



Ms Sue Lovecy, Head of School

-Dear Parent / Carer

18 December 2020

RE: End of term letter

Thank you for your support during a very challenging autumn term! Students and staff have adapted very quickly to changes in routine and I believe this has helped to keep the number of COVID cases in school to just a handful and prevented any transmission within school. To keep everyone safe, these routines will continue into the Spring Term.

It feels like there are announcements about schools from the Department of Education on a daily basis with proposals about testing, staggered starts to the new term etc.; **as things currently stand we plan to have year 11 and year 10 back on the 5th and 9,8,7 back on the 11th Primary classes remain unchanged.**

If you have a child in year 7-9 who is vulnerable (eg social worker, EHCP) or as a parent you are a critical worker, please phone school on MONDAY 4 JANUARY BEFORE 10.30am to book a place for your child for the Tuesday - Friday. If any of these arrangements change we will contact parents via email and on the website.

You will be hearing over the holidays about covid testing in school. As yet we do not know all of the details of how this will be undertaken and we will contact parents as soon as we have information on how this might work.

I hope all our community have the opportunity to 'recharge batteries' during the two week break. When we return we do have mock exams for our year 10 and 11; these are important as schools are still waiting for further clarification about the changes to GCSE exams in the summer.

Students have been given access to revision materials and there is a useful presentation from Ms Mottershaw and Ms Mooney on our website that you may find useful to look at together.

<https://www.stmartins3-16.org/students/revision/>

Like many of you, we have had to adapt our Christmas celebrations this year. We have had a fabulous Christmas lunch offered for all students, Christmas jumper day, Christingle at the church and an 'on line' Panto! We have even been able to do a 'virtual' Extravaganza thanks to Mr James – to view click here <https://youtu.be/PBIVg2N6KRA>



Year 1 – Christmas cards for residents of sheltered housing

Primary Christingle Service

Our school is very special. As I have said many times before 'our children are individuals, respected for their differences and celebrated for their strengths. Within this caring family environment our children feel confident to push themselves to achieve the best they can'. It is for these reasons that the school is 'full' in many year groups including year 7, 8 and 9 and for next year we are considerably oversubscribed for year 7. I am very proud of this school.



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Our personal development, behaviour and welfare was rated as outstanding by Ofsted. I want to maintain this. It provides for a safe and calm environment for our students to learn and thrive. From January I want to remind parents of our policies on **uniform, behaviour and use of 'phones**. You will find details at the end of this letter.

I hope that none of our school community fall ill during the holidays; if you do develop symptoms/test positive for COVID please inform reception@smartins3-16.org and sue.lovecy@smartins3-16.org

Remember to stay safe and keep smiling. Have a safe, peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on **TUESDAY 5 JANUARY**.

Sue Lovecy

Head of School

Uniform in January

<https://www.smartins3-16.org/parents/uniform/>

We have a very comprehensive uniform guide including acceptable footwear on our website. We believe that having a uniform policy:

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

Years 0-3

Grey school trousers or skirt, with polo shirt and school sweatshirt or cardigan

School PE top is optional – pupils may wear plain white t shirt and plain black shorts

Black school shoes

Years 4-8

Grey **school** tailored trousers or a purple and grey check skirt available from our preferred supplier, with white school shirt and school tie and school sweatshirt.

Black school shoes

Years 9-11

Black **school tailored** trousers or a pleated knee length skirt available from our preferred supplier with either black school logo sweater or black school logo blazer, white school shirt and school tie.

Black school shoes



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Students who come into school incorrectly dressed may spend the day in 'isolation', be given uniform to borrow for the day or could be sent home.

PE kit

We will still not be using our changing rooms, so pupils must wear their school PE kit on the days they have PE, according to the timetable below.

PE kit is:

Students in year 7 -11 must wear a school PE polo top and **plain black** shorts or tracksuit which are available very cheaply from local supermarkets. **We will not allow sports logo's.**

For our year 7 and upwards there is an option to purchase St Martins shorts/skorts and a micro fleece.

A 'gum shield' is highly recommended. From year 7, boys and girls will require football boots.

Behaviour

Behaviour in and out of classrooms is excellent as seen in our latest Ofsted. Within our family ethos we expect students to behave in a way that does not hinder their learning or the learning of others; we have a zero tolerance with any forms of aggressive behaviour.

Phones

For many years we have had a no phones policy in school. This has supported better behaviour and improved social interaction. Phones can be brought to school in secondary but must remain in bags and switched off. Phones will be confiscated for collection at the end of the school day.