



18 October 2024

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

Headteacher's Comment:

It was lovely to see so many internal and external visitors to the school yesterday for our Sixth Form Open Evening. It was the busiest we have ever had and it was a pleasure to show off our pupils, the sixth form centre and the extensive curriculum offer we have here. Sixth form applications are now live and can be made via this [link](#).

You would have received a letter with information about a half term outdoor education and sports club provision at St Martin's School. The holiday provision will be run by Intrepid Ventures from Wednesday 6 November to Friday 8 November. The closing date for applications will be Friday 25 October and you can access the link to the booking form [here](#).

At this time of year all schools have an opportunity to amend their admission policy and we are proposing to make a slight change to our admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27. The statutory consultation period is open for six weeks from Wednesday 16 October and will close on Wednesday 11 December 2024. We are interested to hear the views of parents and carers, if you would like to comment on the admission arrangements please contact the School Office via: enquiries@st-martins.essex.sch.uk or in writing by post by Wednesday 11 December 2024.

Christmas Card Competition

We are excited to announce the annual St Martin's Christmas card competition. This is open to all pupils and students!

We encourage our talented and creative pupils to design and submit their own unique festive design, using 2D materials such as paint, pencil or pen. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your artistic skills and be in with the chance of winning prizes and Satchel points!

Please speak to Mrs Sapsford in C101, if you have any questions and all entries must be submitted by Wednesday 27 November 2024.



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★ Year 13 Politics Trip

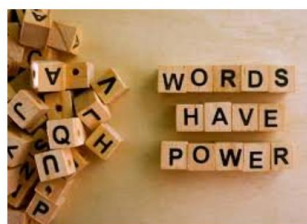
On Monday our Sixth Form Politics students visited the Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament. In the Supreme Court, our students visited the different courtrooms and explored an exhibition which provided an insight into the work and the history of the UK's highest court. Students then made their way to the Parliamentary Education Centre. They were given a tour of the House of Commons and took part in a workshop on Elections. The students were split into four groups and asked to create a party with a name, slogan and some key policies they would implement if elected. Students came up with a range of ideas including funding for electric caravans, more financial support for parents and a greater parliamentary focus on mental health.



🌺 Remembrance Poppies

Remembrance poppies will be available for pupils to purchase next week to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Wearing a poppy is a way of showing appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our armed forces, veterans and families, both past and present.

Word of the Week Week 7 Credibility



noun: the quality of being trusted and believed in.

Sentence: Biden loses credibility after disastrous TV debate with Trump.



Dates for the Diary

- 21.10.24 - Year 10 & 11 Hairspray Theatre Trip
- 23.10.24 - Year 12 Art & Photography Workshop Hyde Hall
RHS Gardens
- 25.10.24 - Year 7 More Able Art Trip Royal Academy
- 26.10.24 - Sixth Form trip to New York

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



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ONLINE TUTORS KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

YOU MIGHT GET A TUTOR FROM SCHOOL, A GOOGLE SEARCH OR A RECOMMENDATION. BUT ANYONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES A TUTOR, SO HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE IF YOU GET THEM A TUTOR?

1) Select the right tutor

- o Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? umbrella body?) & approach
- o Take up references and speak to them if you can
- o Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get the basic check; (don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security though)
- o Find out which platform they will use and its safety features



2) Establish clear rules

- o Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
- o A tutor is not a friend – they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
- o Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
- o Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, and certainly the first time
- o Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds & personal information; blur or change the background



3) Make sure your child knows

- o The rules apply to them and the tutor
- o A tutor is a teacher not a friend
- o The RED FLAGS: asking to communicate directly, change platform or meet up (if not booked via you)
- o Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos & videos
- o They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
- o Who their trusted adults are at home and school
- o They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset



FIND MORE SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES
TO SUPPORT PARENTS AT
PARENTSAFE.LGFL.NET

Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service

School Health Drop in Clinic



We can help with:

Growth/ dietary concerns

Continence advice (day/night wetting)

Sleep advice

Behaviour concerns

General health and development

No appointment necessary

Sunnyside Children's Centre

Rosebay Avenue

Billericay

CM120NP

21/11/24

5/12/24

19/12/24