



5 December 2025

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

Thank you to everyone involved in our Christmas Concerts this week—the pupils performed wonderfully, and it was fantastic to see such strong support from our school community.

Next Friday, **12 December**, pupils and staff are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper or festive garment**. Voluntary donations will help us upgrade our South Hall stage lighting and support our partners at **SNAP Charity in Brentwood**.

A reminder too that our **Can Collecting Challenge** continues until **19 December**—thank you to all the pupils who have already donated to help families over Christmas.

Finally, our Head Teacher's gallery this week goes to; **Huberta A 12 Nobel 1** in recognition of starting Year 12 in a strong position, having completed a range of complex drawing tasks to a high standard and **Phoenix W 10 Turner 1**, in recognition of being successfully selected for the Bird & Bird Law Early Bird Careers Programme.



Dead End Road Safety Performance

This week, our Year 11 pupils took part in an engaging and impactful road safety performance and workshop delivered by the Collingwood Team. The session focused on the Fatal Four causes of serious road incidents: distraction, speeding, not wearing seatbelts, and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Through a powerful combination of drama, discussion, and real-life scenarios, pupils explored the potential dangers associated with risky behaviours on the road—both as future drivers and as passengers.

The performance prompted thoughtful reflection, and the follow-up Q&A session saw pupils participating maturely and enthusiastically, asking insightful questions and demonstrating a clear understanding of the importance of responsible decisions.

Overall, it was a highly successful workshop that reinforced essential safety messages and encouraged our pupils to think carefully about their actions and responsibilities on the road.



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Year 13 Business Studies Grade Booster

Year 13 BTEC Business students spent the day at the tutor2u Unit 2 Grade Booster workshop in Shepherd's Bush, and it proved to be a productive use of time. The sessions were fast-moving, focused on exam requirements, and built around the demands of the "Developing a Marketing Campaign" unit.

Students were provided with a detailed booklet and access to an online resource hub containing exam-style, tasks, model responses and guidance on how to meet assessment criteria. Its practical material designed to support revision rather than just recap content.

The group were switched on throughout. They asked questions, contributed ideas, and engaged with the case studies rather than sitting in silence. Some students picked up prizes for strong contributions, which helped keep the atmosphere competitive and upbeat.

With the January exam approaching, the workshop landed at the right time. Overall, it gave students a clear boost to their preparation. The real test comes in this week's PPE, where they'll get a chance to apply what they picked up in a timed environment. If they follow it up with focused practice afterwards, it should translate into stronger performance when the real exam arrives in January.



Year 11 Pupil Offered Ipswich Town FC Scholarship

We are delighted to share that **James Brentnall (11A1)** has been offered a two-year scholarship with **Ipswich Town Football Club**. This achievement marks a significant milestone in James' footballing journey, following eight years of commitment and progression within the club's academy system.

James' dedication both on and off the pitch has been exemplary. His form tutor, **Mrs Swan**, praised his attitude and work ethic, saying:

"James is a model pupil at St Martin's. He is on track to achieve his target grades for his GCSEs and manages his time effectively to balance his schoolwork and football commitments. We are very proud of him."

We congratulate James on this outstanding opportunity and look forward to seeing his continued success in both his academic studies and football career.



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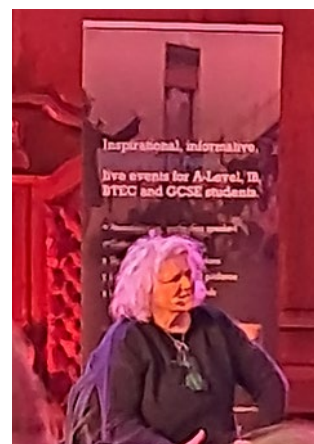
★ Art in Action Trip

Last Friday a group of our GCSE Art and A Level Art and Photography pupils visited the Emanuel Centre, in Westminster, for the Annual Art in Action study day. Throughout the day there were 4 speakers, all leaders in their field, that spoke about their creative practice. We were incredibly lucky to hear from Martin Parr CBE, an award winning photographer; Fraser Scarfe, who is Head of Education at the Royal Drawing School; Duncan Hooson, a Ceramicist and Community Arts Project Lead, and Rachel Whiteread DBE, Turner Prize winner and award winning Sculptor.



Each speaker talked about their projects and how they built up their portfolio and what made them successful. It was inspiring to hear about their knockbacks and perseverance. The common point made by all speakers, across all disciplines was you need to be obsessed; live and breathe your creativity. Be tenacious and do not give up. Find a way to make it work!

Our students were thoroughly engaged and took the opportunity to meet the speakers and ask questions. It was a really great experience for them.



★ St Martin's Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all the pupils who entered the St Martin's Art Christmas card competition.

We had a fantastic selection of entries to choose from which we know made the judges' job even harder this year!

What a wonderful display of creativity to get everyone into the festive spirit



Dates for the Diary

- 08.12.2025 – Year 10 & 12 Scripted PPE Tech Exam all week
Year 13 PPE Photography (2 days)
- 09.12.2025 – Work Experience Parents Information Evening
- 10.12.2025 – Year 13 Art PPE (3 days)
Year 12 STEM Day
- 11.12.2025 – Year 11 Christmas Dinner
Year 7 Parents' Evening (face to face)
- 12.12.2025 – Year 10 & Year 8 Christmas Dinner

Word of the Week Week 12 paradigm



noun: is a model or way of thinking.

Sentence: The realisation that the Earth is round marked a major shift in the scientific paradigm, replacing the long-held belief that the Earth was flat.



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

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CAN COLLECTING CHALLENGE!

**Will you help feed the hungry this Christmas?
Is your form group the kindest in the school?**

This holiday season we are running a can collecting competition, **form vs form!** Please try to collect lots of cans of food or other shelf-safe items, such as rice, pasta or biscuits. Your form is your team!

The winning form will receive **ten achievement points each, a massive box of Celebrations, and a big gold trophy for your form room!**

Any questions? Please see Miss Cox in S209.

Let's make a difference!

**The deadline
is the 19th of
December!**



**Cans!
Biscuits!
Pasta!**