

St Martin in the Fields Sixth Form



St Martin-in-the-Fields
High School for Girls

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16-19 | Church of England | Technology College | Sports College | Voluntary Aided



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Welcome



Mark Dewey BA Hons
Director of Sixth Form



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Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Welcome to St Martin-in-the-Fields Sixth Form, which is part of the South London Sixth, a partnership of four schools: Dunraven; La Retraite; Bishop Thomas Grant and St Martin's. This means that our students get the very best of both worlds – they are part of a small sixth form where everyone is known and valued as an individual - with the added benefit of a wide and comprehensive range of courses and options on offer.

Choosing the right sixth form is a crucial decision which has the potential to shape the rest of your life. Certainly, if you choose St Martin's, you will be selecting a sixth form with a tried and tested reputation for excellence, stimulating courses all delivered by highly experienced subject specialists, a welcoming, supportive community of staff and students and the expertise to ensure that each individual reaches their full potential. Last but by no means least, St Martin's also offers the opportunity for you to develop as an individual through participation in a wealth of extra-curricular, enrichment and leadership activities. What we require from you is that you work hard and remain focused – and the rewards will come your way.

The following pages will take you through from application to enrolment. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the sixth form office.

Whether you are a Year 11 graduate or have been studying elsewhere, we look forward to welcoming you into St Martin's Sixth Form.





All the staff are there, ready to help you with your choices. The Learning Mentor searches the internet alongside you so you can choose the courses and universities that suit you.

I am really happy with the courses I have chosen and enjoy them very much.

Selection

Making the right decision about sixth form course selection is really important. Getting the balance right in terms of the combinations and entry levels, choosing subjects you enjoy, subjects new to you and subjects necessary for your chosen career path requires the support and guidance of experts. That is what will be provided when you apply to St Martin's Sixth Form. At the end of this process, you will be ready to make fully informed, intelligent choices about your course selection.

All applications are followed up by an interview with the Director or Deputy Director of the Sixth Form. This provides the time and opportunity for you to discuss short, medium and long term plans. All our students are encouraged to aim high and set clear, achievable goals.

It is also important that prospective sixth formers, as independent learners, research the implications of these choices too. You will need to ask current students about the experience of learning new subjects such as Psychology, Government and Politics and Sociology. There are also workload issues to discuss, the balance of coursework to examinations, timings, tips for success and the process of applying to university.

Another key point is that the transition between Key Stage 4 and 5 is challenging. There is a wide gap between GCSE and AS level – even if a selected subject is one you enjoyed and performed well in at the end of Year 11, at AS level it is not just 'more of the same'.

For this reason, St Martin's holds a 'Focus Day' in early July, when applicants can ask staff and students about the courses and the experience of doing them at sixth form level. The Director and Deputy Director of the Sixth Form are also available to speak to applicants immediately after the GCSE results are published and review plans in the light of the specific grades achieved.

In short, whatever you decide to do in the sixth form and whatever your academic pathway, our personalised support and guidance will help you to make the right choices.



I was pleased by the level of support and help available from teachers and mentors and by the welcoming environment.

The learning environment is a real strength.

Induction

Whilst the transition between Year 11 and 12 is a challenging one, it is also socially and intellectually stimulating. It is a very special time in which you develop as an individual, make crucial decisions about the shape of your future life and career, learn more about the richness and complexity of the society you live in and strengthen your voice against the injustices of this world. In other words, during your time in the sixth form you will become an adult.

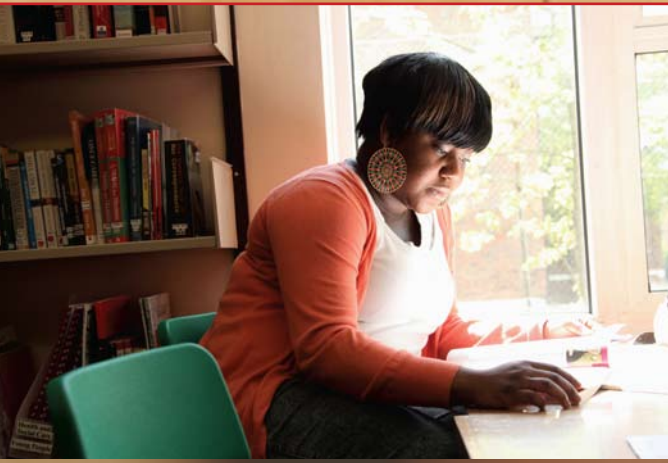
Of course, as well as developing knowledge and skills for life, you will also develop independent learning skills, refine research techniques, learn how to dovetail study time and lesson time and think more critically.

All sixth formers are assigned a tutor, who, along with subject specialists, will play a key role in this process. The sixth form tutors at St Martin's have many years of specialist experience in actively supporting students right from induction day to their final examinations in Year 13. As well as providing personal support, tutors are also committed to ensuring that all members of their form achieve or exceed their minimum target grades. These are projections of future achievement based on performance at GCSE level.

The induction day itself is in early September, following enrolment in late August. During the day itself, the course options are discussed as well as the high expectations of the sixth form. All students will sign a code of conduct indicating that they understand and accept what is expected of all members of the community.

Whether you are a graduate of St Martin's or have enrolled from elsewhere, it is not long before everyone feels equally part of the St Martin's community.

Working in collaboration with subject specialists, tutors, mentors and parents, all students can be assured that the St Martin's Sixth Form experience will be a productive, fulfilling and happy one.



The 6th Form is a great community, offering a huge amount of support.

Students are encouraged to get together and help change the world by raising money for charity.

Experience

Like any situation in life, the more you put in, the more you will get out of it. This is true of every aspect of St Martin's Sixth Form. We expect all sixth formers to be serious students and to contribute to the community. This means being completely focused in lessons, planning independent study time wisely, keeping to deadlines and taking responsibility for your learning and progress.

It also means playing an active role in the dynamic and vibrant enrichment activities and extra curricular life of the sixth form. It means building a new network of friends. In short, we want you to enjoy the time spent at St Martin's Sixth Form as well as gaining valuable qualifications and skills.

Each day begins formally at 8.30 with tutor group time which provides the opportunity to share views and news, have a quiet word with a sixth form tutor or attend sixth form assemblies. On Fridays, tutor time is extended and used for monitoring of progress, independent study time and preparation for UCAS applications.

Lessons begin at 8.50 and take place across the site, using the specialist facilities in Art, Drama, Science and Technology. For those students who have lessons at one of our partner schools within the South London Sixth, there is a minibus service which operates during the morning break and at lunchtimes.

The sixth form common room provides a friendly hub where students meet or study and there is also a well-stocked library with a dedicated area for sixth formers.

Wednesday afternoons are set aside for 'CAS' (Creativity, Activity and Service) which offers a wealth of enrichment activities, including football, badminton, training for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, debating, film-making, etc. There is also an active Envision Group in the Sixth Form, which identifies, discusses and launches campaigns tackling issues associated with social justice and an active Christian Union. Staff versus student football matches generate friendly rivalry as do other inter-sixth form sporting events.

There is also a robust Student Council which acts as a useful forum representing the views of sixth formers and talent shows for those who love to perform. There is something for everyone at St Martin's – and since the staff here are good at listening, if you have good ideas about new activities or events, we will do all we can to support your initiative.

The curriculum is also enriched by a wide and comprehensive variety of trips and visits, some of which are residential, such as Engineering courses at a range of universities or performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



There is an excellent rapport between teachers and students.

We are given very helpful study skills and life skills training.

Transition

It is tempting to think that life in the sixth form is far more relaxed than in Year 11. After all, there is no strict uniform; there are 'free' periods on the timetable and a different relationship with teaching staff. Whilst all this is true, and as it should be for students on the brink of adulthood, these freedoms present their own challenges, as does studying at post 16 level.

'Free' periods is a misnomer: study periods need to be carefully managed to ensure that research tasks are carried out, wider reading is completed, drafts are honed into readability and deadlines are met. As a rule of thumb, it is expected that every student should invest as much time on independent study as is spent in lessons. This means, for example, that all A Level students should spend at least five hours per subject per week studying independently.

For many students, particularly highly organised and self-motivated ones, the transition from Year 11 to 12 is smooth. Others find the demands of balancing deadlines, study periods and preparing for presentations on their work more challenging. However, a committed team of tutors and learning mentors are always on hand to support the process of transition. They will step in with the right word or the right strategy at appropriate times and continue that support whenever it is needed.

The sixth form team also works closely with parents, who receive regular reports every half term.

There is a wide range of courses on offer at St Martin's, which means that progression routes will vary according to the options chosen. For example, some students may enter the sixth form on Level 2 courses (BTEC Firsts and GCSEs) and progress to Level 3 BTEC courses or AS levels then university after spending three years in the sixth form. It is important that all students understand the various pathways available to them and they will be guided on their options at the end of each year.

St Martin's Sixth Form works in close collaboration with the Lambeth Connexions Service so there is always expert advice on hand about careers and higher education options.

At St Martin's we are also fully aware that students are making the transition to adulthood. During their time here, they will receive excellent advice and guidance on important issues such as personal finance, relationships, identity and the world of work.

Though the majority of our graduates do go on to university, this is not the right choice for all sixth formers. Students therefore receive advice about the job market, writing a CV and preparing for interviews.



I just love this sixth form.
I'm so glad I chose it.



Higher

Most of our sixth formers go on to university from Year 13.

There are currently students from St Martin's Sixth Form in university studying a wide and comprehensive range of subjects including Art, Business, Drama, Early Childhood, Health, History, International Politics, Law, Medicine, Microbiology, Sociology, Toxicology and Tourism Management.

Students who achieve the top grades at AS Level can aim for the most prestigious universities. St Martin's graduates have received offers from Higher Education Institutions such as Cambridge, Durham, King's College, the London School of Economics and Oxford.

It is crucial that students understand the importance of AS levels for their applications. Students need to consider their choice of course and university early on in Year 12 so they know exactly what grades they need to achieve in all course components.

In the summer term of Year 12, after the AS examinations have been completed, the application process begins. There is a long conversation about the decisions to be made and students begin to draft their all important 'personal statement'.

This focus continues into the autumn term of Year 13, with tutors providing individual support and guidance until the UCAS applications are submitted. In the case of Oxbridge and Medical applications, these have to be with the universities before October half term. All other applications are submitted soon after this.

St Martin's students therefore receive expert support and guidance in managing their UCAS choices and applications. This also extends to information and help in applying for student finance.

The relationship between sixth form students and staff is therefore a close and supportive one. It is therefore gratifying when former students come back to tell us all about their experiences at university and career plans. We anticipate that in five or six years' time, you will be doing that too.





St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls was founded in 1699 thus we have a tradition and experience of education that extends over 300 years. In the mid-17th century, our church St Martin-in-the-Fields and the SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) were headed by radical thinkers who believed that a school should be provided to educate the girls of the parish. The consensus then was that only boys required a formal education. Originally, the school was based in Charing Cross Road, close to our founding church. Near the beginning of the last century, however, it was felt that a larger building with extensive grounds and playing fields was necessary, so in 1928 the School moved to its present home in Tulse Hill. It was officially opened by the Duchess of York, who was later given the title of Queen Mother. Though we are now geographically separated, we maintain strong links with the church in Trafalgar Square. Today, over three hundred years later, St Martin's is a fully comprehensive Voluntary Aided High School with Technology and Sports College status, committed to serving our local multiethnic community and offering a high quality of education from Key Stage 3 to sixth form level.



The Latin phrase **Caritate et disciplina** which forms part of the school logo, means

'WITH LOVE AND LEARNING'

The matching of the two is central to the ethos of St Martin's school, since the most effective learning takes place in a loving, supportive environment. St Martin himself was an extraordinary man. As a ten-year old, he yearned to be a Christian and a monk. His father insisted that he should wait till he was older and that Martin join the Roman army instead. Martin obeyed. He was such a good soldier that he soon became an officer. One bitterly cold winter's day, Martin led his troops out of their garrison. In front of them lay a beggar, half-naked and blue with cold, who pleaded with Martin for help. Martin, overcome by compassion, took off his beautiful cloak, lined with lambswool, and cut it in two with his sword. He then handed one half to the beggar, who wrapped it around his shoulders. That night, Martin had a life-changing dream. He dreamt that Jesus, surrounded by His holy angels, was wearing the cloak he had given to the beggar. When Martin woke up, he knew it was time to be baptised. Martin dedicated the rest of his life to Jesus and became his faithful soldier and servant. Later, he became a bishop, though he continued to live the life of a monk, and was well known for his healing powers, humility and passion for justice. St Martin's inspiring story is encapsulated on the school logo and his message of love, selflessness and service remains just as relevant and potent today.



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™



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