



17 July 2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO



Headteacher's Comment:

As we reach the end of another highly successful year, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their continued support.

This final edition celebrates many of the opportunities and achievements that make St Martin's special, including Careers and Aspirations Week, Sports Day, the Sports Awards, educational visits and our pupils' outstanding Young Scholars results at Oxford University.

Please read the accompanying end-of-term letter, which includes important information and dates for September. A reminder that Year 7 and Year 12 return on Wednesday 2 September, with all pupils returning at 08.25 on Thursday 3 September. Link to letter is [here](#).

I wish our staff and pupil leavers every success and hope everyone enjoys a safe and restful summer break.

The Headteacher's Gallery award goes to **Sophie P (Year 10)** for her outstanding attitude to learning and excellent progress in Maths and Further Maths. Sophie achieved an incredible **92.5% in her Year 10 Maths PPE**, a phenomenal achievement. She is a fantastic role model to her peers. Congratulations, Sophie!



Young Scholars University Graduation

On Monday 8th July, a small group of Year 9 pupils attended their Young Scholars Graduation Ceremony at St Anne's College, University of Oxford.

As part of the programme, pupils took part in weekly tutorials led by a PhD tutor, who supported them in researching and writing an extended essay on the climate change crisis. The programme challenged pupils to develop their academic skills, critical thinking and independent learning. We are delighted to share that this cohort achieved the best results St Martin's has ever seen on the programme, with nine pupils awarded a First-class grade and the remaining pupils achieving an impressive 2:1.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the programme. Congratulations to all involved and well done on this outstanding success!



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk



@StMartinsSch



@_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool



Science Club Rewards Trip

The Science Club had an incredible day exploring the Science Museum, packed with creativity, teamwork, and hands-on learning. The pupils built and programmed robots to model how National Rail trains operate. They put their engineering skills to the test by designing and constructing bridges, and then rounded off the day by enjoying a variety of interactive games and exhibits that brought science to life. There were lots of different games to try out and they discovered that some were better than others at computer games!



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk



@StMartinsSch



@_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool



Careers and Aspirations Week

Last week, St Martin's School proudly hosted another successful Careers and Aspirations Week, giving pupils across all year groups the opportunity to develop employability skills, explore future pathways and raise their aspirations.

Throughout the week, Year 10 and Year 12 pupils completed valuable work experience placements with employers from a wide range of industries. These experiences helped pupils gain insight into the workplace, develop key skills and consider potential career options. We are extremely grateful to the many employers who supported our pupils by offering placements.

On Monday, Key Stage 3 pupils took part in a variety of enterprise activities. Year 7 designed and marketed their own music festivals, Year 8 explored food recycling initiatives, and Year 9 tackled a sustainability-focused tyre challenge. Year 9 pupils also welcomed representatives from the British Army, who led team-building activities and delivered an informative presentation on the many career opportunities available within the Army.

Tuesday focused on health, safety and wellbeing. Year 7 pupils explored healthy lifestyles, nutrition and hygiene, while also completing RevivR First Aid training. Year 9 pupils learned about healthy eating, hygiene and gambling awareness, and attended sessions delivered by The Children's Society and the Essex Safeguarding Children Board on grooming, exploitation and staying safe both online and in the community. The day also included single-sex assemblies, providing pupils with an opportunity to discuss topics openly with their peers. Meanwhile, Year 8 pupils participated in a Careers Carousel, attending employer-led workshops that provided insight into a variety of professions and the skills required within them.

On Wednesday, the focus shifted to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). Pupils enjoyed a range of curriculum-based activities before Years 7, 8 and 9 came together for an interactive Science Show celebrating the excitement of scientific discovery.

Thursday centred on the philosopher Aristotle, with pupils exploring his ideas through Humanities, Languages and English lessons. Pupils were also inspired by a visit from bestselling author Emma Robinson, who shared her journey to becoming a published writer and encouraged pupils to pursue their ambitions with determination.

The week concluded on Friday with our annual Take Your Child to Work Day. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils spent the day with a parent, family member or family friend, gaining first-hand experience of the workplace. Through our careers programme, pupils are encouraged to complete three workplace visits during Key Stage 3 to broaden their understanding of different industries and career pathways.

Careers and Aspirations Week remains a highlight of the school calendar, helping pupils develop the knowledge, confidence and experiences they need for future success.

A huge thank you to all the employers, visitors, parents, family members and staff who supported the week and helped make it such a memorable and inspiring experience for our pupils.



Sports Day

There was colour, competition and an electric atmosphere as St Martin's came together for one of the highlights of the whole school calendar, Sports Day 2026. With pupils proudly representing their house and hundreds of spectators lining the track, the day was packed with thrilling races, impressive field performances and incredible displays of determination. From first-time competitors to record-breaking athletes, Sports Day showcased everything that makes our school community so special.

Pupils from Years 7-10 competed for Seacole (Red), Aristotle (Purple), Ivor (Yellow), Nobel (Blue) and Turner (Green) in a packed programme of events. For many pupils, this was their first opportunity to compete on a synthetic athletics track, making the occasion even more memorable.

One of the standout features of the day was the incredible atmosphere. Around every event, teammates, staff and families cheered on competitors, creating a fantastic sense of unity and support. The encouragement from the crowd inspired pupils to push themselves, celebrate each other's successes and truly embody our school value of being the best they can be.

Away from the competition, there was plenty to enjoy. Food vendors kept everyone fuelled with burgers and ice creams, while the Performing Arts team created a festival atmosphere with music, live commentary and medal presentations throughout the day.

The excitement reached its peak with the ever-popular staff relay, which once again proved to be one of the biggest crowd favourites. Staff and pupils alike embraced the fun, with the race providing a brilliant finale to an unforgettable day of sport.

The House Champions are as follows:

Year 7 Seacole

Year 8 Nobel

Year 9 Nobel

Year 10 Seacole

Overall Seacole

A special thank you to our A Level PE pupils and Year 11 leavers who returned to officiate. We simply could not have run the event without your support. We would also like to extend our thanks to the PE Department, staff volunteers, the Performing Arts team and everyone working behind the scenes. Your dedication, enthusiasm and hard work helped make this year's Sports Day another outstanding success. We are already looking forward to doing it all again next year!



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk



@StMartinsSch



@_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk



@StMartinsSch



@_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool

Young Sports Stars Honoured at Awards Evening

The achievements of our young sporting stars were celebrated this week at our annual Lower School Sports Awards Evening.

The PE Department reflected on another exceptional year of sporting success as proud families gathered to watch more than 300 pupils receive recognition for their achievements.

During the evening, each pupil was presented with a certificate by the Mayor of Brentwood, Councillor Nicky Cuthbert, highlighting the sports in which they had participated. The second half of the event saw more than 60 trophies awarded to pupils who had earned 'Player of the Year' status. We were delighted to welcome St Martin's alumnus and Great Britain Indoor 200m Champion, Richard Akinyebo, who joined us as our guest presenter.

The most committed pupils in each year group were recognised with special awards. In Year 7, the honours went to Olivia G and Euan L-K. In Year 8 the recipients were Sonny H and Ivy T, while Ella W and Lucas R were worthy winners of the awards in Year 9.

In addition, the Freddie Felton Memorial Trophy, awarded for outstanding overall contribution to rugby, was presented to Leo G.

Five Young Helper Awards were also presented. Year 13 pupil Max G was recognised for his outstanding contribution to football coaching and officiating. Year 11 pupils Oluchi E, Holly O, Deborah A and Glory I were honoured for their exceptional commitment to basketball officiating.

Team of the Year was awarded to the Year 11-13 Girls' Cross Country squad following their impressive fourth-place finish at the National Schools Cup Finals.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the prestigious Lower School Overall Contribution Awards. These awards recognise the pupils who have made the most significant impact on physical education and sport over the past three years. The deserving recipients were Isabelle H and Daniel P.

Mrs Swan and Mr Hallahan would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their unwavering support throughout the year. We look forward to a successful 2026-7 season!



★ GCSE trip to Strasbourg and the Black Forest

Pupils from the Modern Foreign Languages Department enjoyed an unforgettable GCSE trip to Strasbourg and the Black Forest, packed with exciting experiences, cultural discoveries and opportunities to bring their language learning to life.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where pupils had the unique opportunity to watch the President of Ireland deliver a speech. They also climbed the 330 steps to the top of Strasbourg's magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral, taking in spectacular views across the city.

The adventure continued in Germany with a hike to the impressive Triberg Waterfalls, followed by a ride on the Schauinsland cable car, offering breathtaking views of the Black Forest. Pupils then enjoyed a relaxing boat tour on the beautiful Titisee Lake, taking in the stunning surroundings.

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience new cultures, practise their language skills in real-life situations and create lasting memories with friends.

A huge thank you to **Miss Mercer, Miss Gray and Mrs Daysmith** for organising and leading such a successful and enjoyable trip.



Dates for the Diary

- 01.09.2026 – Staff INSET day
- 02.09.2026 – Year 7 & Year 12 only
- 03.09.2026 – All Pupils return at 8.25am
Sixth Form Prom

Word of the Week Week 38 legacy



noun: Something you leave behind that continues to have an impact.

Sentence: Her kindness became part of the legacy she left behind at school.

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



DISCOVERY
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk



@StMartinsSch



@_stmartinsschool



@StMartinsSchool