



23 January 2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO



Headteacher's Comment:

It has been another positive and busy week at St Martin's, with pupils continuing to engage enthusiastically in a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom. This edition of *News & Views* highlights the strength of our enrichment and personal development offer, from the excellent work of our **KS3 Junior Choir**, who are combining singing with Makaton in preparation for the Spring Concert, to the highly successful **GCSE and A Level Drama trip to London**, where pupils represented the school superbly and gained valuable insight into the performing arts industry.

I am also pleased to see the continued impact of our **Bushcraft programme**, which is supporting pupils' social development, confidence and teamwork through carefully structured outdoor activities. Engagement has been excellent, and this work forms an important part of our wider inclusion and personal development curriculum.

The Headteacher Gallery award goes to **Nina H, Ivy W, Beth C and Emmy R**, all in **Year 9**, in recognition of their outstanding musical achievement.

As part of the *Cover Versions* module in Music, the group created an exceptional mash-up performance of the songs "**Riptide**" and "**Love Yourself**." The quality of this work is far beyond the expected standard at this stage of the scheme of work and stands as a true testament to their dedication, creativity and collaborative effort.



KS3 Junior Choir

The Junior Choir have been working hard learning how to sing and sign using Makaton. We have already had several very successful rehearsals and the pupils are doing a fantastic job combining their singing with clear, expressive signing. We are excited to share our performance at the Spring Concert in March.

Pupils pictured opposite are : **Hetty F, Loni H, Precious I, Rosa M, Anais N, Autumn P, Hannah P, Bleu P, Anabella R, Layla C, Lily R, Sienna S, Bianca A, Jago W, Porter W, Isabella WS, Chloe B, Lily H, Florence H, Michael C.**



We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you enjoy singing and would like to be part of a friendly, fun group, we would love you to come and join us every Tuesday lunchtime in C002.



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Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff

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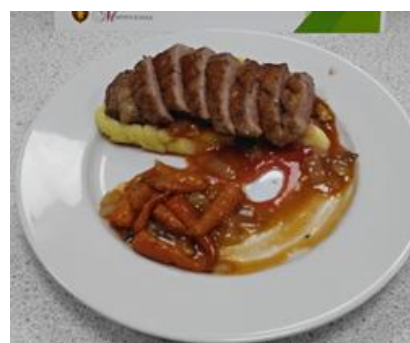
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★ Food Technology Competition

Once again, we had the pleasure of hosting a cooking competition for the Brentwood Rotary Club in the Food Technology department.

We had two very keen and talented Year 10 boys take part in the competition. **Emilio** and **James** had to produce a two-course meal in only two hours in front of a judging panel of three adults and myself. They proved to be very capable young chefs and the results were fantastic.

They have both progressed to the district round in February where they will have to cook in front of another judging panel at HR College, Broxbourne Campus.



We would like to wish the boys the best of luck in the next round.

★ Key information & Updates for Parents

I would like to remind parents and carers not to park on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school. These markings are in place to keep children safe and to ensure clear visibility at drop-off and pick-up times.

We have also received concerns from our local residents, who have asked that parents please avoid parking across their driveways. This can cause significant inconvenience and may block access to their homes.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for our school community and our neighbours.



GCSE and A Level Drama Trip to London

Our recent Year 10 and Year 12 Drama trip to London was a fantastic experience for all involved. Pupils enjoyed a full and inspiring day, including a tour of the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, where they were introduced to the undergraduate courses on offer and gained valuable insight into the wider Performing Arts industry. This included learning about areas such as costume design, lighting, sound, scenic design, and prop making. Pupils also took part in a backstage tour of the National Theatre, before attending an evening performance of *Ballet Shoes*.

Throughout the trip, pupils conducted themselves exceptionally well; they engaged enthusiastically with every aspect of the day, asked thoughtful and insightful questions, and maintained a positive attitude from start to finish. As both GCSE and A Level examinations require pupils to analyse and evaluate live theatre, the performance of *Ballet Shoes* in particular captured their imaginations and sparked lively discussion.



Bushcraft Programme

Our pupils have been working with Ray Bias on a range of bushcraft activities designed to support social development and outdoor survival skills. Bushcraft is a six-week intervention programme that adds significant value to our Personal Development and Inclusion curriculum.

Activities range from archery to boxing, and much more. Pupil engagement is consistently very high, with enthusiasm and participation evident across all groups.



Dates for the Diary

- 26.01.2026 – Year 9 Girls into STEM
- 28.01.2026 – Year 10 Art Galleries Trip
- 29.01.2026 – Year 11 Poetry Live 2026 Trip
GCSE & A Level/BTEC ABBA Voyage Trip
- 30.01.2026 – Selected pupils attending Brentwood Ski Centre

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

Word of the Week
Week 17 considerate



adjective: Kind and helpful.
Sentence: He's the most considerate person I know.



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