



17 October 2025

# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster  
& Deputy CEO



## Headteacher's Comment:

As we reach the end of what has been an exceptionally busy and positive first half term, I want to thank our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their energy, commitment and support. It has been wonderful to see our school community thriving both inside and outside the classroom.

This half term has been full of moments to be proud of: outstanding sports performances across multiple teams, creative and academic excellence through initiatives such as the Spelling Bee Final, and powerful curriculum enrichment experiences like our Year 13 Historians' visit to Hampton Court Palace. These opportunities help bring learning to life and reflect the ambition and engagement we aim to instil in every pupil.

I am also grateful to our staff who have worked tirelessly to deliver exceptional teaching and pastoral care, and to parents and carers for the partnership that underpins everything we do.

As we look ahead to the next half term, with PPEs, enrichment opportunities and our continued focus on high standards, I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved and restful break.

This week's Headteacher's gallery goes to; Summer in Year 10, for recognition of her outstanding positive attitude and exceptional commitment to the start of the GCSE Fine Art course and Poppy L Year 13, for the outstanding UCAT test result.

The Make a Difference Award goes to Dr Everest, for the outstanding work in the Science Club.



## Year 13 Trip to Hampton Court Palace

On Wednesday, our Year 13 Historians enjoyed an immersive visit to Hampton Court Palace. Pupils took part in a bespoke AQA workshop focusing on the Mid Tudor Crisis, examining the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I.

Using the Palace itself as a historical source, alongside contemporary primary materials, pupils investigated the political and social turbulence of the period. Highlights included a dramatic reenactment of the power struggle between Northampton and Somerset over young Edward VI—which, in a surprising twist, even involved Edward's dog!

Thanks to exclusive access during a Schools' Only Day, pupils explored the magnificent, empty Great Hall, bringing the events they have been studying in the classroom vividly to life. This hands-on experience will support their understanding and help them form informed judgments on the Mid Tudor Crisis as they prepare for their A Level exams next summer.



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## Jack Petchey Awards

This half term saw the annual Jack Petchey Presentation Evening take place at the Towngate Theatre in Basildon. It was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of young people from the Brentwood area. Pupils who attended the event received the awards last academic year. They were Kristopher I (Y12), Spencer Y (Y10), Alfred P (Y12), Sophie P (Y10), Keith J (Y12) and Penny N (Y12). Our former Deputy Head Boy Harry S also received the award to celebrate his contributions across the whole school community during his time on the Sixth Form Pupil Leadership team.



We also had two members of staff who were chosen by the pupils to receive the Leadership Award: Mr Welton for his commitment to his year group, and Mrs Frappell for transforming the careers provision at St Martin's in such a short space of time. As a school we are all so proud of their achievements.



## Eco Team Update

The Eco team are at it again!

The team gave up their time on Friday 10 October, after school to upgrade the flower bins by planting bulbs, flowers and adorning the bins with fairy lights. The Senior Leadership team was powerfully supporting staff and students.

May your days continue to light up and may your path be smooth.



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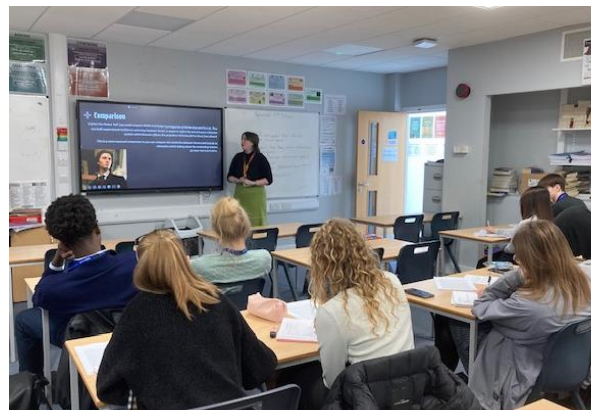
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## ★ Year 12 English Pupils Guest Teacher

On Wednesday, the Year 12 English Literature pupils had a guest teacher Olive (Miss Goulding's daughter), to guide them through how to approach the prose comparison exam. She modelled them through a previous exam question essay on how menace is presented in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Dracula*. It was useful to have the insight of such an avid Oscar Wilde fan, and advice from the perspective of a pupil who has just passed their A Levels and is now at university.



## ★ Spelling Bee Awards

In English, Years 7, 8 & 9 have been competing in a Spelling Bee on words relating to their curriculum organised by Miss Fordham. On Thursday lunchtime, the winning pupils from their class heats met for the ultimate Spelling Bee Final. The pupils were *buzzing* with enthusiasm and our champions for this half term are:

Yr7

1. Seb E
2. Evan B
3. Jasmine D

Yr8

1. William J
2. Toby S
3. Noah H

Yr9

1. Nikhil V
2. Jessica M
3. Bradley O

Congratulations to all the finalists and the overall winners!

## ★ Admissions Arrangements Consultation Academic Year 2027/28

We are currently consulting on a change to our oversubscription criteria and our in-year admissions application form for 2027/28, details of which can be found on our website [here](#).



## Dates for the Diary

- 03.11.2025 – Year 11 PPEs commence  
Disability History Month
- 04.11.2025 – Year 10 KS4 Emmanuel College Insight Day  
GCSE Resit English Language paper 1
- 05.11.2025 – GCSE Resit Maths paper 1
- 06.11.2025 – GCSE English Paper 2
- 07.10.2025 – GCSE English Language Paper 2

### Word of the Week Week 7 autonomy



**noun:** the freedom to make your own choices and act independently

**Sentence:** The teacher encouraged the students to demonstrate autonomy.



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

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