



20 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Ian Smyrk and I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher of St Martin's School.

It is a privilege to have been appointed by the school governors and entrusted with taking over the job of leading such a good school. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr O'Sullivan for his years of hard work and great success here and wish him the very best for the future.

When I accepted the position, I obviously did not expect to be writing to you under these current unprecedented circumstances. It goes without saying that the health of all of us is our priority. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, follow government advice and take any necessary actions to protect us all. Against that background, thank you for working with the school during this most difficult time to support your children as much as possible whilst keeping safe and well.

I feel honoured to bring the experience I have gained over several years in education to St Martin's. Over these years, I have been an extremely successful pastoral/curriculum middle manager and senior deputy headteacher in successful London schools as well as working in school improvement in many other schools both primary and secondary.

From my visits to the school and meeting with some of the staff and students to date, it is clear that there is a real sense of belonging and community at St Martin's which is extremely important to me. This is something that first drew me to the school and I will continue to ensure is fully developed. I have a firm belief that all our students can be amazing and have potential they may not yet realise. All children should have access to outstanding education and I am determined that our school will continue to flourish, achieve greater success and hold a central position at the heart of our community.

Being in education and playing a part in forming the futures of the students in our school is a privilege. We live in a world where the demands made upon people both at work and in their personal lives is changing constantly. It has therefore never been more important that our students succeed in formal qualifications and develop the personal skills and attributes that allow them to flourish at every stage of their lives. The relationships between teachers, students and parents are fundamental to achieving this. Working together we can ensure that our students make excellent progress, are proud to come to St Martin's and leave us as responsible, well rounded young people who are able to choose their own future well equipped and ready to make a positive difference in the world.

Working with an excellent and experienced team of staff and governors I will make changes where necessary to ensure St Martin's is the outstanding school it should be. However, our distinctive ethos of traditional values, personal development, outstanding academic achievement, smart appearance and exemplary behaviour, manners and courtesy will continue to be central to our everyday life.

When the school re-opens fully I will be holding a few events, which will provide an opportunity to meet you and discuss the building of a successful partnership. These meetings will take place at different times, which I hope will enable most families to attend. I am extremely excited about leading St Martin's into the future and ensuring all our students will be the Best They Can Be.

Stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Smyrk', written over a faint, dotted grid background.

Mr Ian Smyrk  
**Headteacher**