



10 October 2025

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

Last week was a wonderful celebration of learning, creativity, and community spirit at St Martin's. A particular highlight was our Year 7 Bake-Off, which raised almost £200 for SNAP, thanks to the efforts of 44 talented bakers. It was a pleasure to welcome Sami Shulton from SNAP to present the awards and celebrate the pupils' achievements — pictured below alongside our fantastic ambassadors: Jasmine, Reesha, Hetty, Vivienne, Indyana, Sophia and Lily. In addition, our staff marked ADHD awareness month in assemblies whilst wearing orange garments.

We also continued to broaden horizons beyond the classroom. Sixth Form and Year 11 pupils attended an inspiring Oxbridge talk by Dr Boyle, from the University of Cambridge at Brentwood School, exploring the many opportunities that come from studying languages.

Meanwhile, Year 13 historians took part in a powerful session led by Dr Hannah-Rose Murray from the University of Suffolk, deepening their understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and building their confidence ahead of NEA coursework.

To celebrate our pupil baking successes this week's Headteacher Gallery goes to Jasmine, Reesha, Hetty, Vivienne, Indyana, Sophia and Lily. Well done !



Year 7 Bake-off

Last week's bake-off was a big success, with pupils in Year 7 showcasing their considerable baking and decorating talents! From sparkly cupcakes to perfectly baked sponges, the competition was filled with high-quality entries raising almost £200 for local charity SNAP, supporting Special Needs and Parents. Our donation could pay for three children to have music therapy, for example.



All the 44 bakers should be very proud of their contributions. We awarded 15 certificates for highly commended bakes and the House with the most entries was Seacole.

Sami Shulton from SNAP came to St Martin's to meet the winners and present their certificates. Congratulations to: third place: Jasmine D (bake), Reesha P (decoration), second place: Hetty F (bake), Vivienne C (decoration), first place: Indyana S and Sophia F (bake) and Lily R (decoration).



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Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff
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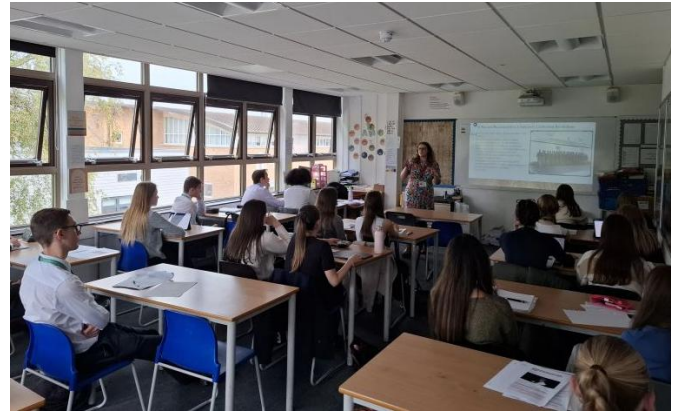


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★ Year 13 Historians Welcomed Back the University of Suffolk Historian Dr Hannah-Rose Murray

Hannah delivered a powerful overview of 100 years of the Civil Rights Movement, spotlighting often overlooked case studies and events. She then guided pupils through different schools of historiography, encouraging them to rethink how we interpret the period, before moving on to primary source analysis and evaluation.

The session opened our pupils' eyes to the rich possibilities for their NEA (worth 20% of their final grade) and gave them tools to approach it with real curiosity and confidence.



★ ADHD Awareness Month

St Martin's School staff celebrated ADHD Awareness month with Orange Monday. Following a week-long assembly to further raise awareness to students, staff took to wearing a touch of orange to keep the conversations going.

It did not end there! Conversations about neurodiversity also found its way into classroom conversations and at the staff CPD for the week.

At St Martin's school, we celebrate Inclusion.....we embrace the diversity. Our message: There is strength in your difference.



★ Key information & Updates for Parents

- Trips can now be viewed on our website.
- Key pastoral contacts have been updated on our website.
- Extra-Curricular Information has been updated on our website

★ Year 8 – 10 Pupils

Last week pupils from Year 8 to Year 10 had lots of fun while earning their AQA Life Skills Cooking qualification, in the SEND Inclusion Department.

They all worked extremely hard and they will be receiving their certificates soon.



★ Oxbridge Talk Visit

On Tuesday, twenty Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 German pupils went to Brentwood School to attend an Oxbridge talk with Dr Boyle, a Postgraduate Admissions Tutor at Homerton College, Cambridge. The talk gave pupils in KS4 and KS5 an early insight into what it means to study a language like German at one of the world's leading universities. Pupils also learnt what subjects can be studied with German, and discovered the wide range of opportunities that come from studying a modern language, from international law and journalism to finance, academia, and the civil service. We are now looking to invite the same speaker to St Martin's to deliver the session to Year 9 and 10 pupils, who have shown an interest in German Post-16.



Dates for the Diary

- 13.10.2025 – ADHD Awareness Month
Pupil Survey
Year 7 Goals and Aspirations
- 14.10.2025 – Year 13 Hampton Court Palace Trip
- 15.10.2025 – Parent meeting Ski Trip 17:00
HPV Vaccinations
- 16.10.2025 – Year 11 Information Evening
Sixth Form Open Evening 17:15 – 19:30
HPV Vaccinations
- 17.10.2025 – Hollywood Trip Year 10 – 22.10.2025
- 18.10.2025 – Barcelona Basketball Academy Trip – 22.10.2025

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

Word of the Week Week 6 metacognition



noun: awareness and understanding of one's own thought processes

Sentence: Pupils who have strong metacognition are often better at monitoring their own learning and problem-solving.



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ADHD
AWARENESS
MONTH
OCTOBER

SEND
is everybody's
business

Normalising Differences

- ADHD is just **one way of thinking**
- Being different is **normal and valuable**
- Differences can be **strengths** if respected

October – ADHD AWARENESS MONTH

We do not see diagnosis as a disability.
Instead, we see it as a **superpower!**

I am asking staff and students to champion neurodiversity with a special focus on ADHD.

- ***Wear a touch of orange this October***

How to Support Someone with ADHD

- Be **patient** and **listen**
- Break tasks into **smaller steps**
- Focus on **strengths, not just challenges**
- Encourage **movement and creativity**

What NOT to Say or Do

- ✗ “You’re lazy” / “Stop being annoying”
- ✗ “Why can’t you just pay attention?”
 - ✗ Teasing, mocking, excluding, or ignoring
- ✗ Comparing unfairly to others
- ✓ **Instead:** Include, encourage, and **celebrate uniqueness**