



ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL

LEARN TOGETHER - ACHIEVE FOREVER



NEWS UPDATE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to a successful year for all our learners and the ongoing partnership working to achieve this.

Our aim is the success and excellence of every pupil in every year group, so that all our learners achieve results that enable them to go on to future success, and become ambitious, capable learners.

The support and commitment of parents and carers to the education of your children is crucial to our success. I know we have your continued support in ensuring your children succeed and excel now and in the future.

I am very pleased with how our new learners have settled in and look forward to meeting parents and carers at events throughout the year.

GCSE RESULTS - KEY STAGE 4

Congratulations to our Year 11 students of 2019 on attaining another exceptional year of results. 174 students, equating to 85.6% of those sitting GCSEs this year attained 5 A* - C Grades C compared to 72.7% in 2018. The capped 9 points score rose this year to 403.21.

More students than ever before attained 5 GCSEs at A* and A with 27% of all those entered achieving this accolade compared to 17% in 2018.

The Global Communications Faculty attained the highest results ever with 82.1% achieving a C or above in English.

For students studying Mathematics, which has long been a strong performing subject within the school, attainment was high once again this year and above Welsh government modelled expectations with 78.7% of students achieving a C or above. This was also exemplified in the achievement of 37 Year 11 students who sat Mathematics A level alongside their GCSEs, of which 27 gained a passes ranging from A - C. These talented individuals will no doubt be our future engineers, scientists and mathematical theorists. Well done to all. The subject of Mathematics has laid the preparations for future success within the schools Sixth Form Centre. 43 students were also entered for additional mathematics with 72% attaining an A* or A grade.

Science results were also the highest ever in the school's history with 77% of students gaining a C or above compared to 60.9% in 2018.

Congratulations to the students and staff of St. Martin's who have worked tirelessly to attain such impressive results and thank you to all parents who have worked in such close partnership with us throughout the years. I look forward to welcoming these into the Sixth Form.

Year 11 learners have a portfolio of qualifications to present to future employers, our Sixth Form, Colleges and Universities. We are very proud of their results and hard work.

Congratulations to all Year 11 of 2018 – 2019

These learners have worked hard to live up to our aspirations, to 'Learn Together - Achieve Forever'

A LEVEL RESULTS - KEY STAGE 5

Exceptional outcomes have been achieved at St. Martin's Sixth Form Centre once again as the school continues to go from strength to strength. As a growing sixth form provider within Caerphilly with a total of 118 learners, strong academic success and impressive facilities we are proud to announce that 92% of learners have achieved the level 3 threshold of 2A level passes this year. The number of learners attaining 3 A*-C also rose by 7% to 62% of the year group. There was 100% pass rate in 19 out of the 21 subjects studied by students this year.

All students have obtained the grades required to progress onto their diverse higher education courses, chosen career pathways, apprenticeships and work placements.

The leaders of our Sixth Form, Miss Hopkins and Miss McCallion stated, "It is wonderful to be leading the school's Sixth Form Centre, which is at the heart of our community and so highly regarded within the area as a leading provider of Post-16 courses."

The governing body are highly supportive and have heavily invested in the facilities at the school which have been further enhanced this year by the creation of larger spaces for independent study and reflection. The highly skilled and experienced Sixth Form team of teachers provides quality provision within small class sizes which gives our students personalised support and guidance at such a critical time in their lives.

Providing personalised tutoring, within small class sizes enables teachers to give our students the individual attention and guidance that they require at this stage in their lives when they are studying at such a high level. Coupling this with the impressive facilities available to all learners are the key ingredients for success at this level.

GCSE EARLY ENTRIES

A congratulations must also be given to all those learners who sat their GCSE examinations early last year. We very much look forward to seeing their final results next year.

SCHOOL RECEPTION

We have taken into consideration the views of learners, parents, carers and the local community, and made the decision to move our main school reception. This is now located in the old sixth form block by the double red doors.

In order to access reception you will need to park in the visitors car park at the front of the school, walk up the driveway and press the buzzer where Miss Winstone will be able to allow you to gain access.

Learners are also able to press a buzzer from the inside of the school in order to enter our school reception.

I trust this will be more convenient for all involved.

WELCOME YEAR 7

It is a pleasure to meet our new Year 7 and see them settling quickly into lessons and to our school. They are enjoying the challenges of their new lessons and are making lots new friends. They are a very positive and cheerful group.

It is important that all our Year 7 are well organised for each day and have the right books and equipment. They have all been given a school planner to help with this. All learners have put their timetable into their planner. Please check their timetable with them daily and make sure your child always has the right books and equipment for each day.

Your child will also begin to come home with homework to do. Again, please check their learners to see this written down, ensure a good homework routine is established straightaway and that learners bring the right books for the right lessons.

STAFF NEWS

Senior Leadership Team

Our Senior Leadership Team has been extended for this year and is as follows:

Headteacher: Mr L Jarvis

Deputy Headteacher: Mr M Yeoman

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs C Manson, Mrs J Underwood, Mrs L Banks and Mrs L Weston

Business Manager: Mrs T Blackwood (Mr D Furtek, Interim Business Manager)

Mrs L Banks and Mrs L Weston are our two new Assistant Headteacher's, both are experienced and outstanding staff who will work hard in these roles.

Congratulations to the following staff on gaining positions as our additional new Middle Leaders.

Miss S Harris: Part Time Head of Learning - Year 8

Miss L Hopkins: Head of Sixth Form

Miss H McCallion: Head of Sixth Form

Mrs B Griffiths: Curriculum Innovation Lead

Mrs L Avery: Curriculum Innovation Lead

Ms K Joyce: Authentic Learning Opportunities Lead.

Mrs F Shopland: BTEC Nominee for Vocational Courses at KS3,4,&5 Lead

Mrs K Gibson: Initial Teacher Training Programme and GTP Lead

Miss E Whitcombe: Second in Faculty - Science and Technology

We have several new members of staff this year:

Miss E Whitcombe - Science and Technology Teacher

Miss V Persaud - English Teacher

Miss K Gibbard - English and History Teacher

Miss K Walters - English Teacher

Miss A Hill - English Teacher

Mr N Saunders - Science Teacher

Mr D Cole - Electronics Teacher

Miss L Cole - PE Teacher (Maternity Cover - Miss B Griffiths)

Miss N Williams-Wadley - PE Teacher and Cover Supervisor

All staff appointed by the Governing Body and myself are of high quality and will make a strong contribution to the successful future of our learners at St. Martin's School.

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs D Matthew in the Science and Technology Faculty from maternity leave.

We also welcome back to school Mrs L Williams, Mrs N Jones and Mrs F Shopland.

Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere congratulations to Mr and Mrs Griffiths on the birth of their baby boy, Elis Griffiths and Mr and Mrs Palmer on the birth of baby Rafaella.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP OF LEARNERS

Parents and Carers please note the school car park is for the school staff and visitor parking only. The school car park is very busy at the start and end of the day and cannot accommodate parents' cars.

Kindly note we do not have scope for parents to pick up and drop off your children in the school car park. Please make arrangements to meet your child outside of the school grounds and car park.

START OF YEAR THINGS TO NOTE

Please note the following minimum expectations of St. Martin's School.

Pupil Punctuation: School starts promptly at 8.30am. Learners need to be in lesson 1 by this time. Late marks are issued where this is an issue and parents are informed. Learners will be expected to make up missed time through lateness.

Pupil Attendance: Learners are required to be in school 100% of the time. Governors and I want all parents / carers to aim for this. Parents / carers are asked to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day as far as is possible. If this is unavoidable due to emergency, please return your child to school as soon as possible to gain their registration mark and resume learning.

School Absence Line: We operate a school absence line, which you can come through to on telephoning school. If your child is absent, please telephone the absence line on the day of absence. This counts as an absence record and you will not need to send in a note.

Learners leaving school site: Learners remain on site all day. They are only allowed to leave our school site for a specific reason and after being signed out at our school office. If a child needs to leave school for any reason during the school day, for your child's safety he / she will not be allowed to wait outside school. Parents / carers must come into reception, where your child will be signed out and passed to your safekeeping.

Mobile phones: Learners are allowed to carry mobile phones to and from school for their personal safety. We want you to be able to contact them, and them you, before and after school if necessary. However, learners are not allowed to use these phones in school under any circumstances. Phones must be kept in pupil bags throughout the day.

Any messages parents / carers leave on your child's mobile phone should not be picked up until the end of the school day when learners have left site. Please phone the school office to pass on any urgent messages for your child during the school day. This will be passed on by a member of our office staff.

Mobile phones used by pupils in school will be automatically confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent or other authorised adult from reception.

School Uniform: Our uniform list and stockists are listed in our school planner. We do not accept variations on uniform bought in other places and we will ask parents to change aspects of uniform where this is inappropriate. If in doubt regarding an aspect of uniform, parents please check with the school before purchase.

IN SUMMARY

We continue our strong tradition of excellence, in pupil examination results and in all the experiences we offer our learners. We expect to continue this excellence with your children over this next year so that each one of them learns together and achieves forever.

I look forward to meeting parents and carers on the many opportunities we have for you to come into school through the school year.

Our school website is a useful source of information for you. We also use a text messaging and email service to notify parents of any important information.

We look forward to a productive and hardworking term, when all our learners make great strides in their learning and progress.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jarvis
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2019

Monday 2nd September 2019: INSET Day, School closed to learners

Tuesday 3rd September 2019: INSET Day, School closed to learners

Wednesday 4th September 2019: Learners return to school

Thursday 5th September 2019: Sixth Form enrolment, 9am

Thursday 12th September 2019: School Photographs Year 7, 10, 12

Friday 27th September 2019: MacMillan Coffee Morning

October 2019

Tuesday 1st October 2019: Shakespeare School Cast Workshop Riverfront, details to follow

Thursday 17th October 2019: Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm

Monday 21st October 2019: Cross Country & Rugby International Competition Week, details to follow

November 2019

Tuesday 12th November 2019: Shakespeare schools Performance in Riverfront, details to follow

Thursday 21st November 2019: Showcase Evening

Tuesday 26th November 2019: Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm

December 2019

Thursday 5th December 2019: Christmas Concert - St Martin's Church

Friday 6th December 2019: Christmas Concert - St Martin's Church (Transition)

Monday 9th December 2019: Hockey & Football Competition Week

Tuesday 10th December 2019: Sixth Form Open Evening and Christmas Festival

Thursday 12th December 2019: Pantomime - Drama

Friday 20th December 2019: INSET Day, School closed to learners

January 2020

Tuesday 14th January 2020: Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm

February 2020

Friday 7th February 2020: Y9 Vaccinations

Monday 10th February 2020: Netball & Water Polo Competition Week

Tuesday 11th February 2020: Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 11th February 2020: Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm

Tuesday 25th February 2020: Year 12 Geography residential fieldwork

Wednesday 26th February 2020: Year 12 Geography residential fieldwork

Thursday 27th February 2020: Year 12 Geography residential fieldwork

Half Term Week: Residential Trip to Madrid

March 2020

Tuesday 3rd March 2020: Year 8 Open Evening 5pm - 7pm

Tuesday 17th March 2020: Year 12 Geography Fieldwork

Wednesday 18th March 2020: Year 12 Geography Fieldwork

Thursday 19th March 2020: Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm

Monday 23rd March 2020: Swimming Gala Competition Week

Wednesday 25th March 2020: Y11, Sixth Form Enrolment Evening 5pm - 6pm

April 2020

Wednesday 1st April 2020: India - Departure tbc

Thursday 2nd April 2020: America - Departure tbc

Friday 3rd April 2020: INSET Day, School closed to Learners

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CONT...

May 2020

Thursday 7th May 2020: Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 8th May 2020: Bank Holiday - May Day, School Closed

Monday 18th May 2020: Tennis & Rounders Competition Week

Tuesday 19th May 2020: HPV vaccinations Year 8 & Year 9

June 2020

Monday 26th June 2020: Transition Week

July 2020

Wednesday 1st July 2020: Year 8 all learners Vaccine - Year 9 Girls 2nd Dose Vaccine

Thursday 2nd July 2020: Sports Day

Tuesday 7th July 2020: School Production

Wednesday 8th July 2020: School Production

Thursday 9th July 2020: Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 9th July 2020: School Production

Thursday 16th July 2020: Enrichment Day - Oakwood Theme Park

Monday 20th July 2020: INSET Day, School Closed to Learners

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

Term Starts	Monday 2 September 2019
Half Term Starts	Monday 28 October 2019
Half Term Ends	Friday 1 November 2019
Term Ends	Friday 20 December 2019

Spring Term 2020

Term Starts	Monday 6 January 2020
Half Term Starts	Monday 17 February 2020
Half Term Ends	Friday 21 February 2020
Term Ends	Friday 3 April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Term Starts	Monday 20 April 2020
Half Term Starts	Monday 25 May 2020
Half Term Ends	Friday 29 May 2020
Term Ends	Monday 20 July 2020