St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls and Sixth Form (co-ed)

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

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Monday 17 July 2017

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Families

We are fast approaching the end of another busy term and the end of an academic year. As such it is a good time for me to remind you of some of the important arrangements for the end of the term and the start of the academic year in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the school and for ensuring that your daughter strives and aspires to be the St Martin's Girl of our school vision. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you at parents' evenings and various community events throughout the school year.

We are all looking forward to the summer holiday. Students have been working extremely hard this year and so have their teachers. The dedicated staff team at St Martin's work hard every day to ensure your daughter receives the best quality teaching and care, and certainly go the extra mile.

Some years ago I saw an advert that a school had placed for a Headteacher, it struck me as being unflinchingly honest, it said: "This is not the right place for someone who walks out of the door everyday with the students at 3.30pm. We are demanding of our teachers, and of our senior leaders. We believe that our community deserves an outstanding school and we strive to be outward facing, never resting on our laurels and always seeking further improvement. We expect students and staff to embrace challenge and to see resilience and hard work as the route to success.

All of what is emphasised in this advert is what we, at St Martin's are about. It is without question that we put our heart and soul into serving the students in our school. We strive to ensure your daughter is ambitious and high achieving and we always look for the next challenge to continue our drive for improvement. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff at St Martin's for their hard work over the last year, they really do make this school a wonderful place in which to work and learn.

Especially this summer we look forward to September with a great deal of excitement. As you know we have introduced a new uniform which is being distributed on Tuesday 18 July. The new uniform will continue to offer each student a sense of belonging and create a positive identity for our school in the community. We strongly believe that a school uniform can improve learning by offering a 'ready to work' mentality, sharpening focus within lessons and making the classroom a more productive learning environment. Please continue to support us by ensuring your daughter complies with the dress code at all times. This includes non-regulation hair colour and other adornment, acrylics, false nails, piercings.

As our summer term draws to a close we bid a fond farewell to a number of staff who have served our school with dedication, hard work and commitment for many years. Our prayers and best wishes are with them as they embrace new chapters in their lives. As they embark on new and exciting journeys we would like to thank them for all their contributions to our school. We welcome and pray for the new staff that will join us in September and I am confident that students at St Martin's will make a fantastic first impression.

Our end of year Thanksgiving service will take place at Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday 18 July and the school term ends on Wednesday 19 July. Students will be dismissed after lunch at 12.30pm and they are expected to go straight home.

Our new Year 7 students return to school on Tuesday 5 September for registration at 8.30am. All other students return on Wednesday 6 September, arrangements for the first day of term for students from Year 8-11 are listed below.

Year Group	Start Date and Time
Staff only	Monday 4 September 2017
Year 7 and 12	Tuesday 5 September at 8.25am. Early finish 12.30pm
Year 7,8, 9, 10, 11,12, 13	Wednesday 6 September at 8.25am

Our Parent Partnership group invite all new Year 7 parents/carers and current families to a welcome evening on Tuesday 12 September 2017. This will take place in the school hall between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. Our first Parent Partnership business meeting will take place on Tuesday 26 September from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. We have a committed group of parents who are steering the work of this group, and we welcome more parents to join us from September. Please put these dates in your diary. You can find the dates and times for all of our meetings and events on the website.

Our term in pictures and magazine is due out at the end of term. As always, it is a celebration of the numerous events and activities girls have been involved in, from sport, arts, drama and voluntary activities, as well as supporting across the school through their various leadership roles. I continue to be immensely proud of the excellent contribution your daughters make within the community. They are a total credit to you and to our school.

I pray that you and your daughter enjoy the summer, whether it is here, or further afield and hope you have plenty of opportunity for rest and recuperation. There are a number of activities and courses that your daughter can get involved in during the summer to keep her stimulated. We will share information about these at our final assembly. Remember also, nothing can beat a good book!

On behalf of the staff and governors at St Martin's, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful summer break. I look forward to working with you all over the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Stanislaus

Headteacher