



NEWS & VIEWS

Be The Best You Can Be

Headteacher: Mr I Smyrk

Traditional Values

Learning for the Future

Outstanding Personal Achievement



Headteacher's Comment

Good afternoon

This week we held our Year 12 Taster Day which saw numerous internal and external students visiting the school to decide their placements for sixth form. The day went extremely well and we look forward to welcoming them all in September.

Also, we held our annual Summer Concert which was a huge success as always. Thank you to all the students involved for their talented performances and to Mr Harris and the Music department for their incredible hard work organising this amazing event.

Firstly, I share below news of our new Communications Policy so that we can effectively work together with parents to ensure clear and timely communication.

Secondly, we are all aware that as a society we need to be constantly vigilant against the dangerous use of drugs. I would like to share a very important update on cannabis sweets which highlights the dangers of how drugs are disguised and easily distributed.

Finally, after an extensive interview process, I am pleased to introduce our new Senior Student Leadership Group. Have a great weekend everyone!



Communications Policy

We are thrilled to introduce St. Martin's School's new communications policy, which aims to foster clear and open lines of communication between the school and parents. At St Martin's School, we firmly believe that effective communication has a profound impact on our students' learning journey. It provides you, as parents and carers, with the vital information you need to support your child's education. Furthermore, your feedback and input help us improve as a school through regular consultation.

This policy also aims to build a strong foundation of trust between home and school, enabling us to better support every child's academic and pastoral needs. We are committed to promoting clear and open communication by outlining how we can communicate with parents and carers, establishing clear standards and expectations for our response to your communications, and ensuring that you can easily reach the relevant staff member who is best equipped to address your queries or concerns.

Our ultimate goal is to provide you with prompt and meaningful responses, enabling us to work together in the best interests of your child's education and well-being.

We look forward to a productive and collaborative partnership with you.

The full communications policy can be found alongside key contact information on the website <https://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk/key-contacts/>



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Important Safeguarding information

Cannabis edibles, are food products which contain the mood-altering ingredient from cannabis (THC). They are illegal but available in many different forms, including cakes, sweets, chocolates, drinks, syrups, butters or spreads and oils but do not have the smell or appearance of cannabis and may contain other illicit substances, as well as being stronger than other cannabis products.



Their packaging makes them appealing to young people and teenagers, who may call them '**gummies**' or '**bites**'.

'County lines' is the name given to the process of drug gangs using children to carry drugs from major cities into the suburbs and counties surrounding them. Gangs are using edibles as a 'hook' through which they coerce pre-teenage children into this process, because children aged under ten years old are under the age of criminal responsibility.

'Edibles' may be easy to consume, but take longer to take effect. As a result, those taking them are likely to eat too many due to the delayed effect. Side effects can include; psychotic episodes, disorientation and confusion, changes in perception, depression, paranoia, heart problems, panic attacks, nausea or vomiting, hallucinations, memory loss, feeling lethargic, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, insomnia and anxiety. If you are concerned stay calm and try not to panic, and assess the situation and gather the facts if you can. If the child's speech is slurred, their pulse is elevated, they are disorientated, unresponsive or unconscious call [999](tel:999) immediately, if the child is conscious and responsive but not themselves as a result of cannabis edibles, gather the facts and phone [111](tel:111) for advice and additional information.

The purchase of cannabis edibles is illegal in the UK, but we know the products are advertised for sale through social media networks – and therefore young people are at risk of seeing them, so please check your child's phone regularly, if they are exhibiting any changes in behaviour.

If you are concerned a child is being exploited by drug gangs, visit our [child criminal exploitation page](#). Here you can find more information including the signs to look out for, as well as advice on what you can do and how to report it.

I understand this may be disturbing to read but by raising awareness of this issue we can help to keep our children and the community safe.



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Student Leadership Group



Senior Student Leadership Team

Top Row Left to Right: Assistant Heads: Eve Page, Daniel Whitmore, Keira Chatrath, Saad Ali, Louisa Duff, Ciaran White

Bottom Row Left to Right: Deputy Head Boy Conor Reily, Head Girl Harriet Larter, Head Boy Thomas Chow, Deputy Head Girl Scarlett Myers



Dates for the Diary

- 03.07.23 – Vaccinations catch up session
- 03.07.23 – Year 12 Graduation Assembly
- 04.07.23 – Swimming Safety Course
- 05.07.23 – NEU Strike – school closed to all students apart from Year 12
- 06.07.23 – Years 7 & 8 Matinee/Evening Theatre Visit
- 06.07.23 – Year 11 Leavers Prom
- 07.07.23 – NEU Strike – school closed to all students apart from Year 12

For PE fixtures please follow twitter @STMartinsSchPE or [click here](#) for further PE updates.



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