



## Inside this issue:

## 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 infor-  
mation 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](http://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

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

Uniform

6

Quinta Camp

7

As a small local school at the heart of our communi-  
ty many of you will already know the school and  
staff well as you will have siblings here or perhaps  
your parents came here!. You may have attended  
the open evening and met some of the staff and  
pupils and hopefully had a good feel for the ethos  
and family feel that makes our school so special.

School information

8

Term dates for  
2023

10

I thought I would let you know about some of the  
exciting events that will be happening . All the de-  
tails you need for these activities are in the following  
pages of this newsletter.

After School  
Activities

11

### 28 June – Transition Day

All our students joining us in year 7 in September are  
invited to an induction/transition day on the 28 June  
– 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.

### 3 AND 4 JULY - Yr. 6 Parents day

This is an opportunity for you to meet your new tu-  
tor , meet with other members of staff and talk in  
detail about any issues you may have. There are 4  
tutor groups , two tutors will meet parents on one  
day and the other two the next day.

### 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. 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 accom-  
modation which, if it rains as it may do, is far  
more comfortable!

The cost of this two day trip is £35 and this in-  
cludes all food and overnight accommodation.  
But if you don't want to stay you can join us  
each day, the cost for this is £20. Most of the  
students do stay, but overnight places are  
booked on a first come first served basis, when  
they have all been allocated day places will be  
offered.

All the forms that need to be returned to school  
are at the back of your pack.

Finally, if you have any questions or issues,  
please do contact me at school, or see me  
when I next visit your school.

See you soon, Ms S. Lovecy

Head Teacher/ Tran-  
sition Manager



## Day at St Martins School

### Induction/Transition day 28 JUNE 2023

Our Year 6 induction day will take place on WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE.

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. Students will need to make their own way to St Martins

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

- **8.30 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
- **3.05 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 a packed lunch (including a drink) 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.

Every student and member of staff is allocated a house; each year the house cup is presented to the winning house, who will win it this year?

Housepoints are awarded to students each week for things like working particularly hard in lessons, helping another student, undertaking other duties around the school or overcoming difficulties. At the end of the school year those with the most housepoints are awarded prizes!



Heath



Rhyn



Moors



Ifton

## 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 and before May to guarantee your place.**

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 £40 per half term. 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@stm.318education.co.uk](mailto:clare.ellis@stm.318education.co.uk) 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.

If you are in receipt of free school meals and live in ENGLAND this will automatically transfer. If you live in WALES you will need to apply to Shropshire ( only do this during the summer holidays otherwise any entitlement for vouchers over the summer holiday would be cancelled)

**TO APPLY VISIT—**

**<https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/#>**



**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– 3 AND 4 JULY 2023

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	3 JULY Ms Vaughan/Ms Dumayne
14.00 - 15.30	4 JULY Mr James/Mr Holmes
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 28 JUNE and again at Year 6 Quinta residential later 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 2023



Mr James, Head of Performing Arts



Ms Vaughan  
Teacher of Science



Teacher of Tech-  
nology



Ms Dumayne  
Teacher of Spanish

Mr Wilko—school  
therapy dog



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 (watch and one ring) 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 skort.

**Students in year 7 and 8 must wear a school PE polo top, a school skort or shorts and an optional school mid layer top. NO OTHER SWEATSHIRTS ARE PERMITTED**

**PLAIN BLACK BASE LAYER BOTTOMS CAN BE WORN UNDER SKORT/SHORTS IF THE WEATHER IS COLD**

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

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/>

## Quinta Camp 2023

### Quinta residential St Martins School

**12<sup>th</sup> and 13th JULY 2023**

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 2023.

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 2023. We are asking for a payment of £35 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 Wednesday evening, breakfast and packed lunch on Thursday

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

(Any student on free school meals who wishes to have lunch provided should contact their school).

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 £20 or set up instalments prior to the camp. Please contact me at school if you will find it difficult to pay.

**Places for overnight stay are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, after which day places will be offered. Bookings will not be accepted after the 30 JUNE.**

**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 so your child will probably already know her and she will know your child!

Schools have the opportunity to visit us on a 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. [St Martins School \(stmartins3-16.org\)](http://stmartins3-16.org)

### 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. Smart watches must only be used for telling the time.

• 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 web-site, 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

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Attendance at school is a legal requirement, and as members of our school community, it is fair to have high expectations concerning attendance and to expect that everyone makes the effort to make sure their children attend school each day.

Poor attendance can seriously affect each child's:-

- attainment in school
- relationships with other children and their ability to form lasting friendships
- confidence to attempt new work and work alongside others

**Parents/carers should ring in every day for which a child is absent from school, communicating the reason for this absence.**

School attendance is always the responsibility of parents and carers, but here at St Martins, we want to make sure that all families have the support they need. In order that we can work together as a team it may be useful for you to have an awareness of the processes we go through in school to support high attendance.

Form tutors (Secondary) will meet with pupils to discuss any barriers to good attendance and seek to agree some strategies for improvements on an 'Attendance Action Plan', putting in place any support which may be identified. On a weekly basis we work with our Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) to discuss attendance registers, and any students whose attendance is falling below 95%; we will share the 'Attendance Action Plan' with our EWO.

Non-attendance is an important issue that is treated seriously. However each case is different and the school acknowledges that no one standard response will be appropriate in every case. Consideration is given to all factors affecting attendance before deciding what intervention strategies to apply. In every case, early intervention is essential to prevent the problem from worsening. It is essential that parents/carers keep the school fully informed of any matters that may affect their child's attendance.

We request that your children do not miss unnecessary days when they are not genuinely ill, for reasons such as tiredness or having a cold. If your child is genuinely poorly then do not send them in. If you are unsure, send them to school and we can make a judgement during the day.

We have seen an increase in term-time holidays post-pandemic, which is understandable considering the disruption of the past 2 years. This year, however, term-time holidays will not be authorised by school. Only 1 day of absence will be authorised for weddings or funerals.

Punctuality in addition to attendance is equally important. To clarify students are expected to arrive at school at the times below.

Year Group	Registration Time	Late: need to sign in at reception (recorded as a L on register)	Late: after register closes (recorded as a U on register)
Secondary	8:40	8:50	9:00

## St Martins School – Term Dates 2023-2024 – These may differ from Shropshire Council

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
M 4 11 18 25	M 2 9 16 23 30	M 6 13 20 27	M 4 11 18 25
T 5 12 19 26	T 3 10 17 24 31	T 7 14 21 28	T 5 12 19 26
W 6 13 20 27	W 4 11 18 25	W 1 8 15 22 29	W 6 13 20 27
Th 7 14 21 28	Th 5 12 19 26	Th 2 9 16 23 30	Th 7 14 21 28
F 1 8 15 22 29	F 6 13 20 27	F 3 10 17 24	F 1 8 15 22 29
S 2 9 16 23 30	S 7 14 21 28	S 4 11 18 25	S 2 9 16 23 30
Su 3 10 17 24	Su 1 8 15 22 29	Su 5 12 19 26	Su 3 10 17 24 31
January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
M 1 8 15 22 29	M 5 12 19 26	M 4 11 18 25	M 1 8 15 22 29
T 2 9 16 23 30	T 6 13 20 27	T 5 12 19 26	T 2 9 16 23 30
W 3 10 17 24 31	W 7 14 21 28	W 6 13 20 27	W 3 10 17 24
Th 4 11 18 25	Th 1 8 15 22 29	Th 7 14 21 28	Th 4 11 18 25
F 5 12 19 26	F 2 9 16 23	F 1 8 15 22 29	F 5 12 19 26
S 6 13 20 27	S 3 10 17 24	S 2 9 16 23 30	S 6 13 20 27
Su 7 14 21 28	Su 4 11 18 25	Su 3 10 17 24 31	Su 7 14 21 28
May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
M 6 13 20 27	M 3 10 17 24	M 1 8 15 22 29	M 5 12 19 26
T 7 14 21 28	T 4 11 18 25	T 2 9 16 23 30	T 6 13 20 27
W 1 8 15 22 29	W 5 12 19 26	W 3 10 17 24 31	W 7 14 21 28
Th 2 9 16 23 30	Th 6 13 20 27	Th 4 11 18 25	Th 1 8 15 22 29
F 3 10 17 24 31	F 7 14 21 28	F 5 12 19 26	F 2 9 16 23 30
S 4 11 18 25	S 1 8 15 22 29	S 6 13 20 27	S 3 10 17 24 31
Su 5 12 19 26	Su 2 9 16 23 30	Su 7 14 21 28	Su 4 11 18 25
School Day	School Day	School Day	School Day
School Holiday	School Holiday	School Holiday	School Holiday
Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
PD day	PD day	PD day	PD day
190	190	190	190
Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half
Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half
Staff total	Staff total	Staff total	Staff total
190	190	190	190
Pupil total	Pupil total	Pupil total	Pupil total
190	190	190	190

PRIMARY, YEAR 7 & 11 start back on TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER  
YEARS 8-10 start back on WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER



## St. Martins School CLUBS and REVISION SESSIONS SPRING 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>TUTOR TIME</b>			<b>Year 10 FRENCH (CY)</b>		
<b>Lunch Time Clubs</b>	<b>READING ROOM</b> All Years (YC) <b>Sports Hall Time Yr 11</b> Year 11 CREATIVE iMEDIA exam revision (JHo)	<b>Sports Hall Time Yr 10</b>	<b>Sports Hall Time Yr 9</b>	<b>Sports Hall Time Yr 8</b> Year 11 CREATIVE iMEDIA exam revision (JHo)	<b>Sports Hall Time Yr 7</b>
<b>AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS</b> 3.15pm – 4.15pm <b>SCHOOL MINI BUS ON MONDAY, TUESDAY &amp; WEDNESDAY (at 4.20pm)</b> <b>Please sign in on the morning at reception</b>	<b>7 &amp; 8 BOYS FOOTBALL (JPO)</b> <b>GIRLS FOOTBALL (CV / Miss Davies)</b> <b>Year 10 FRENCH (CY)</b> <b>ENGLISH Drop in sessions (RP)</b> <b>YEAR 10 DUKE of EDINBURGH (JMa)</b> <b>CREATIVE iMEDIA Coursework booster (JHo)</b> <b>Staff Badminton</b>	<b>NETBALL ALL YEARS (ZHJ)</b> <b>YEARS 9,10,11 BOYS FOOTBALL (JPO)</b> <b>SCHOOL BAND (CJ)</b> <b>DUNGEONS &amp; DRAGONS CLUB In JHo Tech room (See Miss Kerr)</b>	<b>GIRLS &amp; BOYS RUGBY (Mr Tsang)</b> <b>YEAR 7 TRAMPOLINE CLUB (ZHJ)</b> <b>BADMINTON ALL YEARS (CV)</b> <b>GCSE ART catch up (NP)</b> <b>GCSE PE Theory (JPO)</b> <b>CADETS (JMa)</b>	<b>STAFF MEETINGS</b>	<b>Year 10 &amp; 11 NETBALL (ZHJ)</b> <b>Year 10 &amp; 11 HISTORY (ZM)</b> <b>Staff Football</b>