



30 January 2026

NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster
& Deputy CEO

Headteacher's Comment:

Over recent weeks, the school has completed a significant transition to **Bromcom** as our new management information system. As with any major system change, this has had some short-term impact on linked platforms, including **Satchel**, and I would like to thank parents, carers and pupils for their patience while these integrations are fully stabilised. The move to Bromcom is an important step in strengthening our systems long-term, and we are already seeing improvements in efficiency and consistency across key areas of school administration.

I would also like to confirm that a **follow-up letter to parents regarding the introduction of Phone Locker pouches** has now been sent, a copy can be found [here](#). **ParentPay will open on Monday** to allow families to purchase pouches, and I would encourage parents to refer to the letter and accompanying [FAQ](#) for full details.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to share feedback and raise questions, which has been helpful in informing next steps.

Finally, this week's Headteacher Award goes to James B in Year 11, in recognition of his outstanding dedication to both his studies and football, culminating in a two-year scholarship with Ipswich Town Football Club, after eight years of commitment to their academy

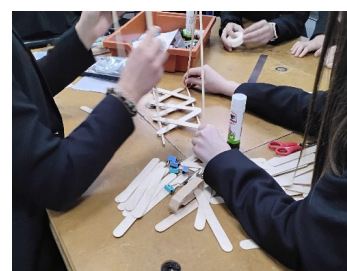


Year 9 Girls STEM Event

On Monday the Year 9 female pupils participated in a 'Girls into STEM' event. The event featured visiting engineers from AtkinsRéalis, who provided insights into the field of engineering. Pupils engaged in team-building exercises that fostered collaboration and creativity.

One highlight was a bridge-building challenge, where pupils applied triangulation techniques to design and construct models. Within just one hour, they also produced innovative prototype concepts for sustainable roadside features on the Thames Gateway crossing.

The engineers were impressed by the girls' problem-solving skills and creativity, noting the valuable knowledge and experience gained during the event. This initiative not only encouraged interest in STEM careers but also empowered pupils to envision their future in engineering. Finding out what opportunities are on offer within Design and Technology at KS4 and 5 will help pupils make informed choices about their future career journey. We are extremely grateful for the support the pupils received from our visitors and the time spent planning this valuable event for them.



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Royal Institute Watercolour Competition

The Art department are pleased to announce that four St Martin's pupils were selected as Merit Winners for the Royal Institute Watercolour Competition; Amber C, Bonnie C, Jasmine P and Neve W. To have so many entries selected for a national competition is extremely impressive and we are very proud of our art pupils. Below are the four St Martin's Merit Winners. Well done to all pupils that took part in the competition.



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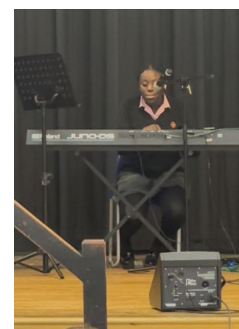


Year 10 Annual Show Case

On Friday we held our annual Year 10 Music showcase. This is an event that the Music department organises, during the school day, for our new GCSE pupils to get used to performing on the South Hall stage, in front of a low-stakes audience of younger pupils. The aim is for them to improve their confidence, stage presence, professional practices and general working musicianship, without the pressures that come with an evening event.

Over a third of our 60-strong cohort put themselves forward for this experience, preparing both solo and ensemble numbers across various genres, showcasing skills on a variety of instruments. We had Musical theatre vocal duets, ukulele mash-ups and the formation of multiple pupil bands. The pupil audience were particularly impressed with a Johnny Cash cover that sounded just like the original, clapping along to show their enthusiasm.

Thanks go out to the Music staff, pupil performers and pupil technicians for bringing this all together and our gratitude goes out to our Year 7, 8 and 9 audience members who were both respectful and supportive, throughout.



Year 10 Visit to the National Gallery

On Wednesday this week our Year 10 GCSE Art pupils visited the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery in London. This trip aimed to enhance their understanding of art history and practical skills through direct engagement with a variety of artworks.

Pupils viewed both contemporary and traditional artwork, helping to support the curriculum and inspire our pupils to develop their artistic voices in preparation for their GCSE assessments. Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning and artistic exploration.



Dates for the Diary

- 02.02.2026 – Year 9 Options Launch
- 03.02.2026 – KS5 Emmanuel College Trip
 - Year 13 Art & Photography Trip
 - Year 13 Music Mock Performance Exam
- 05.02.2026 – Year 11 GCSE Science Live Trip
 - Year 9 Options Fayre
 - 16:00 Group 1 S1, S2, A1, A2, I1
 - 17:15 Group 2 I1, N1, N2, T1, T2
- 06.02.2026 – Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Word of the Week Week 18 grounded



adjective: Calm, realistic, and steady — not overreacting or drifting off.

Sentence: She remains grounded even though she is famous.

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



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