



17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Chair of St Martin's School Local Governing Body**

Sixteen years ago when my wife and I moved to Hutton, the Estate Agent catchphrase was "This property is in the St Martins' School catchment area". We had no idea what that meant and why it was important. We do now.

Being then without children we had no understanding of how precious our future children would be to us and how desperate we would be, for them to receive the best education possible.

Only now have we come to realise how lucky we are to live in a great area, which is safe, full of aspirational people and centred around a fantastic school that is determined to equip all of our children with the right tools to tackle an increasingly complex world.

I come from a background where education was seen by my parents as the vital companion on the journey of young people achieving their ambitions, whatever they may be.

St Martin's is a school in the digital age that looks forward to a bright future and holds its young people to the highest traditional standards of respect, integrity and hard work. The bottom line is the school demands that each pupil "Be The Best You Can Be".

My election as Chair of the St Martin's School Local Governing Body comes at a time of change for the school. It would be remiss of me not to thank the outgoing Headteacher, Mike O'Sullivan and Chair of LGB John Duffy for their wisdom and for leaving us with a school and Local Governing Body on rock solid foundations.

Please join me in welcoming Ian Smyrk, Headteacher, to our school and assure him that we will unreservedly support him in his pursuit of excellence from our children.

I look forward to meeting many of you at school events in the near future as soon as Covid precautions allow.

Kind Regards.

Yours sincerely

Des Shillingford BA (Hons), FCMA  
**Chair, St Martin's LGB**

PS. If any of you would wish to participate in the work of the LGB and help shape the future of students, you are most welcome to apply to me using this email address: [dshillingford@brentwoodacademiestrust.org](mailto:dshillingford@brentwoodacademiestrust.org)

*Be The Best You Can Be*