



ST MARTINS SCHOOL

11 September 2020

Welcome back to school! We are delighted that all our year groups are back in school and back in lessons. Our new starters particularly into reception class and year 7 have settled in very well to school despite a much reduced induction and transition programme.

I'm sure your children have told you about the changes we have implemented in school to keep our year group 'bubbles' safe. So far its working well. As the weather gets colder please ensure your child has a warm waterproof coat with a name tag—there is far more outdoor time in the school day. I thought I would share a couple of photos to show you what its like in the diner and classrooms—you can see that we have tried to keep things as normal as feasibly possible.



Well done to our amazing year 10 and 11 students for their exam results in the summer—up until school closed in March they had worked hard and put in the effort; we are so proud of you all and for year 11 I wish you every best wish for your future...please keep in touch! The national Exam Results Helpline, delivered by the National Careers Service, has been extended and will now be available until 18

September to provide additional support to students and their parents as they consider their next steps. Callers to the helpline will have direct access to experienced careers advisers who can advise on the different options available to them including, A levels, GCSEs, BTECs, apprenticeships and other vocational options. Phone: 0800 100 900 Opening hours: Monday to Sunday from 8am to 10pm.



book will be in next week's newsletter.

I hope to re introduce my weekly 'open house' session; this term these will be held virtually via 'zoom'. More details about how to

Ms Lovecy



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Do you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals? During lock down parents who had applied for and were eligible received vouchers, even if their child would have received universal infant free school meals. We don't know if schools will need to partly or totally close for periods of time this autumn/winter, but if you think you may be eligible please apply. Parents/carers can make an application online through the Shropshire Council website <https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>. When a parent/carer applies online the system will be able to confirm eligibility at point of application.



Tempest photography will be in school on Monday 21 September to take Primary individual portraits. Classes will be taken to the primary studio for their photo and sanitizing will take place between each class. At this time we are unable to take family group photos.

Corona virus—planning for all eventualities

Current position

Students are being educated in year group class bubbles which stay the same for breaks and lunch. They are reminded about the importance of regular handwashing—anti bac soap and hand sanitizers are in every area of school. Posters about hygiene are up all around school. There is a one way system and staggered times of the day to ensure bubbles to do not meet. We have reduced external visitors in school; parents are asked to phone or email with any questions or concerns.

Partial/year group bubbles closure

This will happen if there are confirmed COVID results in a year group bubble or where we have several staff who have to self-isolate making it difficult to run the school as normal.

Please make sure your contact details are up to date as we may have to close bubbles at very short notice

In this instance On line learning for students would take place.

Students with symptoms

If your child is displaying any of the symptoms (temperature, new persistent cough, loss of taste or smell) or someone in your household is please do not send your child to school. Call reception and let us know. This is the main way to protect everyone in our community.

In this instance students if they are well but isolating can access school work on Show My Homework (SMHW)

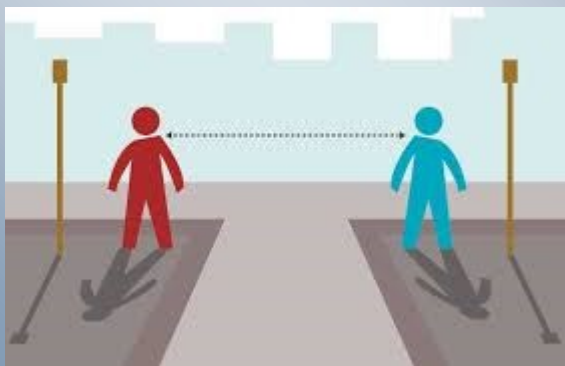


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Parents

We know that many of you have not seen each other for months and to want to have a chat and a catch up is understandable. **BUT please do not stand in groups on the school site.** We must maintain social distancing.



Dates for the diary (keep on eye on the website!)

We have lots of parents evenings etc that we are reviewing if they can take place—we will inform parents as soon as possible

21 September—school photos for primary students

26 October—half term holiday

2 November—students return to school

21 December—Christmas Holiday

4 January PD day

5 January—students return to school

Library books

We are working on systems and processes to enable our secondary students to access books in our library. In the meantime if you have any library books that are still at home, please return them to school—there is a box in the hub doorway for returns.

Thank you!!

UNIFORM

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting the tone for learning. It can help to:

- Encourage a sense of pride in the school
- Support positive behaviour and discipline
- Encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos
- Ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome
- Protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

During the recent uniform consultation the majority of parents were wholly in favour of the uniform. Full details can be found at: <http://www.stmartins3-16.org/parents/uniform/>

We expect all our students to arrive at school prepared for the day's lessons. They will need to bring a school bag containing at least their planner, two pens, two pencils, ruler and an eraser. Students are expected to have a work like appearance – if they wear ear rings, these should be small studs or sleepers which can be easily removed for safety reasons when required. Facial piercing is not permitted. Hair should be of a natural monochrome colour. Hair should be no shorter than a 'grade 2' and without 'tramlines'. Long hair should be tied back in practical lessons. If students do wish to wear make up this should be 'natural'. And should not include fake eyelashes. Acrylic or gel nails are not appropriate for school - they hinder students in practical lessons and are a health and safety issue.