



# St Martins School

## 3-16 Learning Community

Newsletter Date

April 2021

The Connection

### Inside this issue:

## *The Connection* - welcoming you to St Martins

## Welcome to St Martins School!

Welcome message  
from Sue Lovecy—  
key dates

1

I am pleased to welcome you and your parents/ carers to St Martins School.

Taster Day

2

This newsletter is intended to give you the information you need ready for September all in one easy to read format. But things like dates may change so please check the school website regularly—[stmartins3-16.org/school—information/admissions](https://stmartins3-16.org/school—information/admissions)

Rewards

3

The Diner

4

On the website you will find lots of information about St Martins School, your school.

Induction Day

5

Uniform

6

Part of my role as Head teacher is to ensure your move to St Martins School year 7 is as easy as possible, by being a point of contact for you and your parents and a familiar and friendly face.

Quinta Camp

7

School information

8

After School  
Activities

10

Many of you will already know the school and staff well as you will have taken part in our Community Curriculum which has run every year for 5 years with our feeder primary schools. You may have taken part in my 'on line' talk back in October and watched our fantastic film that replaced open days this year. You will have seen some of the staff and pupils and hopefully had a good feel for the ethos and family feel that makes our school so special.

**Click on this link to see our new short film of our 3-16 age school!**

[https://youtu.be/Tn3AXa\\_BZU](https://youtu.be/Tn3AXa_BZU)

I thought I would let you know about some of the exciting events that will be happening All the details you need for these activities are in the following pages of this newsletter. **AGAIN PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR UPDATES AS THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS**

### 5 July – Transition Day

All our students joining us in year 7 in September are invited to an induction/transition day on the 5 July – this will be a great opportunity to meet the

other students and to have another look around school including classrooms, library, dining hall in fact to experience a typical day. This date has been agreed with all the headteachers in Shropshire.

### 29 OR 30 June - Yr. 6 Parents day

This is an opportunity for you to meet your new tutor, meet with other members of staff and talk in detail about any issues you may have.

### 12 and 13 July – Quinta Trip

We are also hosting a two day event at the Quinta Christian Centre, Weston Rhyn on 12-13 July. **LOCKDOWN DEPENDANT!!** It will involve lots of exciting activities and games, even the opportunity to make your own dinner! It is a great way for you to get to know each other. This year we are fortunate to be able to stay overnight in the Hall – each room sleeps 2 or 3 students in hotel standard accommodation which, if it rains as it may do, is far more comfortable!

The cost of this two day trip is £29 and this includes all food and overnight accommodation. But if you don't want to stay you can join us each day, the cost for this is £15. Most of the students do stay even those that thought they wouldn't end up contacting parents asking for their overnight things to be brought over!



## Day at St Martins School

### Induction/Transition day 5 July 2021

Our Year 6 induction day will take place on Monday 5 July. This is a Shropshire wide day.

During the day, students will take part in a number of lessons as a way of getting to know some of our teachers and other students and to familiarise themselves with the school.

Below is an outline of what the day could include: if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

- **8.45 a.m. onwards** - year 6 students to meet in the Hub (next to Reception)
- Tutor time - meet new Year 7 tutors
- First lesson
- Second lesson
- Break - accompanied to break by current year 7 helpers and Ms. Lovecy
- Third lesson
- Fourth lesson
- Lunch - early lunch accompanied by Ms. Lovecy followed by games in the Arts Centre with year 7 helpers
- Fifth lesson
- **3.25 p.m. Home time!** Students will need to be collected from the Arts Centre

If students could come to school in their usual school uniform, and bring a pencil case/bag. They will also need to bring their PE KIT.

They will also need to bring a packed lunch and morning snack.



## Rewards & House Activities

At St Martins school students are actively encouraged to demonstrate excellence in everything they do through the Reward Programme.

Student reports are used to identify those students who are invited to take part; celebrating those students who are achieving their targets and who demonstrate a positive attitude to their learning.

This year our rewards have included:

- Take away lunch or cupcakes with The Head
- Ice cream van in the summer term
- ice skating in Telford

- Cheshire Oaks, cinema and bowling
- seaside or Alton Towers

Each year we hold an achievements evening called the 'Oscars' where the best students in every subject/year group receive a recognition.

Our year 11 students can receive our major trophies when they return for a celebration evening, in the Autumn.

School recognises academic excellence, contribution to school and community life and personal achievement.

## Transport to school

Transport to school for secondary students is available from the local authority if you live more than three miles from school and St Martins School is your nearest school. You need to apply as soon as possible.

Applications can be made to Shropshire council via this link:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/secondary/>

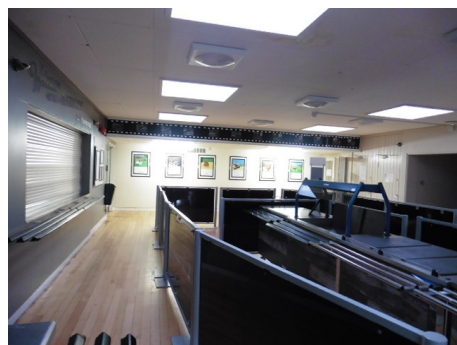
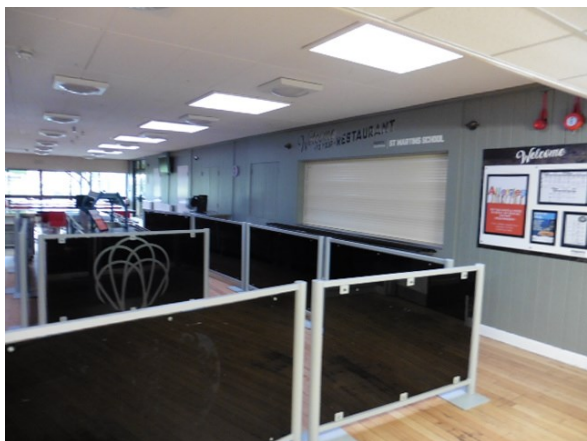
If you live in Wales, applications can be made to Wrexham Council via this link:

<https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-transport>

We are planning on using one of our school minibuses to provide an alternative to the Arriva service bus from Gobowen. We can offer a seat to and from school for £1.50 per day (The Arriva charge is £1.80 per day). This is a not for profit arrangement and if we see that it is making or losing money we will adjust the pricing.

If this is something you would be interested in please contact [clare.ellis@stmartins3-16.org](mailto:clare.ellis@stmartins3-16.org) for a booking form.





As you can see from the photo's, the diner is a great place for students to meet friends for break and lunch.

Menu options are varied, and offer good value for money. Our student leaders were involved in the selection of Aspens as our catering provider and they regularly provide feedback and suggestions.

We use a cashless payment system (Parentpay) using an image of students finger which is turned into a digital signature. New students will be added to the system during their induction day.



Enrolling  
**Now!**  
All abilities  
welcome

Ballet, Tap,  
Modern, Lyrical,  
Freestyle,  
Rock 'n' Roll,  
Street

**Border Counties**  
*Dance With Jenna*  
**School of Dance**

Based at  
St Martins  
School

Contact us now  
to book your  
free trial  
session

Website: [www.bordercountiesschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.bordercountiesschoolofdance.co.uk)  
Facebook: Border Counties School of Dance  
Instagram: @bordercountiesschoolofdance

### Year 6 Parents Day– 29 or 30 June 2021

We are looking forward to meeting you on this day. The main purpose is to establish an effective working relationship and share information.

At the back of this pack is a sheet with possible appointment time bands. Please select a time band which suits you best and we will do our best to accommodate you. If there are any concerns over your appointment time, please contact me at school. **Once we have allocated tutors we will write to you to offer you an appointment slot.**

Example of time bands available:

0830 - 10.30	
11.15 - 1.15	29 June Ms Young/Mr James
14.00 - 15.30	30 June Ms Griffiths/Ms Alexander
15.45- 17.30	
17.45 - 19.00	

Naturally, under normal circumstances we do not expect students to accompany families to appointments during the day as they may need to be at their Primary Schools. Tutors and other key staff will have met all students at the Induction Day on 5 July and again at Year 6 Quinta residential later that month so we will have plenty of opportunity to get to know each other.

If you wish to see any of the following, please let us know and we will do our best to make an additional appointment:

Ms Lovecy—Head Teacher or Mrs Dix - SEN

For health and safety reasons please arrive by the reception door and sign in. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

### Year 7 tutors 2021



Mr James, Head of Performing Arts



Ms Young, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Ms Alexander Teacher of Maths



Ms Griffiths Teacher of Spanish



Ms Penrose—  
Learning Support Assistant

## Uniform

A school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

We feel having a uniform helps to

- instil pride;
- support positive behaviour and discipline;
- encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos;
- ensure pupils of all backgrounds feel welcome;
- protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils.

Above all, we believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

In terms of general appearance, we require students to “look smart and work smart”.

Hair should be of a natural monochrome colour and the style must be appropriate for school. Hair should be no shorter than a ‘grade 2’ without tramlines.

Facial piercings are not appropriate for school; minimal jewellery can be worn but must be removed for certain activities.

Make up if worn should be natural. Fake nails are not permitted. They prevent the full participation in practical lessons and are a health and safety hazard.

For year 7 the items of uniform are as follows:

- White buttoned up to the neck school shirt with collar (available from any clothing supplier and many supermarkets at very reasonable prices)
- The school’s purple and silver tie which must be worn so that it covers the top button of the shirt
- The school’s purple v neck sweat shirt with the school logo

No other jumpers will be allowed in school.

In addition students will have the choice of the following items:

- Grey trousers (leggings, canvas jeans style or skinny trousers are not permitted) OR
- A purple and grey checked skirt from our uniform provider.

**All students will be required to wear black leather type shoes with black laces whenever they are in the school buildings—trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted.**

School coats should be a dark colour without visible branding.

Examples of suitable footwear, skirts and trousers are available on the [school website](#). Students not wearing the correct uniform may spend the day in isolation, detention or be required to wear uniform provided by school.

### PE kit

Core part of the PE kit is a black and purple polo sports top with the school badge, which must be worn with either the school shorts or skirt.

The zip up micro fleece top with school badge is also recommended.

### No other outdoor tops are acceptable

Following feedback from parents we have introduced an online ordering system via our suppliers, RAM leisure in Wrexham. This means parents can order direct for delivery to home and can order at times convenient to them rather than waiting for the school to bulk order.

<http://www.ourschoolwear.co.uk/>

**We do have a parent who recycles school uniform - her details are as follows:**





## Quinta Camp 2021

### **Year 7 Quinta residential St Martins School 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

We are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for students to attend our residential at the Quinta Christian Centre at Weston Rhyn as part of our Induction Programme for students joining us in September 2021.

We have everything crossed that this can go ahead before the end of term!

The main purpose of this venture is to make sure all students feel confident and happy about joining year 7 at St Martins School and to meet some of their new teachers and all of their new friends. They will have two very busy days, one entertaining evening and one (usually exciting!) night together, completing a variety of tasks which encourage cooperation, team building and new friendships, as well as learning about how school is organised and some of the rules and expectations we have.

A variety of staff from St Martins School will accompany the students and provide many of the activities. Also working with us will be Thirzla Deakin, the Education Officer at Quinta, who works with us regularly.

St Martins School will continue to subsidise the cost for those students joining our Year 7 in September 2021. We are asking for a payment of £29 this year to cover some of the expenses for the two days.

This will pay for

- all activities
- use of all the Quinta facilities
- overnight stay in Quinta hall -

students will be accommodated this year in the halls bedrooms which sleep 2,3 or 4 students and are of a hotel standard.

- transport of equipment and students' belongings to Quinta
- cooked evening meal on Monday evening, breakfast and packed lunch on Tuesday

Students will need to provide their own packed lunch and drinks for Monday.

(Any student on free school meals who wishes to have lunch provided should complete the relevant section of the attached form).

In cases of genuine difficulty in paying for the residential, we are very happy to help, and can offer days only for a charge of £15 or set up instalments prior to the camp. Please contact me at school if you will find it difficult to pay.

Sue Lovecy

Camp



## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The move to secondary school can be a daunting one. St Martins School works closely with local primary schools to ensure that the Transition runs as smoothly as possible. Our transition process really does start as early as possible.

Head of School, Ms Sue Lovecy is often 'out and about' at Primary schools delivering parts of our he Community Curriculum so your child will probably already know her and she will know your child!

Schools have the opportunity to visit us on an number of our Primary days, giving students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with our staff, students and departments.

Over the course of the remainder of this academic year Ms Lovecy and tutors will be visiting pupils at our local primary schools in Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn, Chirk and further afield.

Our website will have lots of information for you but here is some information that you may find helpful.

### EQUIPMENT AND VALUABLES

Every student is expected to provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson:

- **A school bag large enough to carry several books is essential**

- Black or blue pen
- Pencil and eraser
- Coloured pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Geometry Set
- Calculator
- Rough Notebook
- Dictionary
- French/Spanish Dictionary
- Personal headphones (for use in French/Music/ICT lessons)



Text books and specialised equipment will be issued on loan and parents may be required to contribute towards any loss or damage to school property.

It is students responsibility to remember their kit for Physical Education and Dance.

If these are forgotten for three lessons students will receive a detention.



### Valuables

Any items of value are brought into school entirely at your own risk.

We operate a cashless diner and encourage students not to bring money into school.

- **Mobile Phones** and other electronic equipment, such as iPods and MP3 players, must not be used on the school site during school hours. If they are brought into school, they need to be switched off in and school bags. If not they will be confiscated until the end of the day.
- Please make sure that any valuables are put into the valuables box during PE, drama and dance lessons.
- Energy drinks are not permitted in school



### **Fizzy/energy drinks**

We are seeing a small number of students coming into school with carbonated sugary drinks or energy drinks. Energy drinks are not recommended for children. The NHS state that potential risks include:

- caffeine overdose (which can lead to a number of symptoms, including palpitations, high blood pressure, nausea and vomiting, convulsions and, in some cases, even death)
- type 2 diabetes - as high consumption of caffeine reduces insulin sensitivity
- neurological and cardiovascular system effects in children and adolescents
- Attention seeking behaviour
- use and dependence on other harmful substances
- poor dental health
- Obesity

Carbonated sugary drinks are also linked to some of the above health risks. School has a no energy drink/carbonated sugary drink policy. Any drinks in breach of the policy will be confiscated.

### **Timings of the school day**

	Secondary
Start time	8.40am
Period 1	9.00am – 10.00am
Period 2	10.00am – 11.00am
Break	11.00am – 11.25am
Period 3	11.25am – 12.25pm
Period 4	12..25m – 1.25pm
Lunch	1.25pm – 2.05pm
Period 5	2.05pm – 3.05pm
Finish	3.05pm

**Behaviour Policy—our full Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website, but below you will find the school's expectations of students staff and parents.**

<b>Responsibilities of pupils</b>	<b>Rights of pupils</b>
To treat others with consideration and respect To listen when others are talking To follow instructions from teachers and other staff To sort out difficulties without making matters worse To ask for help when it is needed To do their best and let others learn	To feel safe To be treated fairly To be able to learn to the best of their ability To be treated with consideration and respect To be listened to by adults in the school To know what is expected of them
<b>Responsibilities of staff</b>	<b>Rights of staff</b>
To create a safe and stimulating environment in which pupils can learn To treat pupils with consistency and respect To communicate regularly with parents	To be treated fairly and with respect by pupils, parents and colleagues To be able to teach without unacceptable behaviour
<b>Responsibilities of parents</b>	<b>Rights of parents</b>
To get your children to school on time, ready to work To treat other people's children with respect To talk to your children about things they learn in school To tell the teachers if your child is being bullied or is upset	To be sure their children are treated fairly and with respect To know that their children are safe To be able to raise concerns with staff and to be told when there are difficulties



**An example of Lunch time and After School Activities—  
don't forget those clubs in red are open to pupils from  
our feeder primary schools!!!!!!**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime Clubs</b>  <b>1.45 - 2.20pm</b>	<b>YEAR 7 FOOTBALL</b> <b>Sports Hall</b>	<b>KS3 DANCE</b>		<b>KS3 DANCE</b>	<b>CHEERLEADING</b> Sports Hall
	Vocal Group	ICT Coursework & Homework Catch up	School Band	KS3 Rock Band	Ukulele Club
	ICT Coursework & Homework Catch up	<i>Homework Club</i>	ICT Coursework & Homework Catch up	ICT Coursework & Homework Catch up	ICT Coursework & Homework Catch up
	<b>Homework Club</b>		<b>Homework Club</b>	<b>Homework Club</b>  <b>PUDDING CLUB</b>	<b>Homework Club</b>
<b>After School Clubs</b>  <b>LATE BUS @ 4.30/5.00 PM</b> <b>Mon/Tues</b>	<b>KS4 FOOTBALL</b> Football Pitch	<b>NETBALL</b> Court / Hall	<b>BADMINTON</b>	<b>KS3 FOOTBALL</b> Football Pitch	<b>Swim Club</b> All Years
		<b>Yr. 11 MATHS REVISION</b>	<b>Eco Club/Green Team</b> <b>3.10pm in library</b>  <b>KS4 ART &amp; Yr. 11 Performing Arts Catch up</b>  <b>Yr. 11 HISTORY GCSE Re-Sit Session</b>  <b>PUZZLE CLUB</b> Games / puzzles	<b>Yr. 11 MATHS REVISION</b>  <b>TNS football</b>  <b>Food Academy</b> <b>Yr. 10 / 11</b> <b>(Yr. 7, 8, 9 by invitation only)</b>  <b>YOUTH DRAMA</b> <b>Junior</b> <b>4.30-6.30pm</b> <b>Senior</b> <b>6.45-8.45pm</b>	

**Border Counties School of Dance operates from school most days after school and on a Saturday**

