

Thank you to families who continue to monitor your child is home testing on a regular basis and reporting results via our website or our dedicated covid email address. If your child has run out of test kits, they can collect further kits from school. As previously stated home testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged to ensure the ongoing safety of your child and the entire school community.

A reminder that if your child or anyone in your household displays covid symptoms, they should book and take a PCR test, self isolate until the test result is received as negative, or continue in line with government guidelines if indeed the result is positive.

Uniform - Dress Code

Recently we have been spending a disproportionate amount of time on dealing with issues that are taking us away from supporting our key priority of teaching and learning. A growing number of students are coming to school with the incorrect uniform, multiple earrings and fresh piercings to their nose, tongue and other parts of their body. Not only is this unacceptable, it is a concern that these piercings were done during the lockdown when these premises would have been closed.

As a matter of health and safety, I urge you to check where your daughter might be going to get piercings done and remind you also that piercings are not allowed in school. We will be clamping down on this and ask for your continued support. Please refer to our [dress code](#) on the school website. We appreciate some families may have hardship at this time, we are here to support, please contact the school if you require financial support and we will aim to help where we can.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



Mobile Phones

The same applies to mobile phones as to the dress code. We are spending such a lot of time reminding students to keep their phone switched off and out of sight. Please support us with this. There is no reason for students to have their phone on, or use their phone during the day. Our expectations are clear and we will confiscate mobile phones if students do not adhere to our rules.

Bubbles

As much as it may not appear to students, we are still bound by government restrictions and in the grip of a global pandemic, please remind your child. It is apparent that some students are becoming a little too complacent with hugging, and social contact, not using the hand sanitiser and crossing bubbles. Again I ask for your support to remind your child to adhere to our covid rules and measures for everyone's safety.

Year 11 and 13 Final Assessments

I am sure you will want to join me in wishing our Year 11 and 13 students well as they embark on their final assessments. It has been a year of radical change for them and our combined thoughts and prayers will go a long way to support them at this very crucial time. If your child is in Year 11 or 13 you will receive a separate letter and information about the assessments can be found on the [Assessments 2021](#) page on our website.

Dates for the end of term and next half term

We are two weeks away from the end of this first half of the summer term. As a result of the pandemic, we have been moving around our staff training days.

There will now be a staff training day on **Friday 28 May 2021**. Only Year 11 and Year 13 will be in school as they are sitting their final assessments. The rest of the school will finish for half term on **Thursday 27 May**. School will return for students on **Tuesday 8 June** as **Monday 7 June** will be a staff training day.

As the lockdown is beginning to ease, we are able to think about and plan for trips and visits. I am pleased to say that our first off site visit with 6 students will take place next week when they participate in the George Floyd Commemoration Service. The service will be filmed and recorded for Radio 4's Sunday service broadcast on 30 May. We hope that many more students will be able to participate in off site events before the end of this academic year.

I apologise in advance for the length of this letter, but hope that it has made clear the important information that has been shared with you.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. Also keep an eye on the [news page](#) on our website for any updates and our positive news items.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher