CLAUDE MARTIN'S COAT OF ARMS
(The College Crest)

Claude Martin designed his own coat of arms. The escutcheon or central shield bears charges or emblems, which epitomise his career. The escutcheon is supported by seven standards bearing the motif of the fish.

The device of the sailing ship represents the nautical influences in Claude Martin's career – his voyage from France to India, the events related to his travel from Pondicherry to Calcutta over the Bay of Bengal.

In the centre of the shield is the lion rampant with the pennant. This is similar to one of the lions on the coat of arms of the East India Company.

The rock symbolizes the establishment and foundation of his fortunes. The East India Company lion stands upon this rock. It was as an officer of the Company that Claude Martin made his fortune.

The castellated building is a device that represents Constantia, his final architectural achievement that had an overpowering role in his latter years.

The sun setting behind Constantia reflects the sunset of his days.

The supporters on each side of the escutcheon are made up of three standards on the left and four standards on the right. Each bears the motif of the fish. The seven standards were part of the armorial bearing of the Nawabs of Oudh and could only have been used with the permission of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula.

The dominant tinctures are gold and azure (blue). The College colours are Navy Blue and Old Gold.

Claude Martin's personal motto, the Latin, Labore et Constantia on a scroll below the escutcheon and supporters completes the picture. This is also the motto of all La Martiniere schools, which exhorts its pupils to Labour and Constancy.
CORNWALLIS HOUSE

Inspiration : Charles Cornwallis, 2nd Earl Cornwallis to whom Claude Martin served as aide-de-camp during the Third Anglo-Mysore War.

Colour : Green

Motto : Never Give In

Description : The shield depicts an image of *The Lord Cornwallis* cannon, cast by Claude Martin in the Lucknow Arsenal in 1796 and the central feature on the East Terrace of *Constantia*. The cannon is emblazoned on an escutcheon with diagonals of Blue and Gold stripes, now the College colours. At the top of the shield is a helmet with a visor crowned with the Earl’s coronet. Two fish, the emblem of Oudh used in the Coat of Arms of Claude Martin support the escutcheon on either side. At the bottom of the shield is the House motto ‘Never Give In’.
HODSON HOUSE

Inspiration : Brevet Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson (1821 – 1858) was a British leader of irregular light cavalry who raised the Cavalry regiment known as Hodson’s Horse. It exists today as the 4th Horse Regiment, an armoured regiment in the Indian Army. Hodson is buried on La Martiniere Estate.

Hodson has the distinction of equipping his regiment in khaki colour uniform, which is considered the precursor of modern camouflage uniform. The tradition of the khaki uniform continues as the summer uniform in La Martiniere College, Lucknow.

Colour : Red

Motto : Do or Die

Description : The shield depicts images of horse heads and crossed swords reflecting the contribution of Brevet Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson who raised the eponymous cavalry regiment. At the bottom of the shield is the House motto ‘Do or Die’.
LYONS HOUSE

Inspiration : The city of Lyon, France, the birthplace of the Founder, Major General Claude Martin on 4 January 1735. Claude Martin left instructions in his Will for schools to be established in Lucknow, Kolkata and Lyon. Today, there are three La Martiniere establishments in the city of Lyon: La Martinière Monplaisir, La Martinière Duchère, and La Martinière Terreaux.

Colour : Yellow

Motto : To the End

Description : The shield depicts a lion rampant, which is the central image of the Coat of Arms and flag of the city of Lyon. The lion rampant symbolizes the virtues of bravery, valour, strength and royalty. At the bottom of the shield is the House motto ‘To The End’.
Inspiration: The Founder - Major General Claude Martin (4 January 1735 – 13 September 1800). Major General Claude Martin was an officer in the French, and later the British East India Company's Bengal Army. Born into a humble background, he rose to the position of Major General. He was a self-made man who left a lasting legacy in the educational institutions he founded posthumously in Lucknow, Kolkata and Lyon.

Colour: Blue

Motto: Nil Desperandum

Description: The shield depicts a sail ship, which is also a device in the Coat of Arms of the Founder. The ship recalls the nautical exploits of Major General Claude Martin, which includes his voyage to India and his journey in the Fateh Bahadur in the Bay of Bengal. The Great Bell, also called the Martin Bell, now placed on the East Terrace of Constantia is at the top of the shield. Laurel leaves in a horseshoe shape frame the image of the ship, as a symbol of martial victory. At the bottom of the shield is the House motto ‘Nil Desperandum’, Latin for Never Despair.