



# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster  
& Deputy CEO

## Headteacher's Comment:

As we approach the end of term, there has been a real sense of celebration across the school – and not just because of the festive season. Although it would be remiss not to mention that Mrs King's outfit this week has certainly set the standard!

We are incredibly proud of our **senior girls' 4th place finish at the English Schools Cross Country Cup Final**, an outstanding national achievement that reflects their dedication, resilience and teamwork. They continue to be fantastic role models for pupils across the school.

It has also been a pleasure to celebrate creativity and talent through our **Christmas Concerts and Awards Evening**, as well as the fantastic work taking place in **KS3 Textiles Club**, where pupils are developing skills, confidence and a love of learning beyond the classroom. Well done too to all pupils who entered the **Christmas Card Competition**, with congratulations to Oscar in Year 7 for the winning design.

This week the Headteacher's Gallery goes to Oscar G for his outstanding and winning entry in the Christmas Card Competition.

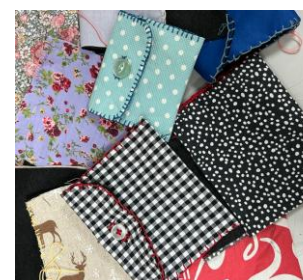


## KS3 Textiles Club

This autumn, KS3 Textiles Club has been buzzing with creativity! Pupils have been busy mastering new skills in both hand and machine sewing, kicking off the term with personalised keyrings and hand-stitched purses made from vintage fabric scraps. With sustainability at the heart of our projects, members have even brought in old duvet covers and blankets to upcycle into their very own pair of snuggly PJ shorts—just in time for Christmas.

After the holidays, we'll be diving into a brand-new patchwork project, where pupils will piece together a beautiful Hunter Star design to transform into a cushion cover or a bag. Each week, we choose an album to listen to chosen by the pupils and enjoy some time slowing down, being mindful and chatting to our friends whilst working on our creations.

We still have spaces available in Textiles Club! If you've signed up but are currently on the waiting list, please get in touch with me directly - [hmadden@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:hmadden@st-martins.essex.sch.uk)





## Life Sciences Day

Year 12 Biology and Chemistry went to the University of Essex on Wednesday to take part in their Life Sciences Day. Students learnt all about the research being undertaken at the University including development into crops which are resistant to drought and crops which are also resistant to floods.

Students got to develop their lab skills and practice being biomedical scientists!

Well done to everyone involved.



## St Martin's Senior Girls Triumph with Fourth Place finish at National Cross-Country Finals

St Martin's Senior Girls delivered an exceptional performance on Saturday 6th December, securing **4th place in the whole of England** at the English Schools Cross Country Cup Final, held at Princethorpe College in Warwickshire.

The Year 11, 12 & 13 team had already impressed by winning two previous qualifying rounds to earn their spot at the prestigious national finals. Competing against the best 28 schools in the country, the girls rose to the occasion, surpassing all expectations with a top-four finish.

Year 11 runners **Amelie** and **Emmie** led the charge, placing **10th** and **13th** respectively, while fellow Year 11 teammate **Esme** completed the challenging course in 48th position. Among the Year 13 athletes, **Siobhan** and **Poppy** claimed 79th and 104th, with year 11 **Daisy** finishing 137th.

The 3400m race proved to be a formidable test of endurance and resilience, marked by steep inclines and extremely muddy conditions.

Mrs Swan, who has led the team since they joined St Martin's in year 7, said "We are so proud of these wonderful girls". They balance their academic work and sporting commitments so well, and they are a genuine pleasure to be around." Miss Ashwell, who accompanied the girls to the finals, added "This is a truly remarkable achievement, three of our team aren't even club runners! They inspire our younger pupils every day."

A heartfelt mention was given to **Sienna (Year 13)**, who supported the team from the sidelines after being ruled out with injury, and to Head Girl, Poppy, who stepped in to replace her—despite only recently returning from an ankle injury herself.

This marks the **fourth time** St Martin's has reached the ESSA Cross Country Cup Final, and spirits are high as the school looks ahead. With talent and commitment like this, we can't wait to make it five finals in 2026. The future is bright for these SUPER SAINTS. You can view our girls' amazing performance on our Instagram Story Highlights **@stmartinsschpe**.



**DISCOVERY**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



[www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk)



@StMartinsSch



@\_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool









# St Martin's Awards Evening & Christmas Concert

Last week saw 3 successful evening events, with the GCSE Awards Evening followed by 2 consecutive Christmas Concerts.

On Tuesday, last year's cohort of Year 11 pupils were invited back for an evening of celebration. Our current Year 12 pupils, along with those who have gone on to college or apprenticeships, returned to pick up their GCSE certificates. Individual pupils were also given subject awards and wider-school awards, recognising their dedication over the past 2 years. Special thanks go to the Rotary club for donating one of the most prestigious awards.

Wednesday and Thursday saw the return of our Christmas Concerts, featuring all our Music clubs alongside a variety of pupils performing alone or as ensembles. Representatives from every year group performed across the 2 nights, from Year 13s gearing up for their A Level recital to Year 7s excitedly signing up to their first performance opportunity.

As a St Martin's tradition, we also had the Year 7 Chorus opening and closing each concert, with half of the year group singing on either night, getting as many pupils as possible involved in our rich extra-curricular performance culture. Thanks as always to all of the staff helpers from across the school, without whom we would not be able to put on such grand opportunities for our pupils.



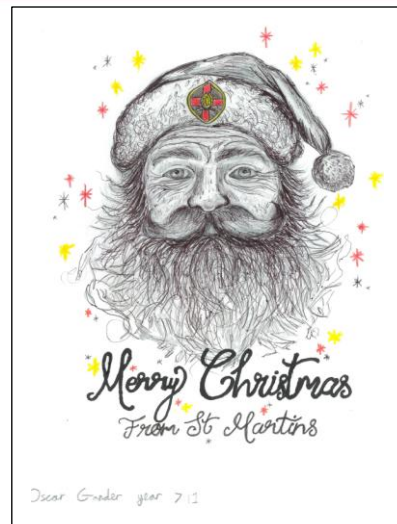




# Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all the pupils who took part in this year's Christmas card competition. This year's winning design, pictured opposite, goes to Oscar in Year 7.

The entries were outstanding! Pictured below are the runners up for each year group.



Rose R 10I2



Sean P 8N2



Poppy P 8A2



Jessica B 9T1



Nikhil K 9N1



Aimee Lockwood 7S2



Selina W 7T1



Avery M 7T2



Olivia M 8N1



Louise B 10T1



## Dates for the Diary

- 15.12.2025 – Year 12 Barclays Writing Workshop  
Year 10 Speaking and Listening Assessment
- 16.12.2025 – Year 7 Christmas Dinner
- 17.12.2025 – Year 9 Christmas Dinner
- 18.12.2025 – Year 12, 10, & 9 Honours Assembly  
Year 11 PPE reveal  
Year 12 Christmas Dinner
- 19.12.2025 – Year 7, 8, 11 & 13 Honors  
Early finish 13:35  
Year 13 Christmas Dinner at Ye Old Plough

### Word of the Week Week 13 festive



**adjective:** related to a celebration or holiday; cheerful and fun

**Sentence:** We're all in the festive mood!



**DISCOVERY**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



[www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk)



@StMartinsSch



@\_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool