



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

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

Friday 27 November 2020

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

Dear Families

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we approach the end of the term, I write to inform you about a few things and to invite you to a couple of virtual events.

St Martin's Reverse Advent

We are approaching the season of Advent and during our virtual collective worship, will journey through Advent reflecting on each theme of hope, peace, joy and love. The first Sunday of Advent is 29 November and on Monday we will countdown with our Advent Calendar. Instead of receiving a chocolate for each day, we are going to donate a food gift for the local food bank. The calendar below gives you an idea of the food items that the food bank needs. Over the next couple of weeks, please ask your child to bring an item of food to school and join in our Reverse Advent Challenge! On Monday, visit the news page on our website to see our launch video, courtesy of the students in 7A.



Underachievement of Portuguese pupils in Lambeth - Virtual Event Sunday 29 November 2020

The Migrantes Unidos organisation have been aware that the academic achievement of Portuguese pupils in Lambeth has been the lowest of all nationality and ethnicity groups in the borough for a long time and became alarmed that the predictions of all educational experts is that educational inequalities will be greatly exacerbated by school closures in the first lockdown. They want to try to increase and mobilise the Portuguese community awareness of the issue to help deal with the situation.

The Migrantes Unidos has organised a Zoom meeting to inform the Portuguese community and initiate a discussion of what it might be able to do to help mitigate the problem. It will take place on **Sunday, 29 November at 2:30pm**. They have secured the full support of Lambeth Council and of the Portuguese Consul-General. For details of the event and to register and receive the Zoom link please click [here](#).

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



Lambeth Raising the Game Aim High Virtual Event - Wednesday 9 December 2020

Lambeth has organised online sessions for Lambeth parents/carers, with specific focus on Black Caribbean parents/carers. The theme of each session will correspond to speakers taking part in *Aim High Virtual* for students this year. This first session will focus on Law. Jazmin Cole, a Trainee solicitor from Freeth's law firm will be the guest speaker. The online session will take place on **Wednesday, 9 December 6:00pm to 6:45pm**. [See the flyer on the news page on our website.](#)

The Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence will host the session and he will facilitate questions and discussion with the parents around the session's theme, career advice, helpful tips, practical advice, how to equip their children. These sessions are designed to empower parents in being able to support their children effectively in their educational, post-education and professional journeys. There will be a Q&A and discussion segment as part of these sessions. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

School Meals Parent Pay

If you pay for your child's meal, please can you ensure that the parent pay is topped up in advance. We are unable to continue to give credit to students who consistently fail to top up their cards. Please provide a pack lunch or do contact us if you are a family facing hardship.

Free School Meals

Thanks to the continued pressure by Marcus Rashford, the Government, through their Winter Package, has agreed to provide for children who are entitled to free school meals during the Christmas break and February half term. Lambeth LA has informed us that the amount has been increased to £20.00 per week. We will be supplying you with vouchers via Wonde. If you are not sure whether or not your child is entitled to free school meals, please get in touch with us and we can help you to find out.

Jewellery non uniform accessories

It is disappointing that some students are coming into school having had their nose or ears pierced knowing that our school rules do not permit this. Additionally it is worrying that students are doing this during a national lockdown and are risking their health and safety and that of others. We are in very challenging times and more than ever it is important that students respect and adhere to the rules and expectations. This also applies to hair colour, hair accessories, mobile phones hoodies and similar. We do not want to spend a disproportionate amount of time challenging non uniform accessories. Please support us with this.

End of Autumn Term

I will write to you again next week with details of the end of term. In the meantime, I give you advance notice that students will break up on **Wednesday 16 December 2020**. We will have two Staff Professional Development Days which will include our preparation for the new term and new year, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December 2020. School resumes again on **Monday 4 January 2021**.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact me if you have any concerns. Wishing you a safe and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher