



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

Headteacher's Comment:

Last week our Year 11 cohort had their first face to face Parents' Evening since COVID. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their attendance and supporting this vital run up to the exam season. It is under 14 school weeks until the exams begin for our Year 11 and 13 pupils and every lesson counts! In addition, we will be meeting with pupils in Year 11 who have expressed an interest in staying on at the school and joining our Sixth Form in September. If you have any questions you can email into the main school and a member of the team will get back to you.

We are now preparing for the Year 9 Options Evening which quickly follows the Year 9 online Parents' Evening. All the details will be shared shortly, in the meantime please save the date Thursday 6 February and also note that the school will be closing early next Thursday for the Year 9 online Parents' Evening.

Finally, for this week's Headteacher's Gallery I would like to congratulate two students: Marley Frohock in Year 11, who recently went to Brazil to play in the Adidas Under 17's Flamengo Cup, where he scored in the final which saw Arsenal beat the hosts 3-1. Marley also consistently shows a positive attitude in school, his ability to combine his studies alongside his football at Arsenal has been balanced impressively, and Joe Tomalin, in Year 13, who recently travelled to Germany to play Ice Hockey in the Great Britain U18 men's winter challenge. Joe had a successful tournament, winning two out of three games and scored the winning goal in game 2.



Year 10 & 12 Drama Visit

On Tuesday the Year 10 GCSE and Year 12 A Level Drama classes had a full day out for Drama in preparation for their Component 3 exam and to extend their Post-18 and careers knowledge. Pupils started the day at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama where they received a tour of the facilities and a Q&A with current pupils to find out all that a specialist Drama school has to offer. Pupils asked questions about degree options, routes into the profession and what sort of opportunities would be available to them by attending such a prestigious school. After the pupils travelled to the National Theatre where they were given the opportunity to tour backstage and see behind the scenes of a working theatre. During the tour, pupils were fortunate to see Ncuti Gatwa, the current Doctor Who, rehearsing on the stage for his current show. Just before the performance, some of the pupils were lucky enough to see Timothee Chalamet at the premiere of his latest film which was taking place just next door. We ended the evening watching a fantastic performance of Ballet Shoes; which the pupils will be writing about this for their Live Theatre Evaluation. Well done to the pupils for their exceptional behaviour and engagement throughout the day. **Miss Barnes, Head of Drama**



★ Visit from Savannah Stevenson

This week Year 10, 12, 13 and prospective Year 9 Drama and Music pupils, were lucky enough to have a visit from actress Savannah Stevenson who is best known for starring as Glinda in the London West End production of the hit musical Wicked. She is currently appearing as Elizabeth Dix in Lockerbie: A search for Truth for Sky TV, which she stars in alongside Colin Firth. Having a wealth of experience in both theatre, TV and film she was able to share her knowledge with our pupils on the variety of roles in the industry and audition preparation. The pupils were then treated to a performance of a few musical numbers from Wicked and various other musicals, accompanied by one of our Alumni students Benjamin Page, who also trained at Guildford School of Acting. Savannah was also able to give one to one advice to some of our Sixth Form students who are currently preparing auditions for some of the top drama schools. Pupils found the advice and guidance very informative.



★ Year 9 Workshop with the DWP



On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, all Year 9 pupils participated in a one-hour workshop with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The session focused on the Local Labour Market. Pupils discussed why people go to work and identified the importance of finding a job that they are passionate about given that the state age pension is currently 67. Later pupils considered how the labour market is changing with the introduction of technology including AI. This helped pupils to recognise the importance of ensuring that their skills adapt to the changing working environment. In the latter part of the session, pupils were able to complete more independent research on the National Careers Service website into subjects that they enjoy, as well as pathways and careers that this could lead into. This workshop marks the start of the Year 9 options process and we hope that being curious about careers will complement the choices that pupils make when choosing their options. We encourage Year 9 parents to continue this conversation and research at home.

★ Year 7B Brentwood Netball

Our year 7B Netball team performed brilliantly at the Brentwood District Indoor B Rally this week. They enjoyed wins against BCHS, Brentwood School & Ursuline to become CHAMPIONS.

The whole team played superbly but players of the tournament went to Eva Ellis (GS) & Nella Doherty (GA) for their positive movement in the circle and accurate shooting.



📅 Dates for the Diary

- 20.01.25 – Year 13 PPEs Commence
- 21.01.25 / 22.01.25 – Year 10 Mock Interviews
- 23.01.25 – Year 9 STEM Workshop
Early Closure 13:30
Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 24.01.25 – Year 10 Showcase

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

Word of the Week
Week 16 **astute**



adjective: having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.

Sentence: his astute handling of such a tricky situation won him an early promotion.



Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff
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