



# NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

## Headteacher's Comment:

I would like to give a personal thank you to all of our parents and pupils throughout our two-day Ofsted Inspection this week. It was heart-warming to hear the resounding positive experiences the inspectors had, when engaging with our community. I look forward to sharing the report with you as soon as it is released. Prior to taking up the post last September, a parental survey was completed and the responses indicated the areas you wanted me to improve. I am pleased to share the responses from the completed Ofsted survey this week, 85% now recommend the school compared with 60% in the previous survey. I can assure you, we will continue to make improvements.

Congratulations to Erin Kelly in Year 9, for this week's Headteacher's Gallery. Erin, took part in the U13 Girl's National Cross-Country Championships and was part of the winning team.

Lastly, thank to our Year 7 parents and carers, who came to our Year 7 Welcome Evening yesterday. The presentation from the evening has been sent out via email. If you have any questions in relation to the evening, please speak with the year team.



## Year 7 House Night

Last Friday saw our first Year 7 House night, it was a thoroughly enjoyable event for our pupils and staff.

The objective of the evening was to give Year 7 a greater opportunity to meet new people, develop the skills they need to be successful during their time at St Martin's and celebrate their fantastic start to the year.



In their houses, the pupils rotated around various activities including trampolining, STEM and team building. The evening finished in great spirits and a lot of noise, with the whole year group taking part in 'Just Dance'. We are very grateful to the staff who gave up their time and to the pupils who made the evening so enjoyable.



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## ★ AEJF Eastern Region Newaza Championship

**Kingston Earlington** in Year 10, took part in the AEJF Eastern Region Newaza competition. Kingston competed against the over 25 year olds, one who was also a BJJ competitor. Kingston won both and took home gold!

Well done Kingston.



## ★ Year 7 Pupil Successes

On the 19 September, **Tayla Goodyer**, supported the opening night of Frozen at the Thameside Theatre Grays, as the principal dancer in the Snow Chorus.



**Zack Atkins**, has recently been selected as a goalkeeper for the Mid Essex District Football team for the second year in a row and will be wearing the number 1 shirt. Also, **Seb Garwood-Bond** played for the Basildon District team, and this year he has been selected to join Zack at Mid Essex District Football team. Both pupils were at Southend Academy together, and will be united again as teammates not only in school, but representing the school in the district team too.

Well done, we are very proud of your achievements.



## ★ New Online Safety Presentations for Parents

**The London Grid for Learning (LGfL)** has released a new online resource aimed at helping schools to support parents around online safety. For adults with busy lives and various responsibilities, it is not always feasible to maintain a grasp on advancing technologies. Particularly when those technologies might not be aimed at their age demographic, but will be aimed at their children's age brackets. LGfL's presentation - Parent Online Safety: A Ready-to-use resource - aims to get parents familiar with topics such as social media, gaming, and online harm. The presentation can be found here: <https://lgfl.net/safeguarding/parent-online-safety>

**Speak Out. Stay Safe**, is a new safeguarding programme aimed at children aged 5 - 11. The programme consists of virtual assemblies and workshops and is available to primary schools. The programme's objective is to teach younger children about neglect and abuse in an age appropriate manner. The programme also seeks to educate participants about other NSPCC services such as Childline, as part of a wider effort to combat abuse in this age group. By February 2020, the programme had reached 90% of primary schools, and reached the finals of the Children and Young People Now Awards 2021. The Speak Out. Stay Safe, endeavour is a genuinely excellent attempt at tackling a difficult aspect of relationship education. If interested in finding out more, please follow the link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/working-with-schools/>



## Dates for the Diary

- 30.09.24 - Year 12 Welcome Evening
- 02.10.24 - Year 8 Essex Rugby Festival
- 03.10.24 - Department for Work and Pensions Workshop
- 04.10.24 - Year 13 Palace Theatre Trip to see Dracula

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

### Word of the Week Week 4 Ameliorate



**Verb:** to make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better.

**Sentence:** Aid is desperately needed to ameliorate the effects of the drought in Sudan.



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