



# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster  
& Deputy CEO

## Headteacher's Comment:

Last week, our school community marked Mental Health Awareness Week in a thoughtful and meaningful way. Staff and pupils came together to raise awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and I was particularly pleased to see pupils helping to create a calming sensory space at the front of the school. The planting of jasmine, clematis and other carefully chosen plants will provide a lasting reminder that looking after our wellbeing is something we should continue to value every day.

In this week's News and Views, we are also sharing information from the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service about community drop-ins available for parents, carers and school-aged young people across South West Essex. These sessions offer support with a range of issues including emotional wellbeing, sleep, nutrition, physical health and general advice. There is no need to book, and I would encourage families to make use of this support if it would be helpful.

I hope all pupils and families have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 1 June.

The Headteacher's gallery goes to **Spencer Y** in Year 10 for his dedication and commitment to the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge which earned him positive recognition from the judges – and **Daniel C** Year 12, for his valuable support of the KS3 Science Club, promoting scientific curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.



## Mental Health Awareness Week

Last week, our school community came together to mark Mental Health Awareness Week in a meaningful and uplifting way. Staff and pupils united to show their support, with staff wearing green to highlight the importance of wellbeing and to raise awareness of mental health.

Our pupils also played a particularly special role in the week's activities. They worked thoughtfully to create a calming sensory space at the front of the school, carefully selecting and planting jasmine, clematis, and other plants known for their soothing qualities. These beautiful additions will not only enhance our school environment but will also offer gentle scents and a peaceful space for everyone to enjoy, becoming a lasting reminder of the importance of caring for our mental wellbeing.



## ★ Year 9 Trip to Warner Brothers Studio

A group of Year 9 pupils enjoyed a DT and Art trip to the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio Tour. The visit began with a Set Design workshop, where pupils learned how a script is used to create film sets, from initial sketches and storyboards through model making to the final set used in filming. Each stage of the process included links to job roles and potential careers in the film industry.

The workshop was followed by a tour of the studios, where pupils explored iconic Harry Potter film sets such as the Hogwarts Great Hall and Diagon Alley. They also had the opportunity to learn about prop making, costumes, special effects, and animatronic creatures, collecting stamps in their Harry Potter passports along the way.

As it was Daniel's birthday, he had the special opportunity to begin the tour by opening the doors to the Great Hall.

St Martin's pupils represented the school excellently throughout the trip, and the visit concluded with time in the gift shop to purchase souvenirs.



## ★ Year 9 Drama Trip Mercury Theatre

On Tuesday 19 May, 80 pupils visited the Mercury Theatre in Colchester to watch *Thespians*, the first musical from Mischief Theatre Company. The show told the story of Thespis, his sister Poly, and the islanders of Icaria as they attempted to stage the world's first play, blending comedy, chaos, catchy songs and impressive choreography.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and embraced the company's trademark humour. The trip offered a valuable opportunity to experience live theatre and enhanced their understanding of performance, storytelling and stagecraft beyond the classroom.



## 📅 Dates for the Diary

- 25.05.2026 – ½ Term break (25.05.2026 – 29.05.2026)  
Year 10 Food Tech Cornwall Trip
- 01.06.2026 – Year 11 Study Leave
- 01.06.2026 – Year 7 Stubbers Residential Trips  
01.06.2026 – 03.06.2026  
03.06.2026 – 05.06.2026

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

Word of the Week  
**Week 31 sagacious**



**adjective:** wise; showing good judgement.

**Sentence:** He's buzzing with ideas, opinions and sagacious thoughts.



**Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff**

St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust

## South West School Age Community Drop-in

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services will provide drop-ins for parents/carers and school aged young people across South West Essex. The drop-ins are available for all young people including those who may be home educated or unable to access the support they require in the school environment.

Support offered:

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical and sexual health
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support.

**No need to book, just come along**

For more information

Tel:0300 247 0013 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

**Northlands Park Family Hub**

Davenants, Basildon SS15 1QX

**School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 - 10:15

**Young People's Drop-in**

15:30 - 16:30

1st and 3rd **Monday** of the month

**All About Delivery Site**

Leinster Road, Laindon SS15 5NX

**School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 - 10:15

**Young People's Drop-in**

15:30 - 16:30

2nd and 4th **Monday** of the month

**Sunnyside Delivery Site**

Rosebay Avenue, Billericay, CM12 0GH

**School Age Parent Drop in**

9:30 - 10:30

**Young People's Drop in**

**Human Kind Cafe,**

111 High Street Billericay, CM12 9AJ

15:00 - 16:00

1st and 3rd **Thursday** of the month

**Larchwood Gardens Family Hub**

Larchwood Gardens, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood

CM15 9NG

**School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 - 10:15

**Young People's Drop in**

**Doddinghurst Road Community Church**

56-60 Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood CM15 9EH

16:00 - 17:00

2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of the month

Service commissioned by: