16 October 2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster & Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

As we reach the half-term break, I would like to thank our pupils and staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the first seven weeks of the academic year. There has been much to celebrate, not least the outstanding achievements of our netball teams, with our U14 girls crowned Essex County Champions and our U16 girls finishing in the top four in Essex. A fantastic achievement for everyone involved.

This edition also highlights the breadth of opportunities available to our pupils, from our Art and Photography trip to Paris to the powerful Holocaust education experience for Year 10 and our pupils' involvement in the Brentwood Anti-Bullying Network. I would also like to congratulate Fraser in Year 9 on his remarkable achievements in setting two wheelchair Parkrun course records. His determination and success are an inspiration to us all.

Looking ahead, Year 11 pupils will begin their mock examinations shortly after half term, and I would encourage them to use the break to balance some purposeful revision with time to rest and recharge.

Finally, I wish all our pupils, staff and families an enjoyable and restful half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back in November.

Congratulations to **Nicole H (12I1)** on earning a place in the **Headteacher's Gallery**. Nicole has shown exceptional dedication in Product Design, using supervised study time to master a complex 3D CAD design. Her initiative, commitment and excellent progress have been outstanding. **Well done, Nicole!**

Celebrating Excellence

We are incredibly proud to celebrate another fantastic achievement by our Year 9 pupil, **Fraser S**, whose determination, resilience and passion for sport continue to inspire us all.

Fraser has become the fastest male wheelchair user to complete the **Billericay Parkrun**, securing the wheelchair course record. This follows his success over the summer, when he also claimed the wheelchair course record at the **Eden Project Parkrun**. Two different courses, two remarkable achievements!

Fraser is pictured celebrating his success alongside his parents and **Dame Kelly Holmes**, sharing a special moment that reflects the pride and joy behind these accomplishments.

Congratulations, Fraser. Your determination, positive attitude and willingness to challenge yourself make you a wonderful inspiration to our whole school community.

Under 14 & 16 Essex County Netball Championships

OUR U14 GIRLS ARE ESSEX COUNTY NETBALL CHAMPIONS!

What an unbelievable day for our U14 girls at the County Round of the National Schools Netball Competition. Having won the Mid Essex Round in September, the girls arrived full of excitement, ready to take on the other qualifiers from across Essex.

Playing 7-minute halves, the team were UNBEATEN throughout the group stage, producing some outstanding performances and impressive scorelines:

The girls faced Harris, Kingswood in the semi-final, producing a fantastic 13 - 8 victory to book their place in the Regional Finals on 6 February!

The final was all about determining the seeding for the next round and the girls faced FitzWimarc once again. They rose to the occasion, delivering another brilliant performance to secure an 11–7 win and finish the day in style!

What a team. What an achievement!
Next stop: Regional Finals! #SAINTS

U16 GIRLS FINISH IN THE TOP 4 IN ESSEX

A fantastic day of netball for our U16 girls at the County Round of the National Schools Netball Competition.

Competing against some of the strongest school teams across Essex, the girls showed great determination throughout the tournament, finishing 2nd in their pool to secure a place in the semi-finals!

The team developed throughout the day, growing in confidence and finding their rhythm. The semi-final was a great game against FitzWimarc (Pool A winners), with the girls giving it their all but unfortunately falling short of a place in the final.

Nevertheless, they secured an impressive **TOP 4 FINISH IN ESSEX!**

Art & Photography Trip to Paris

This year, our Year 11 and Year 13 Art and Photography pupils enjoyed the third annual trip to Paris. During the visit, pupils explored the **Musée d'Orsay**, viewing impressive collections of Impressionist artwork by artists including Van Gogh, Monet, Degas and Seurat, while also taking inspiration from the museum's stunning architecture.

A visit to Paris would not have been complete without a trip to **Disneyland Paris**. Despite the busy parks, pupils made the most of the experience and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

On the final day, pupils visited **Montmartre**, once home to artists such as Dalí, Toulouse-Lautrec, Renoir and Degas. They took part in an 'on location' sketching challenge, producing some excellent work. Congratulations to **Anjali S (1st place)**, **Ben A (2nd place)** and **Charlotte M (3rd place)** for their outstanding sketches.

Throughout the trip, the pupils were a credit to both the school and their families, demonstrating enthusiasm, creativity and exemplary behaviour.

Anti Bullying Network Meeting

On Thursday 8 October, St Martin's joined forces with Shenfield High School to host the first Brentwood Anti-Bullying Network meeting of the academic year. The meeting brought pupils together to share ideas, collaborate and begin planning this year's Anti-Bullying Week, centred around the powerful theme **'Break the Silence'**.

Pupils explored ways to raise awareness of bullying, encourage open conversations and empower young people to speak out and seek support when they need it. Pupils are now looking forward to putting their ideas into action in November and promoting a culture of kindness, respect and inclusion across our school communities.

Together, we hope to break the silence surrounding bullying and reinforce the message that every voice matters and everyone has a role to play in making our schools safer, kinder places for all.

Year 10 Holocaust Education

Our Year 10 GCSE Historians took part in the **Holocaust Educational Trust's Testimony 360** experience, using virtual reality and holographic technology to explore the testimony of Holocaust survivor **Susan Pollack** and learn about her experiences during the Holocaust.

This powerful session brought history to life, helping students gain a deeper understanding of the human impact of the Holocaust and the importance of remembering the experiences of survivors for future generations.

Dates for the Diary

19.10.2026 – 30.10.2026 Autumn Half term
02.11.2026 – Exam resits commence
Y11 Practicals, PPE commence
03.11.2026 – Y9 NHS Work Experience
05.11.2026 – Community cooking course 17:00-19:00
06.11.2026 – Y11 GCSE Food NEA 1 Drop Down Day

Word of the Week
Week 7 sonder

St Martin's School
Be the best you can be

noun: The sudden realisation that every person you see has a life as vivid and complicated as your own.

Sentence: Walking through the school corridor, Maya experienced sonder, remembering that every pupil she passed was carrying their own hopes, worries and challenges.

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