



# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster  
& Deputy CEO

## Headteacher's Comment:

Our Year 9 pupils recently took part in an excellent interactive road safety workshop delivered by the Collingwood Theatre Group. The *Travel Hacks* programme encouraged pupils to reflect carefully on the decisions young people make as they begin travelling more independently. Meanwhile, our Year 12 pupils represented the school superbly at this year's Model United Nations conference. Debating under the theme "*Striving for Global Justice*," they worked alongside pupils from nearly twenty schools, exploring complex international issues ranging from AI in healthcare to the protection of refugee children.

Preparing pupils for life beyond school is a key priority for us, and this was also evident in the recent mock interview programme for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils. Over two days, hundreds of pupils met with professionals from a wide range of industries, practising interview skills and receiving feedback on their CVs. Experiences like these help pupils build confidence, understand employer expectations and begin shaping their future ambitions. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who generously gave their time to support this initiative.

Alongside these opportunities, we are always keen to encourage a lifelong love of reading. I was pleased to see the promotion of the **Story Seekers** book club at Brentwood Library, which invites teenagers aged 15–18 to come together to discuss literature, beginning with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Initiatives such as this are a wonderful way for young people to explore books, share ideas and develop a deeper appreciation of reading beyond the curriculum.

This week's Headteachers Gallery goes to **Derek in Year 7** for winning the **Eastern Regional Fencing Epee Under-12s Competition** and demonstrating an excellent attitude and commitment to his school life.

Special mention to our new Site Manager Joe Sargeant for making such a positive impact to the school community.



## Visit by Collingwood Theatre Group

On Wednesday 4 March, the whole of Year 9 took part in an engaging PSHE enhancement session delivered by the Collingwood Theatre Group. The workshop, *Travel Hacks*, is a new interactive road safety programme designed for Year 9 pupils. Through discussion and realistic video scenarios, pupils explored how to stay safe when travelling independently. Year 9 engaged brilliantly throughout the session, confidently answering questions and reflecting on the choices young people face on the roads. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to think about safe decision-making as they become more independent travellers.



## ★ Year 10 & 12 Mock Interviews

Over two days at St Martin's School, 480 Year 10 and Year 12 pupils took part in 30-minute one-to-one mock interviews with volunteers from a range of professional backgrounds. Sessions began with conversations about pupils' aspirations for life after school before moving into a mock interview setting, where pupils could practise speaking about themselves and their goals. They also received valuable feedback on their CVs and practical advice on how to strengthen them.

While many pupils understandably felt nervous at the start, confidence quickly grew as the conversations developed. Opportunities like this help pupils build communication skills, gain experience of real interview situations, and better understand what employers are looking for. A huge thank you to the volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise to support our pupils and help make the experience so positive and valuable. If any parents or their organisations would like to get involved in future careers events, please email [afrappell@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:afrappell@st-martins.essex.sch.uk)



## ★ SAINTS update

**A huge congratulations to our Year 7 Girls' Football team**, who were crowned **MESSA Tournament Champions** after an outstanding unbeaten run. The girls finished the competition with a *perfect record*, winning every single game they played. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their teamwork, determination and skill.

**Well done also to our Year 9 Indoor Cricket team**, who have now progressed through to the **Essex County Finals**. The team secured their place after impressive victories over Hall Mead, Robert Clack and Shenfield. We wish them the best of luck as they move forward to the next stage of the competition.



Finally, a **very special congratulations to Elliott in Year 11**, who has recently been crowned **English Champion** in Kickboxing for the **15–16 year old U66kg category**. This incredible achievement means Elliott will now go on to represent **England at the WKO World Championship**. We are extremely proud of his dedication, discipline and success.

# ★ Model United Nations Conference

The 2026 Model United Nations conference was an exciting and enriching experience, giving St Martin's pupils a valuable opportunity to debate real-world issues on a global stage. Centred around the theme "Striving for Global Justice," this year's conference challenged delegates to think critically about fairness, equity, and international cooperation. Representing Indonesia and Nepal, our Year 12 pupils engaged in a series of dynamic debates against nearly 20 local schools, addressing topics ranging from the use of AI in healthcare to safeguarding refugee children in transit. Throughout the conference, all St Martin's delegates demonstrated empathy and cultural awareness in their interactions. They advocated passionately when appropriate, yet always remained respectful, embodying the true spirit of diplomacy.



Penny N said about the conference *"MUN was an incredibly rewarding experience that allowed me to gain new perspectives on global issues and understand more deeply what the UN truly represents. I discovered how complex international affairs were and why they take so long to pass. It was a real pleasure to take part in the event, leaving me with greater confidence and a stronger understanding in global affairs."*

Whilst Daniel C commented *"Speaking and sharing ideas with other like-minded pupils was so rewarding. The Model United Nations club has been so helpful and supportive for me to develop my public speaking through actively participating and engaging. At first, I was scared to even share my opinion with my colleagues from Saint Martin's. However, by the end of the 2-day event I spoke passionately to the entire cohort of over 200 pupils from all over Essex."*

**"I choose bold. I choose action. I choose what's right for the people. I choose to make a difference."**

Bill Richardson, former Ambassador to the United Nations.



## 📅 Dates for the Diary

- 16.03.2026 – Oxbridge Application Parents' Information Evening
- 17.03.2026 – Spring Concert Rehearsals
- 18.03.2026 – Spring Concert Rehearsals
- 19.03.2026 – Year 11 Oxygen Rewards Trip  
Year 10 Parents' Evening Online
- 20.03.2026 – Year 9 Ypres Trip  
Year 10 Bright Futures Workshop

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

**Word of the Week**  
**Week 23 astute**



**Adjective:** quick to notice and understand what others might miss.

**Sentence:** A good leader must be an astute judge of character.



**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**  
St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



# THE STORY SEEKERS

Are you a teenager who loves reading?



If you are aged 15–18 come along to the Brentwood Library.

Our next book is: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

**MONDAY 20 APRIL FROM 4–5PM**

If you are interested, speak to a member of staff or email the library using the following email:

**[brentwood.library@essex.gov.uk](mailto:brentwood.library@essex.gov.uk)**