



18 September 2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

It has been another positive week at St Martin's, with our Year 7 pupils beginning to think about their future through our Goals and Aspirations event, alongside a range of opportunities across the school. I have been particularly impressed by how well our pupils have settled into the new academic year and the positive attitude they continue to show.

As we settle back into our normal routines, I would also ask parents and carers to be mindful of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting pupils. Please park safely and considerately, avoid blocking driveways, junctions or turning areas, and ensure that local roads remain accessible. We are fortunate to enjoy positive relationships with our local community and I appreciate everyone playing their part in maintaining these.

Congratulations to Sophie P in Year 10, for receiving the Headteacher's Gallery award for her outstanding attitude to learning and progress in Maths and Further Maths securing 92.5% in her Year 10 PPE.



Year 7 Goals & Aspirations Event

We were delighted to officially launch our Careers Programme with Year 7 this week.

Every Year 7 pupil took part in a one-hour Goals and Aspirations session, delivered by Andrea Purser from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The session provided an engaging introduction to careers education at St Martin's and encouraged pupils to begin thinking about their goals and aspirations from the very start of their secondary school journey.

Pupils were encouraged to consider what they would like to achieve this term, during Year 7, throughout their time at St Martin's and beyond school. The session also highlighted the importance of recognising their own strengths, developing skills and remaining open to the many different opportunities and pathways available to them in the future.

Our Careers Programme is designed to complement the curriculum, helping pupils to make connections between what they learn in the classroom and the skills, knowledge and opportunities they may need in the world beyond school. Careers education is something we want pupils to engage with throughout their time at St Martin's, rather than something they only begin to think about when they are choosing their next steps.

This is just the beginning of our Year 7 careers journey and we are excited to see where their goals and aspirations take them.



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★ National Day of Prayer

To enhance the Year 10 PRE curriculum on Christian practices, a Prayer Reflection Room was set up for a day and a half by the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust.

The room provided pupils with an opportunity to learn about the UK National Day of Prayer for Schools and the Global Week of Prayer. Pupils were invited to write down their own needs, the needs of the school, and things they were thankful for, which could then be turned into prayers if they wished.

A calm and reflective environment was created to encourage pupils to reflect on themes including Peace, Justice, Being Still, the Belief-o-Meter, and Prayers for Others. The space was also open throughout the day, as well as during break and lunchtime, allowing pupils to drop in and participate in the various activities.

The Prayer Reflection Room provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to pause, reflect, and consider the role of prayer.



★ Sexual Health Week Workshops

To mark Sexual Health Week (14–20 September), this Wednesday, Essex Sexual Health Services visited our school to deliver informative and engaging workshops for our Year 12 and Year 13 students.

The sessions were very positively received, with our pupils commended for their excellent attitude, maturity and respectful approach when discussing the topics covered. Pupils were informed about the range of services and support available through Essex Sexual Health Services, as well as being encouraged to make safe, responsible, and informed choices.

The workshops provided a valuable opportunity for our sixth form students to increase their knowledge and understanding of sexual health and the importance of looking after themselves and others.



📅 Dates for the Diary

- 21.09.2026 – Year 13 EPQ Presentations
Year 12 Parent information Evening 17:00-18:30
- 23.09.2026 – Water Bear visiting speaker
Rugby Paris Trip meeting 17:00
- 24.09.2026 – European Day of Languages Bake Sale
- 25.09.2026 – Year 7 House Night

Word of the Week Week 3 diligent



adjective: Showing careful, consistent effort and taking pride in doing something well.

Sentence: The diligent student reviewed their work carefully and improved it before handing it in.

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



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Free Family Learning Courses

ACL run a wide range of FREE family learning workshops/ courses for parents and carers including parenting style courses and workshops including managing big emotions, understanding children's anxiety, SEND support, positive parenting, supporting your neurodiverse child and more.

Details in the table below are taken from ACL website www.aclessex.com/community-family-learning/

Click "browse all courses" to view the full timetable.

Date/ Time/ Location	Name of course	Description	Link to book / more info
Thursday 17 th September 930am-1130am 6 week ONLINE course	Positive parenting for primary	This course is designed to support you to understand your children and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions and most importantly how to have fun as a family. This is for parents with primary school aged children.	ACL Essex HO4C01OL26 Positive Parenting For Primary
Thursday 17 th September 7pm-9pm 2 week ONLINE course	Raising girls	This course will support parents/carers who are raising girls in the 21st century - Aimed at parents/carers who want to develop their understanding of the different stages of girlhood and learn how to raise happy, confident, and kind young women.	ACL Essex HO4C02OL26 Raising Girls
Tuesday 22 nd Sept 12.30pm-2.30pm 2 week ONLINE course	Communicating with children aged 5-11	Discover the power of positive communication with your child.	ACL Essex HO1C02OL26 Communicating With Children Aged 5-11 Years
6 th October 1230pm-230pm 2 week ONLINE course	Zones of regulation	This course will provide parent/carers an insight and understanding into the use of zones of regulations for supporting emotional intelligence in young people.	ACL Essex HO3C02OL26 Zones Of Regulation
Thursday 8 th October 7pm-9pm 2 week ONLINE course	Understanding children's anxiety	Looking at anxiety, the causes of anxiety and how to support your child or young person.	ACL Essex HO4C03OL26 Understanding Children's Anxiety

