20 November2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster & Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

This week's *News & Views* highlights some fantastic achievements, including our Senior Girls' Cross Country team qualifying for the National Schools Cup Finals and our talented musicians performing at the Royal Albert Hall. We are also delighted to have been recognised by Alps Connect as being in the **top 25% nationally for A Level progress**, reflecting the hard work of our pupils and staff.

As we continue to develop Bromcom and improve our communication systems, I would like to thank parents and carers for their patience. We remain committed to making communication with the school as straightforward and effective as possible. I would also encourage families to keep emails clear, concise and focused on the key information or concern.

Whilst AI can be a useful tool to support communication, we are increasingly receiving lengthy AI-generated correspondence which can sometimes make it harder to identify the main issue and respond effectively. Shorter, more focused emails will help our staff understand concerns quickly and devote more time to supporting your children.



Finally, we are beginning an exciting review of our school's **Vision and Values**, ensuring they continue to reflect our aspirations for every young person at St Martin's. We would welcome parents and carers who would like to contribute to a working group as part of this process. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved, please email the school to express your interest.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Year 8 Smashed Live

On 10 November 2026, all of Year 8 took part in an engaging and thought-provoking workshop delivered by Collingwood Theatre Group, called *Smashed Live*. Using interactive theatre and film-based experiences, the workshop explored the dangers and harms of alcohol, particularly the risks associated with underage drinking.



Pupils were encouraged to think about the impact alcohol can have on their health, wellbeing and relationships, as well as the importance of making informed choices and dealing with peer pressure. The session was a valuable and memorable learning experience, helping pupils understand how to keep themselves and others safe.

National Schools Cross Country



A huge congratulations to our Senior Girls team, who have qualified for the prestigious National Schools XC Cup Finals!

The girls competed in the Regional Finals at Felsted School against an outstanding field of runners from across Essex and Suffolk. They fought hard for their well-deserved place, and every position really did count with only one point separating the top 4 teams.

A special mention must go to Amelie S (Year 12) for her excellent performance, finishing in 1st place and Sophie P (Year 11), who overtook a runner on the final metre before the line, securing us a qualifying position!

Well done to the whole team - Amelie 1st, Erin 7th, Sophie 21st, Fleur 26th and Jeanne 35th.

Good luck at the NATIONAL FINALS on the 5th December at Ratcliffe, Leicester.

#SoProud #SAINTS ❤️ 🖤

Eden Animal Oasis

Last Thursday, we were incredibly lucky to welcome back Eden Animal Oasis for an afterschool session. A select group of Year 7 and 8 pupils got to get some hands-on animal experience and find out all sorts of interesting animal facts – for example, snakes' tails are much shorter than we realised and the tail is normally represented by a change in the pattern of the scales. Beaded dragons also have a third eye on the top of their heads to allow them to see predators approaching them.

It was also discovered that Mr Day really doesn't like snakes!

The pupils were really well behaved and represented the school and the KS3 Science Club excellently. I think the firm favourite animal of the night however, was the Armadillo! It was a fabulous evening for everyone involved.







St Martin's Day Celebration



Pupils from Years 7 and 13 came together at Brentwood Cathedral for our annual St Martin's Day celebration.

The event provided an opportunity to reflect on the life and legacy of St Martin of Tours, whose example embodies so many of our school values, particularly kindness, compassion and service to others.

During the celebration, pupils from both year groups shared their experiences of life at St Martin's, reflecting on how our school values have shaped their journeys and how they have sought to put these values into practice within our school community.

This year's celebration coincided with World Kindness Day, providing a particularly fitting opportunity to explore our theme of **'Looking After Our World'**. Pupils were encouraged to consider how small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference, not only to those around us but also to the environment and the wider world we share.

The celebration served as a powerful reminder that the legacy of St Martin lives on through the kindness, compassion and care we show to others and to the world around us.



Music for Youth Concert

On Tuesday, a group of our talented Music pupils had the exciting opportunity to perform with the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band at the prestigious Music for Youth Concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The event brought together youth bands from across the country, with participants spending several hours rehearsing in the iconic venue before giving a live performance to a public audience.

Our musicians, including drummers, clarinettists, tubists, saxophonists and more, took part in a varied programme featuring marches, drumline performances and the spectacular grand finale.

As always, our gratitude goes out to the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band for providing such opportunities for young musicians. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and their achievement in performing at one of the world's most renowned concert venues.

Top row: Emilio D, Tobias B, Jayden B, Zoe S, Jake W.
Bottom row: Aaron H, Sophie K, Leila-May W, Robyn P.



First Steps Towards the World of Work

All Year 10 pupils have recently completed a two-hour CV writing workshop delivered by Andrea from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The sessions helped pupils create their first CV, identifying the skills, experiences and personal qualities they can offer a future employer. Pupils were also encouraged to consider their longer-term career ambitions and communicate these clearly in their personal statements.

Their CVs will now form the basis of our **mock interviews on 11 and 12 January 2027**, when pupils will meet employers, practise their interview skills and receive valuable feedback. Where possible, we hope to match pupils with employers from sectors that reflect their career interests.



We are encouraging parents and carers to support pupils in refining their CVs at home, helping them identify achievements and experiences they may have overlooked.

These workshops mark the first stage of our Year 10 employability programme, followed by mock interviews in the spring term and work experience in the summer term.

Our aim is to help every pupil become work ready, develop confidence and take meaningful steps towards a future career that reflects their ambitions.

Computer Science in Action 2026

Twenty-five A Level Computer Science pupils recently attended the **Computer Science in Action 2026** conference, where they explored the latest developments in technology through a series of inspiring talks from industry experts and university lecturers.



The event provided valuable insight into areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and software development, helping pupils connect their studies to future careers in computing.

Dates for the Diary

23.11.2026 – Yr 11, 12 & 13 Art In Action Trip
Yr 7 Road Safety 'Riot Act'
24.11.2026 – Yr 9 Navy Attract
25.11.2026 – Yr 9 Navy Attract
Yr 13 National Business Unit 2 Grade Booster
26.11.2026 – Community Cooking Course
27.11.2026 – Yr 12 Chemistry in Action 2026

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

Word of the Week
Week 10 articulate

St Martin School – Be the best you can



adjective: Able to express thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly and effectively.

Sentence: During the debate, Ethan gave an articulate explanation of why he believed recycling should be compulsory.