



# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster  
& Deputy CEO

## Headteacher's Comment:

This edition highlights the achievements of our pupils in the National Scientific Thinking Challenge, our Year 10 Geography fieldwork visit and the successful transition events for pupils joining us in September. Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting events planned, including the University Computer Science Conference, the Year 12 Photography Trip to London, the opening of our Get Active Go Green project and our Summer Concert. These opportunities help our pupils develop confidence, curiosity and ambition, whilst creating lasting memories along the way.

This week the Headteacher's Gallery recognises:  
**Luke H (Year 8)** and **Sabrina S (Year 7)**, winners of the **Sir David Attenborough 100th Birthday Competition**—a fantastic achievement.

We also commend **Jasmine D (7I2)**, **Caius-Oliver J (7N2)** and **Sabrina S (7T1)** for consistently demonstrating St Martin's values in languages, showing kindness, resilience and hard work.

Well done to all—your efforts make us proud!



## National Scientific Thinking Challenge

The **National Scientific Thinking Challenge 2026** was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 pupils to put their analytical skills to the test.

During a 50min assessment, they worked through data, graphs and scientific text to spot trends, form hypotheses and identify anomalous results — all core elements of real scientific thinking.

This year, an impressive **16,174 pupils from 255 schools** across the UK took part. Once all marks were submitted, they were combined into a national distribution curve to determine thresholds for the top **10%**, **25%** and **40%** of participants.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' achievements: **Sophie P** and **Jack N** earned **Gold** (top 10%), **Zac A** and **James W** achieved **Silver** (top 25%), and **Megan M** and **Isaac N** were awarded **Bronze** (top 40%). Their success highlights the strength of scientific reasoning across our school and the curiosity that drives great young thinkers.



# ★ Lower School Performance *High School Musical Jr.*

This year's Lower School performance of *High School Musical Jr.* attracted record-breaking audiences at St Martin's and a highly talented cast of over 100 pupils. There were a number of stand-out performances, and whilst I cannot name them all here, there are a few I must mention. The role of Troy was excellently played by Vaughan R (Year 8) in Cast A and Ethan T (Year 7) in Cast B. Gabriella was performed beautifully by Edith R (Year 9) in Cast A and Sophie K (Year 8) in Cast B. The hilarious double act of Ryan and Sharpay were played by Vinnie F (Year 9) and Georgie-Lea G (Year 9) in Cast A, and Harriette D (Year 8) and Samuel R (Year 7) in Cast B. Oliver W (Year 8) took on the role of Chad with great skill and humour in both casts. Taylor McKessie, was played by Nina H (Year 9) and Macie H (Year 8), both with lovely vocal tone and acting. The effervescent Ms Darbus was expertly performed by Elizabeth F (Year 9) and Victoria B (Year 8). Coach Bolton was played by Oliver P (Year 8) in both performances with fabulous commitment to the role.

From the opening rehearsal to the final curtain call, the cast have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and maturity. Each performer brought something unique to the production, helping to create a truly memorable show. I would particularly like to congratulate those making their St Martin's debut; stepping onto the stage for the first time takes bravery, and they have risen to the challenge brilliantly. The future of Drama at St Martin's is undoubtedly in very safe hands.

No production is ever the work of one person, and there are many people whose support, encouragement and hard work have helped bring this show to life. My sincere thanks go to **Miss McLintock**, our Musical Director, whose dedication, expertise and unwavering support throughout the rehearsal process have been invaluable. **Miss Elliott** has also been a huge asset to the production, helping in numerous areas including lighting, sound, filming, props and much more. Thank you also to my backstage seniors, **Bethan** (Year 12), **Lily**, **Amelie**, **Louise**, **Poppy**, **Emily** and **Tobias** (Year 10). A very big thank you to **Aidan** (Year 10) for your fantastic work on the sound desk. Thank you also to **Bethan** and **Josie** (Year 12), **April** (Year 11) and **Eliza** (Year 8) for your help with choreography. Thank you also to **Mrs Wilkinson**, for your support with costumes, logistics and general organisation!

What a wonderful experience for our pupils, and for everyone who came to see the show too. I am very much looking forward to the next one. Watch this space to find out what's in store for Summer 2027!

Miss Gray  
**Director**



## ★ Clear the Air

This week marks the launch of a campaign to tackle youth vaping: **Clear the Air**.

### What is Clear the Air?

**Clear the Air** is an Essex County Council campaign supporting parents and carers to talk with children aged 10 to 12 about vaping. Before misinformation or social pressure becomes established.

Parents can explore information via an AI-powered chat tool or by scrolling animated key facts: [Clear the air about vaping](#)

### The campaign focuses on:

- challenging common myths children hear about vaping
- addressing how seeing vaping online or among other young people can make it seem normal, even though most children do not vape
- supporting early, calm conversations at home
- helping children feel confident, not confused

### How can organisations support?

- sharing campaign materials with parents via newsletters, apps or websites
- displaying posters or digital assets
- signposting parents to the Clear the Air website
- encouraging parents and carers to have a conversation with their child about vaping

Partner resources can be downloaded here: [Support the campaign](#)

## ★ Year 7 STEM Trip to the Big Bang

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed an exciting and inspiring trip to the Big Bang Fair 2026. The day was packed with hands-on activities, fascinating demonstrations, and opportunities to learn more about the world of science, technology, engineering, and maths.

One of the highlights of the trip was exploring the interactive exhibits, where pupils could take part in experiments, build their own designs, and discover how science is used in real-life situations. From robotics and space exploration to environmental science, there was something to capture everyone's interest.

Pupils were particularly inspired by the live shows, which brought science to life through explosive experiments and engaging presentations. Many also had the chance to speak to professionals working in STEM careers, helping them to see the wide range of opportunities available in the future.

The trip was not only educational but also great fun, leaving pupils curious, motivated, and full of questions. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm from Year 7, and we hope this experience has sparked a lasting interest in STEM subjects.

A big thank you to the staff who supported the pupils throughout the day.



## ★ Year 10 Geography Trip

Last Tuesday and Wednesday our GCSE Geographers set out to investigate coastal management at Walton On The Naze. They dodged the rain showers, managing to successfully collect data for their beach profiles, sediment samples and environmental quality surveys. Some eagle-eyed pupils even found some fossilised shark teeth in their sediment samples! The data they have collected is going to be analysed over the next few weeks to form a conclusion about how successfully the coastline is being managed. When the pupils sit their exams next year, they will be asked all about their experiences and findings from this trip and their fieldwork in Stratford earlier this year.



## ★ Year 6 Transition Event

Pupils preparing to join St Martin's this September have enjoyed a series of highly successful additional SEND transition days, designed to help them feel confident and excited about starting secondary school.

Throughout the programme, pupils took part in a variety of team-building activities, including a mini raft-building challenge, where they worked together to design and test their creations. They also enjoyed gardening activities, helping to care for the school grounds while developing new skills and building friendships.

A particular highlight was the creation of our new Positive Peacock Wall display. Pupils shared their favourite hobbies, interests, and things they love, helping to create a vibrant display that celebrates their individuality and allows them to get to know one another before joining our school community.

The transition days provided valuable opportunities for pupils to meet staff, explore the school environment, and become familiar with daily routines. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow throughout the programme, with pupils embracing new experiences and forming positive connections with their peers.

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part and look forward to welcoming them back in September for the next stage of their educational journey.



## ★ Year 11 Leavers' Celebration

Last Friday marked an important milestone for our Year 11 pupils as they celebrated the end of their time with us at St Martin's. Their final assembly provided a special opportunity to reflect on the ups and downs of their journey, the memories they have made, and, most importantly, all they have achieved along the way.


Following the assembly, pupils and staff came together to enjoy a celebratory BBQ, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere as everyone shared in this memorable occasion.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 pupils and all they have accomplished. As they move on to the next stage of their journey, we wish them every success, happiness, and fulfilment in the future.

## 📅 Dates for the Diary


- 22.06.2026 – Year 12 Computer Science Conference  
Year 12 Photography Trip London
- 23.06.2026 – Get Active Go Green Opening
- 24.06.2026 – Summer Concert

**Word of the Week**  
**Week 33 prudent**



**adjective:** Acting with care, wisdom, and good judgement, especially when making decisions.

**Sentence:** It was prudent to save some of her earnings rather than spend all of her money immediately.



**Art & DT Exhibition**  
Work on display by pupils in  
Year 11 GCSE Art, DT  
A Level Art, Photography, Product Design, Textiles

North Hall  
Wednesday 8 July 2026  
15.00 – 18.00

Everyone welcome  
Free entry / Refreshments / Music



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



**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**  
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