



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

This half term has showcased our pupils being the *best they can be*, and this week has been a true highlight for me as Headteacher. Our Year 10 pupils impressed us during the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge, delivering thoughtful and confident speeches on topics they care deeply about. We are proud of our semi-finalists and look forward to the next stage of the competition. Year 11 pupils were equally inspired at GCSE Science Live, hearing from leading scientists and gaining valuable revision advice ahead of their summer exams. Meanwhile, our Year 13 Art and Photography pupils explored London galleries to support their exam projects, drawing inspiration from world-class exhibitions. Our recent production of *We Will Rock You* was a wonderful celebration of talent and teamwork. My thanks go to all pupils and staff involved in making it such a triumph.

This week's Headteachers gallery goes to Anton in Year 11 for his excellent performance at the European Karate Championships in Cyprus. Representing England in the Cadet - 57kg category, he won his first-round fight and earned WKF ranking points, placing him 104th in the world—a terrific achievement as he works towards potential selection for the Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

This week's Make A Difference Award goes to Turgay Kamil, our School Crossing Patrol Officer, for his dedication to pupil safety.



Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge

On Friday 6 January, 60 Year 10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge workshop, run by the Jack Petchey Foundation and the Speakers Trust. The aim of the day was to build confidence, develop communication skills and give pupils a platform to share their ideas and stories.

Throughout the full-day workshop, expert trainers helped pupils improve their speaking, listening, feedback and deliberation skills. They also gained useful tips on overcoming nerves, interview techniques and teamwork. Many pupils said they had learned skills they could use in future education, training and employment, with most agreeing the workshop helped them realise they can succeed at new challenges.

By the end of the day, every pupil had created and delivered their own speech on a topic they felt passionate about, ranging from women's football and social media to hidden disabilities and curly hair. The standard was incredibly high, leaving the trainers, Miss Larkin and Miss Cox with the difficult task of choosing our school's finalists.

Our ten semi-finalists are: **Megan M, Rose R, Ruby-Anne G, Finley C, Lily O, Spencer Y, Megan W, Jenna S, Joshua O and Phoenix W.** They will compete in a Speak Out Assembly for the chance to represent St Martin's at the regional final on **30 April.**

Well done to all involved for your passionate and confidently delivered presentations!

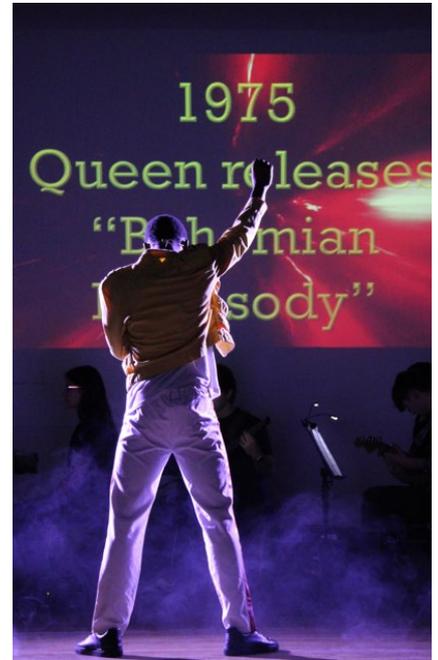




We Will Rock You

This year's production of **We Will Rock You** was led by a truly talented cast. The role of Buddy was taken on by Nick M (Year 11). Scaramouche in the older cast was played by Leah M (Year 13), who has appeared in every St Martin's show since Year 9, while Eva H (Year 11) performed the role in the younger cast. Galileo is performed by James W (Year 13), also in every show since Year 9, with Ethan P (Year 11) taking on the role in the younger cast. Our formidable Killer Queen was played by Ruby H (Year 13) and April W (Year 11). In this collaborative production, April W, James W and Leah M also choreographed the dance numbers alongside performing their main roles. We were supported by Aidan B (Year 10), who expertly managed sound and microphones, and by Bethan W, who designed and constructed many of the costumes as part of her Extended Project.

Special thanks go to Ms Gray (direction and choreography), Miss McLintock (stage management and vocal coach), Ms Elliott (technical production), Mrs Wilkinson (costume), and Mr Williams for his musical direction and leading a band made up of our Year 13 pupils; with Mrs Page, our Director, bringing the production together so successfully.





★ Science Live Trip

On Thursday, 50 year 11 pupils went to GCSE Science Live at the Apollo Theatre in Victoria. The pupils were fascinated by talks on 'Is Time Travel Possible' (Prof Jim Al-Khalili), 'Reversible reactions and why zebras have stripes' (Prof Andrea Sella) and 'Following the crazy ideas' (Dame Maggie Pocock).



There was also a talk from the world-famous scientist Prof Robert Winston, who managed to fit the talk around his responsibilities at the House of Lords!

Finally, the pupils had a great session about exam success along with revision tips - hopefully, they can put this information into practice during their summer exams!



★ London Galleries Trip

On Tuesday 3 February our Year 13 A Level Art and Photography pupils visited London to gain research for their exam paper, which was released on Sunday.

Pupils had the opportunity to draw and photograph areas in London, including Trafalgar Square and Soho, along with visiting the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and the Photographers Gallery. Pupils saw a range of artwork on display, from the Renaissance period through to the modern day, to help inspire their projects.



📅 Dates for the Diary

- 23.02.2026 – Year 11 Assembly Exams Anxiety
- 25.02.2026 – Year 11 PPE Subject Assessments commence
- 26.02.2026 – Year 8 'Smashed Live' Alcohol Awareness
- Year 12 Parents' Evening – online
- 12.02.2026 – Year 7 Mid-Year Assessments

Word of the Week Week 20 evolve



verb: To change gradually over time.

Sentence: Over time, humans evolve to adapt to their environment.

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

EVERYONE

MENOPAUSE SUPPORT



Menopause & Perimenopause: A Supportive Talk for Women Over 40

These relaxed, informal talks will offer clear and accessible information about menopause and perimenopause. They aim to normalise menopause, reduce stigma, provide reassurance and practical support through midlife changes.

We will explore:

- What menopause and perimenopause are, including common symptoms
- Emotional and mental wellbeing
- Practical self care strategies for everyday life
- Movement, energy and confidence
- Myth busting and where to find reliable support

Talks will last for 1 hour including time for questions and discussion.

Location	Day	Date	Time
Brentwood Library New Road Brentwood CM14 4BP	Friday	13 February 2026	2pm
Ingatstone Library High Street Ingatstone CM4 9EU	Monday	23 February 2026	3pm
Shenfield Library Hutton Road Shenfield CM15 8JD	Friday	27 February 2026	11am
			1pm

No need to book – just come along. Everyone is welcome.

Any Questions? Please contact vickyayrisking@everyoneactive.com