

St Martin's School KS5 Curriculum.

To inspire and empower all our students to *Be The Best They Can Be*.

Intent

Our KS5 curriculum is designed to equip all students with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to be a well-rounded individual that leaves the sixth form with clear goals and next steps. 31 A-level and BTEC courses are offered within the curriculum, and this breadth of choice allows students to access the relevant courses and focus their development of knowledge in order to progress onto higher education, apprenticeships or employment. This also provides students with a wide choice of option combinations as many subjects appear in more than one option block, increasing flexibility and access.

Our curriculum underpins the 3 strands of the school vision and ethos: Traditional Values, Learning for the Future and Outstanding Personal Achievement. Curriculum intentions for each of these strands are detailed below:

Traditional Values	Learning for the Future	Outstanding Personal Achievement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are polite, considerate and respectful at all times Students understand why being punctual and having excellent attendance is important Students value and appreciate equality and diversity Students take pride in their appearance and in all aspects of their school work Students take personal responsibility for their own learning and progress Students understand their responsibility in society and develop into well rounded citizens Students are aware of the fundamental British values and promote them at all times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are well motivated, organised, adaptable and creative Students show high levels of focus, concentration and listening skills in all learning situations Students show clarity and confidence in both verbal and written communication Students show resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges Students are digitally, financially and culturally literate Students are ambitious for their future and they know how to make excellent choices about their next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are constantly striving to improve their knowledge, skills and attributes at all times Our knowledge rich curriculum ensures that students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life. Students exhibit self-regulation and are excellent self-managers Students act upon all forms of feedback, are aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and how to improve Students are aware of how they learn best and remember important facts Students understand how to look after their physical and mental health Students achieve outstanding outcomes across a wide range of areas.

The academic and PSHE curriculum alongside the embedded St Martin's vision and ethos moulds a student that is well prepared for their next steps.

Information, advice and guidance is offered to all students to ensure they are informed of where their chosen subjects can take them. Enrichment and super-curricular opportunities

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provide leadership opportunities within the sixth form, and build on life skills such as teamwork and problem solving.

“THRIVE” symbolises the personal skills and attributes we develop in our students throughout their time at St Martin’s. It is delivered in all areas of the curriculum so that our students are acutely aware of the need for not only outstanding personal achievement, but core skills that will enable them to learn for the future, choose their own path and make a positive difference in the world.

Implementation

To access the KS5 curriculum successfully, entry requirements are published to all students prior to their applications so students can choose their course combinations wisely. Some of our courses run despite small class numbers because we value the breadth of offer to students and understand that this gives St Martin’s a unique selling point. All our students can access the Extended Project Qualification and can opt in at the start of Year 12 alongside their academic subjects.

A shared Language for Learning underpins effective teaching and learning at St Martin's School. The aim is to enhance effective teaching and support students' learning and independent study to ensure our students are the best they can be. We believe that shared Learning intentions, Retrieval Practice to recap and recall, opportunities for Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT) and Questioning for Understanding are the key elements to highly effective teaching and learning.

Learning Intentions: The curriculum for each subject is carefully planned and sequenced into learning journeys towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment. These curriculum journeys are shared with both students and parents at the beginning of each academic year and lesson intentions are shared as part of each lesson delivered. Progress towards meeting these intentions will be assessed periodically through the lesson and during a plenary at the end as part of our questioning for understanding pedagogy.

Retrieval Practice: Over the course of study, teaching is designed to help students to remember long term the content they have been taught and to integrate new knowledge into larger ideas. For example, teachers will start the lesson with an opportunity to go back over prior learning to ensure key information can be recalled and skills can be remembered.

Effective Assessment: Teachers and leaders use assessment well. Teachers use assessment to check students' understanding to inform teaching, and to help students embed key concepts, use knowledge fluently and develop their understanding.

At St Martin's this is achieved through a feedback loop, which checks for and affirms student learning of what has been taught, in two main ways:

1. Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT)

Teachers provide regular, timely feedback both during lessons and in written feedback. This focuses on what has been done well, addresses misconceptions and provides opportunities to stretch and deepen knowledge and understanding. Time is built into lessons through DIRT activities to allow students to reflect on their performance in homework and assessment tasks and identify the next steps in their learning journey.

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2. Questioning for Understanding

Teachers present subject matter clearly, promoting appropriate discussion about the subject matter being taught. Teachers use a variety of questioning techniques to check students' understanding, identify misconceptions accurately and measure and deepen the understanding of their students. Examples of this are no hands up rule, think, pair, share and asking students to improve upon the answers of their classmates.

Teachers' subject knowledge: Our teachers have expert knowledge of the subjects that they teach. Leaders provide effective support, including for those teaching outside their main area of expertise.

Personal development in curriculum implementation: Teachers will focus on the personal skills and attributes identified in the different elements of THRIVE in their lessons. They will explicitly share with students the core skill needed to be successful in a given task or piece of work.

As part of our PSHE programme, we teach independent study skills in the first term of Year 12, as well as at key times throughout the two years. This helps to prepare students for learning at this standard and become more responsible for their own learning.

The teaching of British Values is taught throughout the curriculum and further supported through assemblies, school trips, visits and specialist workshops. This reflects the diverse make up of our school and supports students to understand their role in society and develop an appreciation of diversity and multi culturalism within Britain.

Reading lists are published on the sixth form website for different subjects and all students are signed up to Unifrog to help support students structure their enrichment and super-curricular involvement. Our Pathways Day and subsequent support for students next steps helps to guide students throughout their application process.

Impact.

Our aim within the sixth form is to not only meet but exceed national averages for A*-A and A*-B grades at the end of the academic year. Achievement will be recognised by all students attending their firm or insurance choice of university, successfully gaining employment or securing a placement on an apprenticeship following their A-level and BTEC examinations. Impact will be demonstrated not only by the raw data but looking at the ALPs indicator as well to review progress. We are currently in the top 25% of the country but aim to be in the top 10%. Continued review of progress and achievement occurs throughout Year 12 and 13, with PPEs and EEGs giving a clear indication that the curriculum delivery is effective, with few or no students not progressing along their intended flight path.

Students leaving St Martin's will leave us as well equipped, responsible, extremely well-rounded young people who are able to choose their own future and are ready to make a positive difference in the world. Our students will have been recognised for their contribution to the school vision and ethos and be able to describe situations and experiences they have been involved in where they have displayed the core values embedded across the school.

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