



4 April 2025

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster



Headteacher's Comment:

Happy Easter! Both Thursday and Friday I had the pleasure of presenting certificates in the end of term honours assemblies to mark another successful term for the St Martin's community. Highlights include our Spring Concert, showcasing incredible musical talent; Year 11 exploring careers in aviation at Stansted Airport College; Sixth Form Business pupils excelling at the Tutor2u Grade Booster Workshops, as well as the Royal Navy "Ready Steady Cook" event which saw pupils impress with their culinary skills.

Recently on the sports field, our Year 8 Boys Indoor Cricket Team secured silver at the Tier 1 Essex Finals, missing gold by just one run—an outstanding effort! Academically, Year 11 pupils benefited from a Walking Talking Mock to sharpen their exam skills. The end of term marks an important time for our exam classes to relax, recoup and revise!

This week's Headteacher Gallery goes to Olivia Mitchell, William Juckett, Keira Hoebeeck, and Chloe Baker in Year 7 for having their work successfully shortlisted for entry into the Rail Safety Awareness Competition. You can see their entries above — we wish them the best of luck in the competition!

Our 'Make a Difference' staff award goes to Mrs Abbs, Miss Hunt, and Miss Holdbrook for their continued support and hard work with our *Let's Talk* campaign with pupils.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break.



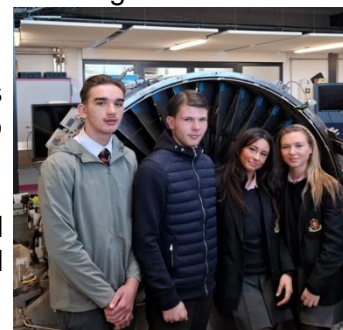
Visit to Stansted Airport College

On Wednesday, twelve Year 11 pupils visited Stansted Airport College. These pupils expressed an interest in applying for one of their three courses in Aviation Operations, Engineering & Aircraft Management or Events Management.

Our pupils were truly inspired with the state-of-the-art facilities, sponsored by various airlines. These included a private jet donated to the College. Pupils were able to climb aboard and explore the premium seating as well as sit in the cockpit.

Later, pupils dismantled and repaired aircraft parts, as well sat in a classroom, designed like a plane, allowing pupils to practise serving passengers as well as perform on board safety demonstrations.

The College has a 98% success rate of pupils graduating and landing jobs in the aviation sector. Combined with an assembly earlier this term, both experiences demonstrated the potential of post-16 providers. Our careers team is committed to promoting inclusive opportunities and encouraging pupils to consider all of their potential options.



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Spring Concert Success

On the 26 March, the Music Department held our annual Spring Concert. There were representatives from every year group, in soloist and ensemble capacities, with performances on a variety of different disciplines. We had performances from many of our clubs, including Junior Choir, Percussion Club, Flute Choir, and St Martin's School Band, as well as a joint performance from our Senior Choir and Steel Pan Group. We also had a 'Battle of the Bands' competition between a group of our Year 10s and a group of our Year 12s – both performed excellently, with Year 12 narrowly clinching the win after the audience voted.

We welcomed some of our Year 10 pupils to showcase a couple of songs that they will be performing in Hollywood during our trip which commences later this week (4 April). The next time they will be performing these songs, amongst others, is at a homeless shelter in Los Angeles, and this was a welcome practice performance for them.

As well as lots of self-taught musicians, particularly on the piano, we also had performances of pupils' original music, including **Benji Copping**, who performed a piece that he is looking to submit for his A Level Music coursework. A particularly proud moment came when one of our Year 11 GCSE pupils, **Ella Abberley**, courageously re-entered the stage, and performed with confidence after a bout of stage fright. For many pupils, this was their first time performing in one of our concerts, and we would like to commend them for their professionalism and bravery.

Events like this require a lot of work behind the scenes, therefore our first thanks go out to the pupils for their dedication, and the parents and carers who support them in their endeavours. Secondly, to the group of staff who gave up their evening to sell tickets and refreshments, supervise the pupils in our backstage areas, or play in the School Band. Finally, a thanks to our student AV Tech team, **Miss Elliot**, our Performing Arts Technician, and all the peripatetic teachers - with **Mr Leggett** giving up his evening to perform with Percussion Club.

Thank you all for your support in making Music at St Martin's so successful. Wishing you all a restful Easter holiday. **Report by The Music Department.**



Royal Navy Visit

On Monday, St Martin's School Brentwood, welcomed two chefs from the Royal Navy to talk to the Year 10 GCSE Food pupils. The pupils received a presentation about their role in the Royal Navy and the career potential for pupils.

The pupils then took part in a Royal Navy "ready steady cook" where the pupils worked in small teams to make the best food for the chefs to try. Well done to the winning teams: **Francesca Britton, Lyra Denyer, Freya Carter and Anna Liddicott, Ruby Walsh, Katie Cuschieri and Emmie Lole.**



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★ St Martin's Pupils Shine at Tutor2u Workshops



Pupils from St Martin's Sixth Form recently attended the Tutor2u Grade Booster Workshops, where they showcased their enthusiasm and business knowledge. Year 12 BTEC Business and Year 13 A-Level Business pupils took part in these interactive sessions, designed to enhance their exam skills and deepen their understanding of key business concepts.

Throughout the day, pupils actively engaged with the workshop activities, answering challenging questions with confidence. Several pupils even won prizes for their insightful contributions, being a credit to the school and showcasing their dedication to their studies. The workshops provided an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate their learning, refine their exam techniques, and gain valuable insights from experienced subject experts. With exams approaching, this experience has undoubtedly given them a boost in their preparation. Well done to all the pupils who took part—you have done St Martin's proud!

★ Year 11 Walking Talking Mock

On Wednesday, Miss Goulding facilitated a Walking Talking Mock for Year 11 pupils on English Language paper 1 question 5. Pupils were shown the importance of planning for descriptive and prose creative writing in order to strengthen their responses. Through seeing the modelling of this and both types of writing, pupils were able to work on their own creative craft in readiness for the exam.



★ Tier 1 Essex County Cricket Silver Medalists



Huge congratulations to our Year 8 Boys Indoor Cricket team who, after winning their qualification round, played in the Tier 1 Essex Finals at the County Ground. Here, the boys played some outstanding cricket, missing out on the gold medals by just 1 run! We are so proud of you boys.

★ Dates for the Diary

21.04.2025 – Bank Holiday Monday
 22.04.2025 – Year 12 PPEs Commence
 Year 13 Controlled Assessments
 23.04.2025 – GCSE DT & A Level Moderation
 24.04.2025 – Year 11 Apprenticeships

For PE fixtures please follow twitter @StMartinsSchPE for further PE updates

Word of the Week
Week 26 compelling

St Martin's School
 Be the best you can be

adjective: evoking interest, attention, or admiration. Convincing.
Sentence: The novel was so compelling that I couldn't put it down.

April Shortages
 Tinned Chilli-Con-Carne, Meat Balls, Minced Onion and Hot Dogs
 Tinned Potatoes & Bags of Rice
 Tinned Ravioli
 Tinned Custard
 Laundry Gels, Shampoos & Toothpaste

Your support makes our work possible



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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

2025– Issue 2

Welcome to the Easter addition of St Martins Safeguarding Newsletter which offers signposting to useful content on the internet and where you can seek support should you need it. We have included some support around domestic abuse as often Children are the unseen victims and yet it has such a detrimental impact on their wellbeing and development.

From the Safeguarding and Pastoral Team, we wish you a safe and peaceful Easter break.

Internetmatters.org

Supporting children watching and browsing online

According to Ofcom, the online safety regulator, a significant majority of children are watching online videos regularly. and browsing the internet. This represents over 90% of children. Explore the hub to get help on the best ways to navigate parental controls, set healthy screen time habits, and encourage safe, age-appropriate online activities.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/>

What are AI tools and AI generated content?

AI generated content: This is where an image, video or voice recording has been created using an online generator. These can be completely artificial, meaning none of the content is real, or they can be altered versions of existing real content.

AI content generators: These are the tools used to create AI generated content by entering a series of commands to generate new content or edit an existing image or video.

AI chat bots: These are chat functions where you are speaking with a bot rather than a real person. They will often only respond to short messages and will usually introduce themselves as a bot. However, the bots can often be given human names.

AI summaries: This is where a platform gathers and summarises information, usually found at the top of a page or search engine result. The AI will often take information from across a range of sources and list the sources within the summary.

For further information as well as tips on how to support its safe use, visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents/>

For further help and support around all things digital, visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>



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Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse

Domestic abuse can have a devastating impact on the victims and their families, with children and young people at risk of serious harm to both their emotional and physical health.

How are children affected by domestic abuse?

Children who witness domestic abuse are at risk of both short and long-term physical and mental health problems. Every child will be affected differently to the trauma of domestic abuse.

Short-term effects of domestic abuse:

For **school aged children** this can include:

- A loss of drive to participate in activities and school.
- Lower grades in school.
- Feeling guilty and to blame for the abuse happening to them.
- Getting into trouble more often.
- Physical signs such as headaches and stomach aches.

For **teenagers** this can include:

- Acting out in negative ways such as missing school or fighting with family members.
- Having low self-esteem.
- Finding it difficult to make friends.
- Engaging in risky behaviours such as using alcohol and other drugs.

Long-term effects of domestic abuse:

- Mental health problems, such as becoming anxious or depressed. Low mental health can also lead to big impacts on physical health, including self-harm or developing an eating disorder.
- Having a lowered sense of self-worth.
- Using alcohol and other drugs as unhealthy coping mechanisms.
- Repeating behaviours seen in their domestic setting.

Are you experiencing domestic abuse?

You are not alone

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/the-survivors-handbook/ive-left-and-i-need-support/>



Driven by love, we take action so children don't miss out on a safe and happy childhood. We have thousands of people on the ground, giving children and young people the protection and practical help they urgently need. And we campaign for lasting change.

Parent Talk offers free, down-to-earth advice for parents of children aged 0-19. All our content is written or curated by our parenting coaches, based on their experience working with children, young people and their families.

Parents can browse articles, or chat to a parenting coach for individual advice and emotional support. It's all free, and no topic is too big, small, or embarrassing.



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YOUNGMINDS



We know that being a parent or carer isn't always easy. Although it's often amazing and rewarding to watch your children or young people grow up, it can also be really hard work. Things might feel especially difficult if your child or young person is struggling with their mental health at the moment. Or if their mood and behaviour seem different, and you're not sure why or what you can do to help. But you are not alone.

We have lots of practical advice to help you support them – from encouraging them to open up, to navigating mental health services and finding them the right help. No matter what you're going through things can get better.

Follow this link: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

If you're **worried** about the safety or wellbeing of a **child**, call the **children's** line on

0345 603 7627

or contact Police on 101 or 999



St Martin's Safeguarding



Mrs McGorrell
DDSL



Mrs Tatman
DHT/DSL



Mrs Wilson
DDSL



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