



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

I have been especially proud to see pupils representing the school so well in such a wide range of ways, from their performances in *13 The Musical* and the football tour in Barcelona, to the thoughtful visit to Ypres and the many enrichment opportunities that continue to broaden horizons and build confidence. At the same time, there has been a clear sense of purpose around the school as our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils continue their exam preparation, with revision and final coursework taking centre stage as they approach this important period. Thank you to our staff for making these opportunities possible, and to parents for your continued support.

Make A Difference Award goes to Miss Elliott, for her outstanding help and support with recent productions and concerts, and her continued dedication to upcoming events, always going above and beyond.

This week's Headteacher's gallery goes to **Charlie M** Year 11, **Louise P** Year 10, **Vaughan R** Year 8, **Georgie J** Year 12, **Vinnie F** Year 9, **Emily R** Year 10, **Olivia S** Year 11, **Mia F** year 9, **Zara J** Year 12, in recognition of their outstanding performance in *13 The Musical* at Brentwood Theatre, with the Bossy Drama Group. Their confidence and professionalism were a credit to themselves and the school.



Year 9 Visit to Ypres

Year 9 pupils recently visited Ypres, Belgium, to explore key World War I sites and memorials. The trip was both educational and deeply moving.

A particularly poignant moment was visiting the grave of Alfie D's family member who served in WWI. Alfie laid a wreath at the site, bringing history to life and reminding pupils of the personal impact of war.

The visit encouraged thoughtful reflection and appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy today. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this memorable experience possible.



★ Year 8 and 9 Space Adventure: Euro Space Centre

Our recent trip to the Euro Space Centre was perfectly timed to coincide with the Artemis II lunar mission, adding an extra sense of excitement to the experience.

After a smooth journey to Dover and a ferry crossing complete with *enthusiastic* visits to the food court, we arrived in Belgium ready to begin. Sea legs were tested on the open deck, but spirits stayed high—whether pupils felt steady or preferred to hold on tight!

Once settled, the first challenge appeared: making beds. What seemed simple quickly became a test of teamwork, patience, and duvet-wrangling skills. After some determined effort (and a few creative results), success was achieved.

Day two launched us into full astronaut mode. Pupils took on a range of exciting activities, including moonwalking, spinning simulators, and the multi-axis chair, which left many feeling delightfully dizzy. With rockets to build, missions to complete, and experiments to run, future space engineers were clearly in the making.

Despite a few slightly green faces, resilience shone through, with pupils quickly bouncing back and embracing every challenge.

Before long, the final morning arrived in a flurry of packing and tidying before one last activity session—and a quick stop at the gift shop—before heading home via Calais. Tired but happy, everyone returned safely after a fantastic few days filled with teamwork, laughter, and just a touch of dizziness.

A brilliant adventure—truly out of this world! 🌍 ✨



★ Percussion Club

We are looking for new members. Start your week with music! Our wonderful drum teacher, **Mr Leggett**, invites all pupils to join **Percussion Club**, held in the Music Department every **Monday lunchtime**. Enjoy hands-on drumming, try out different percussion instruments, and have fun making music together.

No sign-up required — just turn up and play!



★ Speak out Challenge Assembly Final



On Monday, Year 7 pupils got the chance to listen to St Martin's Speak Out Challenge finalists; to help pick a winner to represent the school in the upcoming Regional Finals.

The 10 finalists from Year 10, covered a breadth of topics from Hidden disabilities, to the Butterfly effect, to does Money buy Happiness?

Year 7 pupils, were excellent listeners and judges, and were excited to vote for their favourite speech in their English lessons. Though the votes were close, Year 7 agreed with the teacher panel of Mrs Day and Mrs Wheeler and picked **Spencer Y** to represent the school, at the end of the month at Becket Keys.

Congratulations **Spencer**, we wish you the best of luck in The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

★ Holocaust Survivor Talk

We were honoured to welcome Susie, a Holocaust survivor to St Martin's, who shared her personal testimony with our pupils. Susie's account provided a powerful and direct insight into one of the most significant and challenging periods of modern history.

Pupils listened with great respect and engagement, and the talk has already prompted thoughtful discussion and reflection, particularly among our Year 9 historians, who will be studying the Holocaust in more depth this term.

Following the talk, a small group of pupils were invited to attend a rewards lunch, where they had the opportunity to take part in a more intimate question-and-answer session. This allowed them to explore some of the themes raised in greater depth and to engage more personally with Susie. The occasion was complemented by a special buffet lunch, making it a memorable and meaningful reward for those involved.

We are very grateful to Susie for taking the time to speak so openly and for helping our pupils to better understand the importance of remembering the past.

This was a valuable and memorable experience for all involved.



★ Barcelona Football Tour

The Barcelona Football Tour was a memorable and rewarding experience for all involved. From the moment we arrived in sunny Barcelona, pupils embraced the opportunity to represent the school with pride. Across two competitive matches, players demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship, with several standout performances highlighting their development and commitment. The matches helped build confidence and strengthened team spirit throughout the group.



A major highlight of the tour was a professional training session at Espanyol's first-team training ground, led by academy coaches who delivered expert guidance on technical and tactical skills. Alongside football, pupils enjoyed cultural experiences, including a visit to the iconic Camp Nou stadium and time exploring Barcelona's vibrant city centre. The tour successfully combined high-level football, cultural discovery, and unforgettable memories, leaving pupils inspired and motivated on their return.



★ Year 9 Essex County Success

Congratulations to Oscar R in Year 9 on making his debut for Essex County. Oscar was unfortunately ruled out of his original selection match due to a serious injury, but through determination and hard work, he committed himself to his rehabilitation. We are proud to see him return to the pitch, playing 50 minutes against Norfolk and helping Essex secure an impressive 3-2 victory.



📅 Dates for the Diary

- 20.04.2026 – Year 13 Controlled Music Assessments commence
- 22.04.2026 – A Level Music Exam
17:00 Water Sports Information Evening
- 23.04.2026 – Year 8 Parents' Evening online
- 25.04.2026 – Year 11/13 Art Final Exam Prep Day

Word of the Week
Week 26 intentional



adjective: done on purpose
Sentence: The mistake wasn't intentional.

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