

Wednesday 25 October 2017

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the academic year and I thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It has been a very busy first half term and we are all feeling the effects of an intense, but extremely positive and productive seven weeks that have certainly flown by very quickly!

I would also like to thank you for your support in introducing our new uniform. There have been very few problems and the students seem really proud of how smart they look. Many staff and students have commented that they feel it has led to further improvements in positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. We are all delighted with the result of the new uniform and the positive impact this has had on our learning community. The new dining plaza has also been a success. Students are enjoying the upgraded dining experience and the continued high quality meals, prepared and served by Harrison's caterers.

We continue to work hard at St Martin's to ensure your daughter receives the highest quality teaching in all her subjects. We are fully staffed and the new members of staff that joined us in September have settled in well to our school community. Our aim is to ensure that students are inspired to learn and are ambitious for the future. They can only do this if they are punctual and have good attendance. Please ensure your daughter continues to meet our expectations.

The clocks go back on Sunday 29 October and this heralds the beginning of the long, cold and dark mornings and evenings. This is also the time of year when fireworks are sold and unfortunately it comes with the rise of firework related incidents. We have increased our supervision at the gate and at the shops, as prior to half term, it was reported to us that some young people (not our students) were letting off fireworks.

I ask that you to speak to your daughter about firework related dangers and insist that she should not buy or use fireworks, or be around individuals who are using them in a dangerous manner. Please ensure that your daughter keeps herself safe from harm by avoiding any unsupervised use of fireworks. Fireworks can be very pretty to look at, therefore an organised firework display is always the best option to ensure vigilance around health and safety.

If your daughter is in Year 11, she will be sitting the all important PPE exams (pre-public exams); you will get further information in a separate letter. Students in Years 12 and 13 will also be sitting PPEs and it is important that all students revise and are properly prepared for each of their exams.

We had a positive and productive Parent Partnership meeting in September, with some new parents joining us. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28 November at 6.30pm. Our main agenda item will be planning for our 90th Anniversary. In 1928, St Martin's relocated to where we are now. Next year we will celebrate 90 years of being located in Tulse Hill. Please put this date in your diary and we look forward to you attending and for your contribution.

I will write to you again next half term to tell you more about our new Chaplain and our Chapel. We are truly blessed that Mrs Moorey has joined us to lead the spiritual life of the school.

We return to school at the normal time on Monday 30 October 2017. Term ends for Christmas on Friday 15 December 2017 and if this half term is anything to go by, the next seven weeks will also fly by. Can I remind you (as per our calendar and term dates) that school will be closed to students on Friday 10 November 2017 as we will be having a staff training day.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Stanislaus

Headteacher