



27 June 2025

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster



Headteacher's Comment:

It has been a truly inspiring and enriching few weeks at St Martin's. From thought-provoking academic experiences to cultural enrichment and international exploration, our pupils have embraced a wealth of opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

Our Sixth Form Computer Science pupils were fortunate to attend the prestigious UCL Sixth Form Conference, gaining first-hand insight into how digital innovation is shaping the future. Year 11 students also experienced a taste of Sixth Form life, engaging in dynamic lessons and discovering the wide-ranging support and enrichment we offer.

Meanwhile, pupils enjoyed a stunning performance of *Hadestown* in the West End, and our Year 9 and 10 linguists immersed themselves in German culture on a sunny and successful trip to Cologne!

This week's Headteacher Gallery goes to Poppy and Artemis in Year 12 for going above and beyond in supporting Year 11 pupils on our Sixth Form taster day.

This week's *Make A Difference Award* goes to **Miss Martin**, who has consistently gone above and beyond in her support for both pupils and staff. In addition to her role as a technician, she has previously helped lead Science and champion ideas such as the **Science Club**. More recently, she has played a vital role in supporting our **Go Active, Go Green** garden project. Her passion, creativity, and dedication make her an invaluable member of the St Martin's community. Thank you, Miss Martin!



UCL Computer Science Conference

A group of Computer Science Sixth Form pupils had the opportunity to attend the UCL Computer Science Sixth Form Conference.

The conference, designed to inspire the next generation of innovators, featured distinguished speakers who are shaping the digital landscape. Students heard from Professor Stephen Hailes, the esteemed Head of Department of Computer Science at UCL. They also gained insights from Professor Paul Curzon of Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), renowned for his engaging cs4fn project.

Our pupils returned inspired, with a deeper understanding of how Computer Science is addressing real-world challenges and a clearer vision for their potential roles in an AI-driven future.



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Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day

On Tuesday, our Year 11 pupils were given an exciting insight into life as a St Martin's Sixth Former. They heard about the outstanding provision we offer, including a wide range of enrichment opportunities, from trips to New York and Washington DC, to Oxbridge preparation and competitive sporting activities.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in engaging taster lessons across the full spectrum of Sixth Form subjects. They also attended a subject fair, where they had the chance to speak with our subject ambassadors and explore the subjects they are considering for further study.

In addition, pupils toured the school and the Sixth Form facilities, guided by members of the Student Leadership Team, gaining a first-hand insight into the excellent learning environment we provide.

A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff who contributed to making the day such a resounding success!



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SAINTS are Brentwood District Athletics Overall Champions



Year 7 Girls **Champions**

Year 7 Boys **Champions**

Year 8 Girls **Runners-Up**

Year 8 Boys **Champions**

Year 9 Girls **Champions**

Year 9 Boys **Third** (40 points clear of 4th)

Year 10 Girls **Runners-Up** (by 1 point)

Year 10 Boys **Champions**



Our super SAINTS have shown exceptional dedication in training this season, and their hard work has truly paid off with outstanding results against incredibly tough opposition. Not only did we secure the year group trophies across both boys' and girls' categories, but we also proudly brought home the shields for **OVERALL GIRLS, OVERALL BOYS**, and the coveted **OVERALL OVERALL** title!

In addition to our brilliant team results, there were countless individual medal winners. Of particular note, **four district records were broken**, all by St Martin's athletes, which is an extraordinary achievement! Congratulations to:

- **Jess (Year 8G)** – 300m in 44.4 seconds
- **Erin (Year 9G)** – 1500m in 5:10.3
- **Emmie (Year 10G)** – 800m in 2:19.7
- **Jamal (Year 10B)** – 300m in 37.0

District records have been recorded for over 30 years, so they are a real part of the Brentwood District Athletics history.

A special mention goes to **Amelie (Year 10)**, who demonstrated true St Martin's spirit by competing in both the 1500m and triple jump, despite having a British Qualifying event later that same evening. Amelie won Brentwood District Gold with ease and, while she could have comfortably broken the record, she chose to conserve energy for her evening race. We are confident that great things lie ahead for her!

To conclude our celebrations, Year 10s, Marvellous and Joseph won the Lewis Fraser Memorial Cup for the highest podium places out of all the performers in the championships. Both boys won 2 gold and one silver. Andie, in Year 10 also won 2 gold and one silver but was just pipped to the girls' award by a triple gold medallist from Ursuline.



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Visit to the Lyric Theatre

On Thursday 19 June, Sixth Form pupils and Year 11 went to the West End to see *Hadestown* at the Lyric Theatre. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to see live performers and musicians in professional roles. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance. A highlight for us was the live band on the stage and the fantastic trombone player who kept improvising in the show. *Hadestown* was an outstanding musical and we would recommend it to others to see.



Trip to Cologne

Last week, 30 enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 pupils embarked on an unforgettable trip to Cologne, enjoying glorious sunshine and a packed itinerary. Highlights included a visit to the iconic Cologne Cathedral, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Bayer Leverkusen football stadium, and a delicious experience at the Lindt Chocolate Museum, where pupils watched chocolate being made!

Our pupils truly embraced the German culture, many even took the opportunity to practise their language skills by ordering food and drinks in German. A big thank you to the MFL team for organising such a memorable experience. Planning is already underway for another exciting adventure next year!



Dates for the Diary

- 30.06.2025 – 03.07.2025 Year 12 Geography Field Trip
- 30.06.2025 – 04.07.2025 Year 10 Work Experience
- 02.07.2025 – UCL UKESF Trip
- Year 9 Holocaust Survivor Talk
- 04.07.2025 – Take your child to work day
- Year 9 Trip to Opal Coast

Word of the Week Week 35 authentic



adjective: Real, true, and genuine—
not fake or copied.
Sentence: The painting is an
authentic Van Gogh.



**Wednesday
9 July
16:30 to 18:30**

**Art & DT
Exhibition**

Come celebrate our amazing GCSE and A Level Art,
Photography, and Technology pupils with us!
Enjoy refreshments and music.

ADMISSION IS FREE

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



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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

June 2025– Issue

Our Newsletter for June provides some information around emotional wellbeing and some free resources that are online, along with links to the NSPCC website for helping children with SEND. We also provide information on screen addiction, misogynistic behaviour, attendance and a link to a reminder of water safety in the hot weather.

We also would like to welcome Laura Chalcraft who is our Police Youth Officer. She has already been to the school and spoken with students on an informal basis and will support the school with teaching our young people on how to become responsible adults. If you do see her on site, please do say 'hi'

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

The NSPCC have partnered with Ambitious about Autism to bring online safety tips, advice and activities specifically for parents and carers of children with SEND. Letting your child go online can be intimidating; you might worry about the different spaces they explore, the people they meet digitally and the potential for things going wrong.

Being online can be positive for children and young people, including those with additional needs. So much of our communication now happens online, either by messages, in a game or through a video call. Sometimes online platforms like the apps, social media sites and games your child accesses can help them connect and make friends with new people that they might not know offline.

As a parent or carer, you play an important role in helping your child to have positive experiences online. If your child has additional needs, then this role can be even more important, and it can feel like a lot of responsibility when you hear about some of the risks young people face online.

Click on the images below to view the websites:

How to support children with SEND with talking to people online

Young people use the internet to contact friends they might know from school or other activities. Sometimes children with special educational needs and disabilities may struggle with making friends when other children are not being inclusive or kind.

Supporting online wellbeing for children with SEND

We partnered with Ambitious about Autism to bring online wellbeing tips, specifically for parents and carers of children with SEND.



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FREE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WITH EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Click on the headings below for further information:

[Healthy Friendships](#)

[Supporting Children to Manage Conflict Effectively](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[Choose Respect](#)

Raising confident children and coping with teens:

Free resources/online course:

- [Bringing Up Confident Children](#)
- [Coping with Teens](#)
- [Family Lives](#)
- [Divorce and Separation/Shared Parenting/Parental Alienating Behaviours After Separation/Divorce](#)
- [Creating a Co-Parenting Plan after a separation](#)

Screen addiction:

One of the issues that impacts on our young people's emotional wellbeing and sleep is screen addiction. It can be difficult as parents to understand whether our children may be just engrossed in something or genuinely addicted.

This online safety guide provides lots of tips on how to manage time on devices, just download the PDF or JPG:

[Screen Addiction | Online Safety Guide](#)





Attendance and Taking Holidays during term time.

Every child is entitled to a full-time education and so schools are directed by the Government and Local Authority on how to manage their attendance. Our school policy is based on those guidelines and this is the procedure that we follow. For every day that your child is absent, you must inform the school and provide a reason for that absence. In order for that absence to be coded properly, you must provide the exact reason, i.e 'unwell' or 'sick' will not be accepted. For our attendance policy, please see here:

https://www.st-martins.essex.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/SMS-Attendance-Policy-2024_25-Final-Approved-Aug-24-amended-Mar-25.pdf

We have as a school received a large number of requests for absence during the school term. A majority of these have not been accepted as they do not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances and parents have been prosecuted. **Please do not take your child out of school for a family holiday.** Whilst we appreciate that there may be cost implications for you, we refer all such cases to the local authority who have been issuing fixed penalty fines. The fines are £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days. This escalates to £160 if paid before 28 days.

For further independent advice in respect of attendance and the law here:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/school-attendance-and-absence/>

and finally....we would like to reinforce the importance of water safety during this particularly hot weather. For further information, please see here:

<https://www.rosipa.com/water-safety/water-safety-code>



St Martin's Safeguarding



Mrs McGorrell
DDSL



Mrs Tatman
DHT/DSL



Mrs Wilson
DDSL



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