



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

Our Year 12 and 13 visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was an experience that will remain with our pupils for a lifetime. Encounters with history of this magnitude remind us why education is about more than examinations. It is about developing informed, compassionate young people who understand their responsibility to challenge injustice and uphold human dignity.

Equally, our SAINTS Fire Basketball Academy continues to go from strength to strength. With multiple teams competing at **county semi-final level and national representation for our U14 boys**, we are seeing the powerful impact of commitment, coaching and collective ambition. What impresses me most is not only the success, but the leadership shown by our older pupils in supporting younger players and our wider community.

Alongside these highlights, we continue to prioritise pupil wellbeing. The work with MHST and the support available for anxious pupils reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive.

This week's Headteacher's Gallery goes to Darcy and Millie in Year 9 for their outstanding dedication to Music. Their original protest song, promoting safer school environments and the right to secure education for all young people, showed impressive creativity and maturity. We congratulate them on their achievements and hope they continue their musical journey at GCSE.



This week's *Make a Difference Award* goes to Sue Barber, in recognition of her outstanding support, dedication and unwavering commitment to the school. Thank you for everything you do.

Year 12 & 13 Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau

Our recent visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau with Year 12 and Year 13 pupils was a deeply moving and thought-provoking experience. The trip offered an invaluable opportunity for pupils to engage directly with one of the most significant and sobering sites in modern history.

Walking through the grounds of Auschwitz I and Birkenau allowed pupils to reflect on the human stories behind the historical facts they have studied. The experience encouraged quiet contemplation, meaningful discussion, and a deeper understanding of the consequences of prejudice, discrimination, and intolerance.

We were incredibly proud of the maturity, respect, and empathy shown by our pupils throughout the visit. They conducted themselves with great dignity and represented the school exceptionally well. This visit will undoubtedly remain with them as a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance, responsibility, and standing up against injustice.





PE Updates

SAINTS Fire Basketball Academy

As we approach the end of the season, our SAINTS Fire Basketball Academy reflects upon an excellent period of growth and achievement across all age groups. Three of our teams remain firmly in their respective Essex Cup Competitions, evidence of the commitment and determination consistently shown by our players. Training attendance remains strong, and students continue to display a real desire to improve and represent the school with pride.



Beyond competition success, the Academy also plays a key role within the wider community. We have hosted several well-attended primary school events showcasing the positive impact basketball can have. Many of our young players took the opportunity to step into coaching roles, supporting younger pupils and gaining valuable leadership experience. Our more experienced players further contributed by assisting younger teams at district and county fixtures by officiating and coaching.



U12 Girls – Essex Cup Semi-Finalists

The U12 Girls are having an outstanding season, earning their place in the semi-finals of the Essex Cup, which will be played today! This young squad continue to build on their goal of maintaining an undefeated season, an impressive ambition that reflects their hard work and enthusiasm for the sport.



U18 Boys – Strong County Campaign

The U18 Boys are also producing a strong county campaign, securing a place in the semi-finals of the Essex Cup. This achievement marks a positive step forward for the age group, who have not reached this stage for some time. Their leadership, experience, and consistent performances set an excellent example for younger players within the academy.

U12 Boys – District Champions and County Semi-Finalists

The U12 Boys continued to impress in their first season of secondary school basketball.

After going undefeated in their district league, they have also progressed to the Essex Cup semi-finals, following a hard-fought 54–50 win against Woodlands School. Their improvement throughout the season, combined with their commitment to training, has allowed them to compete confidently against strong opposition.

U14 Boys – National Top 64 Finish

The U14 Boys had plenty to celebrate, representing the school on the National stage for the first time. In their debut year in the competition, the team reached the last 64 teams in the country, an outstanding achievement. Although their journey ended at this stage, the players gained invaluable experience that will support their development moving into future seasons.

★ Young Artists' Competition

The final deadline for entries to this year's Royal Academy Young Artists' competition is fast approaching!

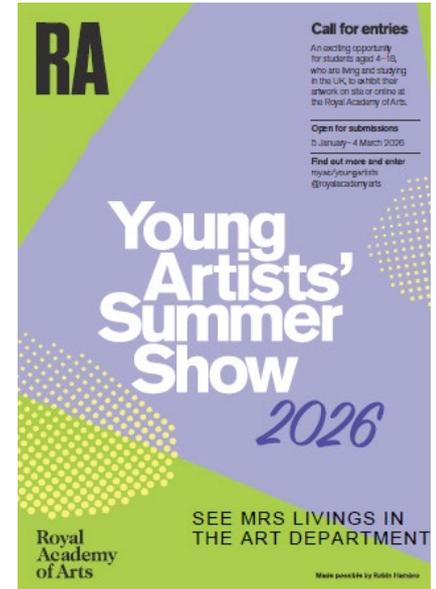
All entries must be submitted online by **17:00 on Thursday 5 March**. Pupils or parents can upload artwork directly at:

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

OR bring your artwork to Mrs Livings in C104 to be photographed and uploaded.

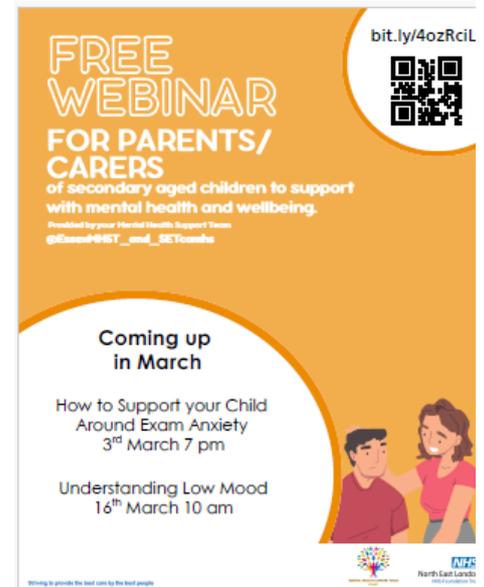
All types of art work are welcome—drawing, painting, sculpture, digital work, video, or animation.

Please remember all entries must be the pupils' own original art work.



★ Support for Anxious Pupils

Following the assemblies delivered to Year 10 and Year 11 this week by MHST, please refer to the poster opposite, which provides parents with information on how to access further support for pupils experiencing anxiety.



📅 Dates for the Diary

- 02.03.2026 – Year 12 MyBNK event
- 04.03.2026 – Year 9 Travel Safety event
- Year 12 MyBNK event
- Parent Information Evening Trip to Eurospace 17:30 – 18:15
- 05.03.2026 – Author Karl Nova visiting Year 7 & 8
- Year 12 Drop Down Day

Word of the Week Week 21 Ebullient



adjective: Full of energy and enthusiasm.

Sentence: Her ebullient personality lifted the mood of the entire room.

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



Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff
St Martin's School is proud to be part of the Discovery Educational Trust



Brentwood

Foodbank

Together with Trussell

Foodbank Shopping List

March 2026

- **Coffee (small jars)**
- **Cornbeef (tinned)**
- **Ham small (tinned)**
- **Washing Powders**
- **Multi Purpose Sprays**
- **Shaving Gels**
- **Deodorants**

Find us at 56-60 Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood CM15 9EH
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