



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

Headteacher's Comment:

It was great to see the many positive interactions between Year 9 parents and staff this week during our Options Evening. If you or your child has any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through the Options email address options@st-martins.essex.sch.uk, and we will ensure the appropriate person gets back to you.

Next week is our last week with Dave our School Crossing Patrol person, who has helped us at the front of the school over the last few months. The advert for his replacement is at the back of this newsletter and if you are able to promote this vacancy that would be appreciated.

This week's Headteacher Gallery includes Oscar Cole and Evan Foster in Year 10 for their outstanding work and excellent woodworking skills when making their wooden lamps in Design and Technology. Also, Chris Morris and Isabelle Kazali in Year 12 for their professionalism, knowledge and for being inspiring role models to all of the pupils at the LEGO League event.

Finally, our 'Making a Difference' award goes to our Food Technician, Jackie Wilson. Apart from working tirelessly behind the scenes to support our pupils, Jackie also led on a community initiative to save food waste and support disadvantaged families.



Royal Institute Coronation Award

In December 2024, a number of St Martin's pupils entered a competition with the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour. Last week we received news stating that the following pupils have been chosen as finalists; Rose Van Der Goot Year 13, Amber Crawford Year 13, Bonnie Chadwick Year 13 and Charlie King who left in 2024. There were 40 students from across the country who were selected as finalists, four of which are pupils from St Martin's! The winner and two runners up will be announced on Friday.



Amber C. Age 17, POMEGRANATE, St. Martin's School



Charlie K. Age 18, FRAGILE, St. Martin's School



Bonnie C. Age 17, TOMATOES, St. Martin's School



Rose V. Age 18, HIDDEN FLAWS, St. Martin's School



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NAct Performance

On Wednesday we welcomed N Act Theatre in Schools, who performed a powerful play titled 'Visible' to our Year 9 pupils. The play explored important themes such as mental health, positive emotional well-being, anxiety, sadness, and sensitively touched on self-harm.

Through authentic storytelling, 'Visible' encouraged pupils to reflect on their emotions and the experiences of others. Following the performance, pupils actively participated in an engaging Q&A session, answering thought provoking questions and sharing their reflections on the issues presented.

To support the key messages of the play, all pupils received a signpost support guide, providing information on where to seek help both within the school and through external organisations.



Speak Out Challenge

On Friday 31 January, 60 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" challenge. The workshop was led by expert Speakers Trust trainers, who facilitated inspirational speaking activities and workshops for our pupils, to develop their public speaking, listening, deliberation and feedback skills. Pupils were also offered insights into overcoming nerves, interview skills, learning how to listen effectively as well as working together to give positive and constructive feedback to each other.



The pupils who took part stated that they have gained skills that be applied in the next stages of their education, training and employment. While 90% of those pupils have expressed that they would take up future opportunities for public speaking, 95% agreed that the workshops offered have helped them to realise they can succeed at new things!

By the end of the workshop, pupils utilised their new-found skills and confidence in public speaking to build their own speeches to perform to the group. The speeches were amazing, the trainers, as well as Miss Larkin and Miss Goulding were left extremely impressed and with the difficult decision to select our schools' finalists.

Our eight semi-finalists are, **Janelle Osaji-Okai, Senit Samuel, Nicholas Morris, Holly Hawtree, Charlie Wiseniewski, Harry Scammell, Noah van Rensberg & Rio Francis**. These eight finalists will battle it out in a Speak Out Assembly for a place in the regional final to represent St Martins on May 6 2025.



Brentwood Foodbank

Brentwood Foodbank have reached out for our support, as they are running low on various items. Please let them know if you can support them [Brentwood Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](https://www.brentwoodfoodbank.org.uk)



February Shortages

Shampoo	Tinned Tomatoes
Corned Beef	Chilli-Con-Carne
Ravioli	Macaroni Cheese
Tinned Potatoes	Tinned Mixed Veg

Your support makes our work possible



Brentwood Foodbank is licensed by Trussell Trust, Registered Charity Number 1131222



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★ Impressionable Minds Workshop

On Monday, we had the privilege of hosting Russell Symons from the organisation 'Impressionable Minds', who delivered a series of powerful and thought-provoking talks to pupils from Year 8 through to Sixth Form. This event was part of our ongoing commitment to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed and positive life choices. Russell captivated his audience with his engaging presentation style, addressing critical themes such as mental health, manipulation, coercion, and the importance of making the right decisions.



His ability to connect with pupils on a personal level ensured that the message resonated deeply across all year groups. Pupils responded enthusiastically, describing the talks as "inspirational" and expressed how the session challenged their perceptions and provided valuable insights into the real-life consequences of drug-related choices. This event was not just about raising awareness but also about empowering our young people to recognise risks and build resilience against negative influences. Russell's heartfelt stories and real-life examples left a lasting impression, fostering a greater understanding of the complexities surrounding drug use and its impact on individuals and communities.

★ Year 9 Options Launch

On Monday, we launched the Year 9 Options 2025. Pupils attended an assembly where they were given lots of useful guidance and advice about the process. As part of the presentation, three pupils: Penny Nealle (Year 11), Amelia Dare (Year 13) and Harry Saville (Year 13) spoke about their own pathways and the reasons behind their option choices. They reminded pupils about the importance of research and discussion, selecting subjects you are interested in and not selecting subjects because your friends are choosing them.



To complement our Options launch, all Year 9 pupils will be inducted into Unifrog, an online careers platform before half term. This is another valuable tool to support with the decision-making process, providing useful information about careers and further education. Options forms are due Monday 3 March 2025.

★ Girls' Netball Team into the Essex Cup Quarter Final

Our U16 girls were victorious last week in their Essex Cup Netball last 16 match v Ursuline Convent. The 42-10 win takes them into the quarter finals, where they will face FitzWimarc School (Rayleigh).

Well played girls! Good luck in the next round #Top8inEssex



★ Dates for the Diary

- 10.02.25 – P-16 Trip to Health Tech Roadshow
- 11.02.25 – 13.02.25 Upper School Production South Hall
- 13.02.25 – SENDCO Forum
- 17.02.25 – 21.02.25 Half Term

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

Word of the Week Week 19 eminent



adjective: famous and respected within a particular sphere

Sentence: Aretha Franklin is one of the world's most eminent singers.



Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

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ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

11th, 12th & 13th
February 7pm
South Hall

Ticket price £10
available from Finance
St Martin's Student £5



Book by
Mark O'Donnell
Thomas Meehan

Music by
Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by
Scott Wittman
Marc Shaiman

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by JOHN WATERS
Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler & Arrangements by Marc Shaiman

School Crossing Patrol Officer Vacancy

Are you looking for an opportunity to support your local community?

Come and join Essex County Council's School Crossing Patrol Team,
We currently have a vacancy serving:

St Martin's School

£12.10 per hour

Term Time Only - Part Time Hours

To apply visit www.workingforessex.com, or call the Resourcing
Team on **0333 013 5888**.



INSPIRED TO DO MORE

