

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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699 *Service Compassion Justice Perseverance*

Tuesday 17 August 2021

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Dear Families

I hope you are keeping well and are enjoying the summer holiday.

As I write this final letter to you as the Headteacher of St Martin's I wanted to say how honoured and privileged I feel to have worked with you and your children. As it says in the bible, *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service." 1 Timothy 1:12.* Before saying my final farewell, I wanted to update you on our exam results this year and to share some of the wonderful successes of our school over the past 6 years.

Exam results 2021: As you know, in January the government cancelled exams and in order to grade students, these were replaced by a process of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). We also had to send samples of our evidence and grading to the exam boards as part of a rigorous quality assurance check. We were pleased that our grades were not adjusted and on 10 August and again on 12 August we celebrated positive results for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I am sure you will want to join me in congratulating each and everyone of our students for their hard work and positivity during these challenging times. You can read the good news stories of our results on the <u>news page on our website</u>.

It has certainly been a very difficult 18 months, and I am very proud of how all students from Years 7 to 13 have stepped up to the challenges, demonstrated determination, resilience and perseverance to focus on their learning. You, their parents/carers can be very proud of them.

Although it wasn't the end of term that we would have wanted, we did end with a special day of 'fun in the sun' where students were entertained by a steel pan group and a pyrotechnic acrobatic duo. You can read more and see some great photos on our <u>website</u>.

Final farewells: The end of an academic year is also a time when members of staff move on. We say goodbye to a number of colleagues and I know you will want to join me in wishing them well as they take on their promoted post or move on to new or other things. We say goodbye, thank you and all the very best to Ms Rennalls, Ms Kenison, Ms Pehlivan, Mr Beever, Ms Baldwin, Ms Tercsi-Dajka, Ms Luo, Mrs Troddan and to my Personal Assistant, Mrs Jo Goldsmith who will be retiring after 38 years at St Martin's. They have all worked tirelessly for St Martin's community and we thank them very much for all that they have done during their time at the school. Mr Gooch, the Business Manager will also be leaving at the end of September after 20 years service to the school. Thank you, and we wish him all the best in his new post.

Our successes: There is so much to be proud of and here are just a few examples of what we have achieved together:

- Our continually improving examination results that now stand above the national averages
- Our Outstanding SIAMS Inspection ratifying our strong and committed faith
- Our Good Ofsted Inspection confirming the difference we make to the lives of our students
- Our best practice article in the <u>Parliamentary Review</u>

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING

- Our new uniform, including trousers for the first time in the history of the school!
- Our new and improved school environment making it a pleasant environment to learn
- Our Simply the Best publications that showcased our students learning during lockdown
- Our support from parents who lead the Parent Partnership Group
- Our Chapel where our students of all faiths or no faith come together
- Our collaboration with external stakeholders who support the work of St Martin's

And finally... all that remains for me to say is that it has been an honour, a huge privilege and an enormous pleasure to be the Headteacher of this wonderful school for the past 6 years that has so much history dating back to 1699. I pay tribute to you as parents and carers for trusting your children into our care every day.

I have been overwhelmed with the warmest heartfelt kind messages from you and your children valuing my commitment and dedication in leading this school. In turn, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support during these exceptional 6 years and for being part of the extraordinary journey we have been on which has seen St Martin's go from strength to strength.

None of this could happen without the support, hard work and commitment of the very passionate staff and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all that they have done this year and continue to do to ensure that your children are on a path to success and are inspired to learn and are ambitious for the future.

As I begin a new chapter in my life, I will look back at my time at St Martin's with great pride, fondness and love. But most of all the admiration and love I have for the students - your children. They have given me joy every day and I will miss seeing and talking to them. However, there is no doubt that I have an abundance of very happy memories that I will take with me into my retirement! You can read some of the wonderful messages to me on the <u>news page on our website</u>.

I now pass the baton to Ms Okokon, the new Headteacher, who will lead St Martin's through the next phase of its development.

As I said to the students on their last day, so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye!

I bid you a fond farewell, and thank you again for your support.

Wishing you much happiness for the future.

With blessings

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Beverley Stanislaus Headteacher