



Focus on personal development and academic excellence in a happy school

SISTER ACT



With the news of 'Sister Act the Musical' returning to our stage this summer, we decided that we would embrace the excitement and put a version on ourselves.

Sister Act sees Disco Diva, Deloris Van Cartier performed by Year 13 Aimee Ebsworth and Year 10 Emily Ellis, witness a murder, which leads to her being put in protective custody and placed in a convent disguised as a nun. She finds herself at odds with immovable sarcastic and uptight Mother Superior performed by Year 13 Megan Sacco and Year 10 Lauren Wright.

Soon, ex-boyfriend Curtis, the perpetrator of the murder, performed by Year 12 Callum Sowden and Year 10 Oliver McDough finds Deloris,

only to find himself up against Deloris and the power of her newly found sisterhood.

Filled with powerful gospel music directed by Mr Harris & outrageous dancing choreographed by Ms Barnes and Year 10 Darcy Pilgrim, the Upper School students performed five shows to audiences who were left breathless from the extreme talent we have here at St Martins.

Mrs Page Director



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BLETCHLEY PARK

On the 10 of February my fellow classmates and I had visited the realm of code breakers – Bletchley Park. I imagined a computer to be a rather small, simple and accessible system. Little did I know that there was more to this sophisticated piece of technology that had put on this façade of simplicity? The trip took as all the way back to the time of Hitler, who had come up with an unbreakable cipher machine – The Lorenz Cipher. It was an encryption technique used as a form of communication and it comprises of a type of cryptography that makes use of co-primes. It was fascinating to learn that the number of different ways that all twelve wheels could be set was 1.603×10^{19} , i.e. 16 billion billion before it all repeated!

The Lorenz Machine had seemed impossible to decrypt, but like every star, even the Lorenz machine could not escape its fate of eventually

coming to an end. The unbreakable system had led to the birth of the first ever fixed program, digital, electronic computer – Colossus the humungous beast that was designed by Tommy Flowers. It defeated the prosperity of the Lorenz Machine, making the unbreakable, breakable. It had an integral part in the war and is perhaps one of the assets that helped defeat the Germans in WW2. The Colossus was delivered to Bletchley Park on the 18th of January 1944 and broke its first message on the 5th of February 1944.

Colossus was the lifeline that helped make sense of the Germans hold on cryptic messages represented by Lorenz and Enigma cipher. Every feeble tactic of the Germans was no match for the Colossus. However so key was the role of the Colossus that Flowers was ordered to destroy the documentation and plans regarding this powerful invention. In 1972, it

was the dawning of Alan Turing's fame. Alan Turing and a few other unsung heroes were vital for the evolution of the Colossus and had a huge role in computer science we know of today!

The rest of the trip had taken us via a journey of the gadgets we all use in our day to day lives. A gadget that once had to be put in specific temperatures and were so huge and heavy that it was impossible to transport it around. It was a world unreachable beyond Computer Scientists.

We had come back from the trip with a little souvenir, a piece of tape that had tiny holes, representing the letters in the alphabet, piece that is a symbol of the complexity that's within the façade of lucidity. Bletchley Park was the home to the unsung heroes in the war and the evolution of computer science. It's the powerhouse of new discoveries within the field of computer science and is perhaps the bulb that provides us with the hope that one day even a quantum computer can become mainstream just like a normal computer has!



YEAR 7 TWIN WITH FRANCE

Last term some year 7 French groups made first contact with a school in Brentwood's twin town Montbazou, France. The students enjoyed writing Christmas cards telling the students about themselves in French, using what they had learnt in class. We are developing links with the school via a pen-pal scheme and hope to shoot a film showing our new French friends what life is like in an English school and in Brentwood. Year 7 were surprised to learn the students in France do not wear school uniform and were fascinated to study what they ate in the canteen at lunchtime. Year 7 felt very lucky their school day finishes at 3.15pm rather than 5pm as in France!



BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE



Over the February half term, we were delighted to welcome representatives from British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT), the leading national music theatre company that develops young singers, actors, dancers and musicians. These included renowned choreographer Alicia Frost and Steven Dexter, director of several West End productions, who came to deliver a careers and auditions day for our students.

The day included workshops in all three musical theatre disciplines – acting, dancing and singing, as well as a session on technical theatre and a Q&A with the professionals. Students were mesmerised by their expertise and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Recently, we have been delighted to learn that following on from this day, several of our students have

been accepted to be a part of the BYMT Summer Season. This means they will create and rehearse a brand new piece of musical theatre over the course of two or three weeks. They will then perform their work in prestigious theatres throughout the UK (including the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth). We are so proud of all our students and may the Creative Arts continue to thrive at St Martin's for years to come.

Mr Harris, Head of Music



YEAR 10 SONGWRITING WORKSHOP



In March, we had a workshop delivered to our Year 10 GCSE Music students courtesy of Industry Education in Music (IEM). As part of the workshop, IEM brought a visiting artist with them to inspire our students and give them feedback on their compositions – we were lucky enough to have three members of the up-and-coming jazz pop band Céline and the Blue, who performed a number of their recent singles. Students were enchanted by Céline's stunning vocals, as well as her backing band's piano and guitar skills.

The day started off with a couple of performances by the band, followed

by an analysis session on their songs led by Adam, our workshop leader from IEM. After this, it was all down to the students, who spent the rest of the day in groups creating their own songs, with feedback given throughout the day from the three Music teachers, Adam and the band. The opportunity to obtain advice and pointers from a group of visiting artists who had real-world experience of the industry was invaluable for our young musicians.

However, the real highlight was the concert at the end of the day, in which all of our students showcased what

they'd come up with in the morning. It was awe-inspiring to witness how much they had achieved in such a short space of time, all of which will be vital for the composition element of their GCSE. There was such a diverse range of songs, and it was wonderful to see every student playing a key role in their performances on a variety of different instruments.

On behalf of the St Martin's Music Department, I would like to pass on my thanks to IEM and Céline and the Blue for delivering an unforgettable day.

Mr Harris, Head of Music



YEAR 9 CAREERS WEEK – 9 – 12 MARCH



From Monday 9 to Wednesday 11, St Martin's School ran the successful Enterprise Day with all Year 9 students. It provided students with an opportunity to experience life in the world of business, whilst developing their employability skills. They were put into teams and over the day they bought a pre-existing business and developed it into their own, providing them with a chance to experience branding, product development, financial planning and events design. The skills they developed included communication, problem solving, resilience and team work. They also had the opportunity

to encounter people from the world of business who willingly gave up their time to come in to support our students. Our students were a real credit to our school and the visitors were impressed with how creative and confident our students were. We had some students really challenging themselves in a positive way by going beyond their own limits.



On Thursday 12 March students spent a lesson in a computer room with their form tutors. They logged on to their Start Profiles (www.startprofile.com) and had the opportunity to explore their future pathways, be it in education or beyond. They were



able to look up information about a wide range of career choices. As well as this, students were able to fill in their online lockers with any instances when they have developed their employability skills in and out of schools. Tutors encouraged students to add Enterprise Day to their lockers. When they leave school or sixth form, students can use their lockers to prepare for interviews and write their personal statements.

TECHNOLOGY STEM (SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS) NEWS

In order to raise awareness of the need for engineers in this country and to highlight possible career paths for our students, Mrs Lewis arranged for engineers to come in and talk to three-year groups.

On 8 October, we had Jack Bolton (Leonardo UK, Basildon) and Robert Booker (Thales) talk to Year 9 Technology students in the North Hall. They talked about their job roles within their respective companies and gave demonstrations of the products they have helped design and develop. Jack Bolton is responsible for a device that jams



wireless signals and, as a result, provides a protective zone around soldiers to protect them from IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices). Robert Booker demonstrated a thermal imaging camera and explained about the use of high powered optics to map different parts of the light spectrum enabling us to see details from satellite pictures that would otherwise be missed, enabling better analysis of factors such as the effect of drought.

On the 13 and 14 of November, an ex-student and her colleague came into school to give a talk about their experience on a degree apprenticeship scheme to a group of Year 10 and 12 Technology students. Georgia Lily and Liam O'Flaherty both work for the Waterman Group, a worldwide consultancy firm concerned with civil engineering, building and infrastructure.

They explained their decision process when moving from A-levels to an apprenticeship, rather than a pure degree course.

Following on from this, they both explained their job roles and gave examples of how CAD (computer aided design) was used to design and plan buildings and structures, as well as site visits before and during construction to ensure smooth planning.

In both cases, students came out with a better understanding of the possibilities of engineering as a career and its place in developing how we live. Many were enthused to follow up with questions for our guests about their work and careers.



WORLD BOOK DAY



I thought that Chris Bradford's show was great. I loved learning about how he got the ideas for his books and where he travelled to learn the martial arts that he included in his books. I can't wait to read them. Sam Cross, 7H2 - Chris Bradford was amazing and very funny. I can't wait to start reading his books. Noah Taylor, 7B3 - The Chris Bradford visit was amazing, he was very funny and a great author. I want to buy lots of his books. Emme Bailey, 7H3 - Chris Bradford was extremely good with the sword, it has really inspired me to never give up. Artemis Katsogiannou, 7B1 - I absolutely loved this meet n' greet and I was completely engrossed in it! Chris Bradford's books are now at the top of my list of "Books to read"! Ivy Thomas, 7H2 - It was an exciting, jaw-dropping and fantastic performance by Chris Bradford!



On Monday 9 March to celebrate World Book Day, St Martin's Year 7 students had the great privilege to welcome Chris Bradford, author of the Young Samurai and Bodyguard series. The students thoroughly enjoyed Chris' talk regarding his books and information about the Samurai way and left very keen to read his books. Chris explained all

the different sections on his Katana as well as giving a Samurai sword display. Some of the comments students made about the day were - Jack Judd, 7H3 - The sword displays were awesome and the cliff-hangers he left us with were so irritating! Great to learn about him. Bethany Spiers, 7H3 - Real good fun, an inspiring author. Gabriella Lee, 7B2 -

TEACHER TRAINING DAY

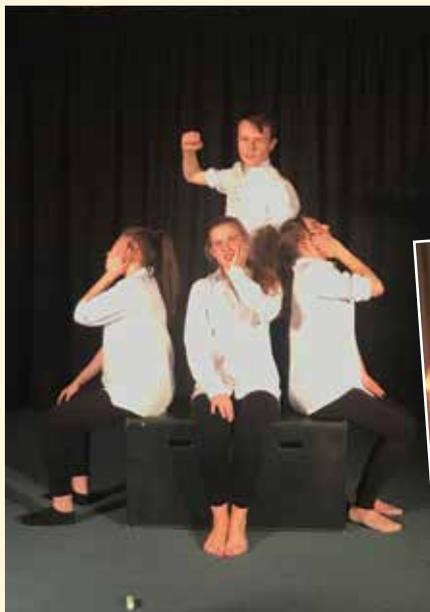
This term, Miss Smith, Miss Burgess and Miss French have been leading sessions as part of the Essex Teacher Training Scheme for science teachers. Our expert science teachers and technicians have contributed to the high quality teacher training program by supporting trainee teachers throughout Essex by providing training on practical work, safety information, behaviour management and lesson planning. The trainee teachers were very impressed with the quality of training and the support that is provided by St Martins School."



DRAMA GCSE AND A LEVEL PERFORMANCES

During the Autumn term, the Drama department was busy with Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 creating and performing a variety of scripted and original performances as part of their GCSE and A Level courses.

Year 10 rehearsed and performed extracts from 'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens which they performed to Year 8 and 9 students. Year 11 devised and performed original pieces performed in front of peers and Year 10 students based on fairy tales. Year 12 performed an edited version of their exam text; 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist' by Dario Fo and our Year 13s performed extracts from their exam text; 'Woyzeck' by Georg Buchner. All performances were of a very high standard and it was a great opportunity for our students to see practical examples of the texts they will be studying in the future as well as practical ideas for their own performances.



FREDDIE'S FRIENDS ASSEMBLY

This term we officially launched Freddie's friends, which is an anti-bullying group made up of Year 10 students. The group has been set up in memory of Freddie Felton who stood up for his peers and was against all forms of bullying.

Freddie's Friends have now completed anti-bullying training led by Mrs Wilson with the aim to support younger students around school. Using all the skills they learnt from the training course the Year 10 students led an assembly for Year

7 where they discussed different forms of bullying and what Freddie's Friends could do to help them.

Freddie's Friends can be recognised by the silver badge they wear on their blazer with FF initials on. Any student from any age group can approach a member of the group to discuss any issue and seek help from them. Freddie's Friends look to support students with any problems and particularly if anyone is struggling at break or lunch. The group will use the peer-support

techniques to help those in need. They can also be used for students to seek advice if they are unsure on what to do or if they know people who may be struggling. Freddie's Friends will listen to all problems.

Freddie's Friends will continue to grow with the next group of Year 10 students starting their training soon. Freddie's Friends will be around at all break and lunch times to support their peers when needed.

COLOGNE CHRISTMAS MARKETS TRIP



castle perching high above the Rhine. We then visited the Kaiser Wilhelm statue at Deutsches Eck where the Rhine and Mosel rivers meet and lunched at the Christmas market in Koblenz town centre. That evening we visited another Christmas Market at the Neumarkt.

Room inspections took place on the Thursday morning with one of the boy's rooms a clear winner in the tidiness competition.

We spent our final day in Germany at the Phantasialand theme park and spent the day enjoying the thrilling rides such as the Black Mamba, Force and Fear & the Talocan. Despite the bitterly cold temperatures, that evening we made one final visit to the Christmas market at the foot of Cologne cathedral to buy last minute presents for friends and family and warm ourselves with delicious hot chocolate.

This was another hugely successful and fantastic trip to see how Christmas is celebrated in Germany. The students were impeccably behaved and were great ambassadors for St Martin's.

Mrs Ballard (Head of MFL)



In the middle of December, 40 Year 9 students set off for the annual Christmas Markets trip to Cologne accompanied by Mrs Ballard, Mr Bourton, Mrs Mercer and Mr Smith.

After a long day in the coach, the first job on our arrival was to make our own beds. Let's just say, some of us were more practised than others! After an evening meal at the hostel, we were pleased to be able to stretch our legs with the first visit to the Christmas market underneath the impressive Kölner Dom.

On an icy cold but bright Tuesday morning, we visited Cologne



Cathedral and were treated to spectacular views of the city after making the climb up the stairs of the cathedral tower.

The morning continued with a walk along the Rhine to the Schokoladenmuseum, where we were given a guided tour and learnt about how chocolate was made before sampling the delights of the chocolate fountain and practising our German in the shop purchasing treats for friends and family.

In the afternoon, we were able to show off our ice skating prowess at the outdoor skating rink at the Weihnachtsmarkt at the Alter Markt.

In a change to the programme this year, we dined at a local restaurant overlooking the river Rhine where we ate Bratwurst and Bratkartoffeln followed by Apfelstrudel – lecker!

On a very rainy Wednesday, we had a guided tour around Marksburg

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CUP FINALS



Our U13 girls' cross country team travelled to Sheffield earlier this year having qualified for the National Schools Cup Finals. The whole team ran brilliantly and finished 11th out

of the 26 Junior Girls teams who competed on the day. Head of Girls' PE, Mrs Swan, said "This is the 1st time in St Martin's history we have a team to make it past the Regional round of this prestigious competition. Our girls have worked so hard in their training, having missed out on a finals spot last year by one place. We are so proud of them and very grateful to Mr Freddy King who gave up his time to coach the girls regularly since September. They thoroughly deserve their success."

YEAR 10 MUSIC SHOWCASE

On Friday 10 January, the majority of our Year 10 Music students participated in a showcase demonstrating their talents, performing to an audience of Year 8 and Year 9 students. This year, we were lucky enough to welcome our largest ever cohort of GCSE Music students, many of whom had never performed in front of an audience before, which just goes to show what a talented bunch they are. Due to the large number of students, we were able to put on two separate showcases, one for Year 8 and one for Year 9. It was very inspiring for so many of our younger students to witness a variety of outstanding performances that they will be able to strive towards, as it won't be long before they are in a similar position themselves.

As part of the GCSE Music course, students are required to submit two performances (one solo and one ensemble) which combined are worth 30% of the qualification. As such, our audiences were treated to a wide range of both solo and group performances, all of which were put together in just a week by the students themselves. There were so many highlights it is impossible to pick out particular performances, but there is no doubt the future of Music at St Martin's is in very safe hands if this showcase was anything to go by. We are very much looking forward to a similarly successful event next year, with a brand new set of Year 10 GCSE students.

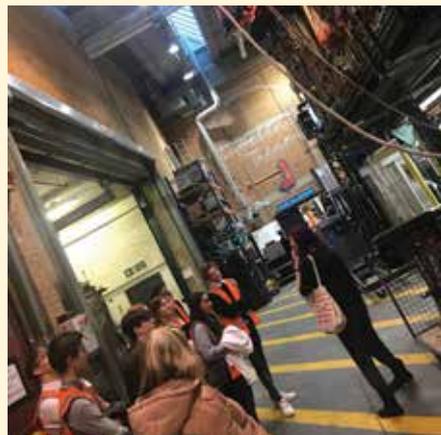
Mr Harris, Head of Music

DRAMA TRIP TO THE NATIONAL THEATRE

In March, Year 12 Drama and Theatre students travelled to the National Theatre, London to take part in a back stage tour. The tour took us behind the scenes of the three performance spaces that are housed in the National Theatre. Students were given insights into the practical technology of the Olivier Stage as well as the props, wardrobe and scenic design departments at the National Theatre. They even got a hands on experience with some of the more unusual props from



previous productions. After the tour, we watched *The Visit* in the Olivier Theatre, starring Lesley Manville and Hugo Weaving. Their experience will be invaluable to their studies of Drama and Theatre and we hope to see some of the influences in their forthcoming exam performances.



PARACHUTE REGIMENT RECRUITMENT TALK

Earlier this term students across KS4 and KS5 had the opportunity to meet with members from The Parachute Regiment Recruiting Team. Students received a presentation that explained the army as a whole and then focused upon The Parachute Regiment, and the

role they play within the Infantry. Year 12 students Callum O'Connor and Joshua Rodwell pictured, thoroughly immersed themselves in the experience and enjoyed sampling the kit and equipment but were surprised by just how heavy the weight of the equipment was.

