

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster



Headteacher's Comment:

Following on from last week's St Martin's alumni focus on West Ham debutante George Earthy, I am equally proud to celebrate our students' past and present in the Performing Arts department, highlighted on page two. It is an important message to share with our Year 11 leavers, who came together today as part of their leavers' event. The students had their final awards assembly and were treated to a very funny but emotional video, including pictures of their five-year journey. After, we all gathered in the Sixth Form for the leavers BBQ, to take part in the traditional signing of shirts and the collection of their year books and hoodies. I hope they will treasure these memories and look back fondly at their time here at St Martin's as a marker of the amazing young people they have become.



This week's Headteacher's Award goes to two Year 9 students: Sanuraag Srinivasan and Christopher Ogunsanya, for their joint effort in producing an outstanding song as part of their project in Music. Well done!



Thank you to all our parents and carers for your support this term and working with us to ensure the highest possible standards at our school.

There will be a letter going out shortly regarding our Year 5 day taking place in July. Have a great half term!

★ Year 9 Visit From Susie Barnett, Holocaust Survivor

Susie Barnett, local Holocaust survivor, was invited back to St Martin's last Friday. She spoke with the whole of Year 9 and described to the students about her life and her experiences, as she and her family managed to escape from the Nazi persecution, months before the second World War broke out. This complimented the History lessons students have been having about the Holocaust during this half term. Our students were also given the opportunity to ask Susie questions, which lead to an incredibly thought-provoking question and answer session. As a reward, a smaller group of students were invited to enjoy lunch with Susie and ask her further questions.



Dates for the Diary

27.05.24	– ½ Term break returning 3 June 2024
04.06.24	– Year 12 Oxford College Trip
06.06.24 & 07.06.24	– Year 10 Geography Field Trip
07.06.24	– Year 12 History Trip, Tower of London

For PE fixtures please follow: Instagram @smartinsschpe or [click here](#) for further PE updates



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News

FORMER STUDENT FEATURED IN EPISODE OF EASTENDERS



Year 10 and 11 students at St Martin's School in Brentwood in a scene from Chicago Teen Edition

Drama department at school helping to produce young actors of future

PERFORMERS from Brentwood are among the one per cent to be offered places at the country's top drama schools.

Drama students from St Martin's School, in Hanging Hill Lane, are regularly moving on to prestigious schools such as Guildford School of Acting, ArtsEd, Mountview, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Urdang, East 15 Acting School, Rose Bruford College and LAMDA.

From there, they are going on to successful careers in the industry.

Former student George Greenland, who studied at Mountview, played a young Billy Mitchell in a recent flashback episode of EastEnders.

He said: "St Martin's drama department played a huge part in developing and nurturing my passion for performing from a young age."

"The drama department was a safe space to explore creativity and expression

and, ultimately, lead me to pursue a career as an actor.

"My time at St Martin's played an invaluable part in my path as I am now working in television, having taken a role in EastEnders and just finished filming a Channel 4 series."

Jessica Folley has gone on to star on TV's The X Factor and take on the main role in the new Christina Aguilera musical Burlesque.

She said: "St Martin's drama and music was such an integral part of my development as an artist and performer. It gave me the confidence and skills to pursue a career in the arts, and allowed me to be

where I am now, composing music for my band Real Like You, winner of the X Factor bands, and co-writing the musical Burlesque."

In preparation for the next steps, Year 10 and 11 students recently put on a performance of Chicago Teen Edition to three full audi-

ences and two primary school matinees.

So many students impressed with their talents that two full casts were put together for the musical, from the lower school and sixth form.

Year 13 students Eve Page and Katie Mollard have performed in every school show since they joined in Year 7 and are both auditioning for top drama schools, with Eve securing a place at Rose Bruford.

She said: "Through the support of the drama department and their teaching, as well as the extra-curricular offers such as the LAMDA qualification, I have been able to go fully prepared for my auditions, both academically and practically, achieving a place at one of the top five drama schools in the country."

Year 13 Hamish Baumber, who joined St Martin's for the sixth form, has been offered a BA in musical theatre at Urdang and said: "I already had a pre-existing desire to join the performing arts, but was doubtful of my abilities and confidence. But, through supportive, encouraging and demanding teaching and training at St Martin's, I had the opportunity to play the lead in



Year 13 students Eve Page and Katie Mollard have performed in every school show since they joined in Year 7

the school shows and expand my repertoire in singing and acting."

Jennifer Page, drama teacher and head of Year 12 and 13, said: "This year our Year 13 students are once again getting down to final auditions, which is a great achievement considering only one per cent of students auditioning in the whole country get offered a place."

"As a sixth form, we offer the

LAMDA certificate to our students, which not only prepares them for auditions, but also gives them UCAS points when applying for universities."

Younger students are also offered the opportunity to attend a music and drama trip to LA visiting Hollywood and the Walk of Fame, with 150 Year 9 and 10 students signed up for the trip next year.

“St Martin's...played a huge part in developing and nurturing my passion for performing from a young age.”

George Greenland



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