



Focus on personal development and academic excellence in a happy school

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Mr Williams' class, 10A, and my class, 10C. This year we have been lucky enough to have our biggest ever cohort of GCSE Music students in one year group, and as such this concert seemed like the perfect opportunity to get them all on stage performing. To see students coming out of their shells and performing in front of a large audience for the first time was a true privilege. Congratulations to all involved.

A special mention must also go to the Staff Choir. I launched this new initiative at the start of the academic year for the purposes of staff wellbeing and to get people from different departments together, and was delighted by the enthusiastic response from so many of my colleagues. We have been rehearsing after school every week since the end of September, with the end goal being their first public performance at this concert. Despite a few pre-match nerves, they all did an amazing job and the audience were blown away with their polished performance and slick harmonies. I look forward to welcoming lots of new staff to be part of the choir next term.

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Following on from the huge success of our first musical event of the year, the Young Soloist of the Year Competition, we were delighted to welcome a packed audience into the South Hall on a cold December evening for our annual Christmas Concert.

On a night where the weather did not impress, the strength and breadth of the musical talent on show certainly did. For the first time ever, the concert opened with a mass Year 7 Chorus and their rousing rendition of Walk the Moon's 'Shut Up and Dance' – this energetic number was the perfect way to start an evening of high energy,



passion and enthusiasm. My heartfelt thanks to the huge number of Year 7 students who came to perform – they really were outstanding ambassadors for their year group, and added that final touch that made the evening so special.

Other highlights were festive performances from some of our most popular ensembles including Steel Pans, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Advanced Choir and Ukulele Group, as well as some stunning solo items. However, for me the biggest highlight was 'The Battle of the Year 10 Classes' – a fierce contest between

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My thanks must firstly go to my music department colleagues, Mr Williams, Mr Osborn and Mr Moseley, all of whom were invaluable to the high quality of the concert. Additionally, some of our peripatetic teachers (namely Ms Cooper, Ms Elliott, Mr Leggett and Miss Toft) did an incredible job of running some of our extra-curricular ensembles, and I am so grateful to them for the extra musical opportunities they provide for our students. I must also thank Mr Moseley's student technical team, and the staff who came on the night

to assist with tickets, refreshments and student supervision, these small elements are often forgotten but are vital to a concert's success. However my biggest thanks go to the students

and parents, without whom there would not be a concert at all. I am so lucky to work at a school with such talented students and supportive parents, which enables us to put on concerts like this. I cannot wait to see what we do next term!

Mr Harris, Head of Music



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On the Monday and Tuesday of the last week of term, we held our annual Christmas dinner for Years 7 to 10. We had record numbers this year with nearly 900 students sitting down for their festive feast.

Special thanks go to Rupert Blake--Maloney and Thomas Chow for being our Christmas DJ's, to all the staff who helped to serve the students their dinner and of course to the kitchen staff.

It was a lovely atmosphere and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the music and food.



BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

After a year of training it was a pleasure to award twenty-eight Year 11 students their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates. The group enrolled in November 2018 and have worked extremely hard to achieve their awards. As well as completing their personal sections

of volunteering, physical, and skill, the students completed in-school training and took part in both a practical and an assessed expedition. The expeditions took place in the countryside around the Danbury and Chelmsford areas and comprised of being totally self sufficient whilst

journeying for a minimum of 6 hours on foot. Well done and thank you to all involved including the teachers who give up their time. Good luck to the eleven students who have now decided to progress on to the Silver Award within the school.

Ray Bias



YOUNG ESSEX ASSEMBLY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Wednesday 13 November, Miss Frappell and Mr Smith took eleven student council representatives from Years 7-9 to Chelmsford Race Course to participate in the Young Essex Assembly Youth Development Day. The students spent the day working in mixed groups with students from various secondary schools in Essex. Each table was named after a previous British Prime Minister. Students' first task was to allocate a budget of £100 between nine different government departments such as the NHS and education. Students were asked to justify their allocation and asked to

explain why they'd prioritised certain departments over others. Students seemed quite surprised to learn that the government allocates the most amount of money to pensions.

Later in the day students were asked whether they agreed with certain statements such as giving under 16s free transport or the vote. Students engaged in a debate amongst their peers and were able to clearly justify their opinions. Students then had to choose a topic of concern to students in their age group such as knife crime or trolling online. They prepared and pitched their idea on how to tackle this problem to a large

audience. These activities combined gave students the confidence to talk in front of an audience, develop their teamwork skills as well as deconstruct an argument.

In the afternoon students were given the opportunity to ask local councillors questions about issues that they consider a concern such as recycling and the environment as well as cuts in the education budget. We hope that they are able to bring back some of the ideas discussed on this day so that we can look at how we can address them within school.

Miss Frappell, Head of Year 7

6TH FORM OPEN EVENING



Last week St Martin's school hosted another successful 6th form open evening which saw over 800 visitors to our 6th form centre. Visitors comprised of Year 11 students from St Martin's as well as from a variety of other schools locally. Presentations were given by Mrs Howells, Head of Sixth Form, Head Boy Louis McCarthy and Head Girl Anna Cooper. Visitors were able to visit classrooms and speak to both teachers and student ambassadors. It was a very successful evening – thank you to all staff and students that were involved.



YEAR 11 PRESENTATION EVENING

Thursday 14 November saw the return of last year's Year 11 cohort to collect their GCSE certificates as well as a number of special awards, subject awards and Headteacher's awards being presented. As a year group they performed exceptionally well, not just in their examinations but in all aspects of school life. Katie Gold scooped the overall achievement award, Amy Kim the progress award, Lauren Game won the service to the school award and Lucy Hemmington was a thoroughly deserving recipient of the award for endeavour. The subject award winners were: Mae Quinlan art award, Sophie Tyrrell the business studies award, Katie Martin the computer programming award, Sam Johnson drama award, Emma Chaplin economics award, Alexander O'Sullivan English award, Lilliana Folan food technology award, Rekem Ereku French award, Simran Nijjar geography award, Lizzie Oldham German award, Isabelle Champion graphics award, Lily Arter health and social care award, Robert Atling history award, Trinity

Chatten-Berry information technology award, Adam Missen maths award, D'Arcie Horne media studies award, Gemma Spinks music award, Luke Willett boys' PE award, Olorunmisimi Israel-Oludiya girls' PE award, Emily Hunt PRE award, Tobias Smith resistant materials award, Daisy Hendry combined science award, Matthew Scully separate science award, Yasmin Prendergast sociology award and Chloe-Amber Flack textiles award.

The following students were presented with the Headteacher's award for general achievement: Charles Abracia, Katie-Louise Armstrong, Jacob Beeson, April Bessey, Mateo Bouchat, Olivia Burke, Matthew Chinnery, Paris Choi, Rose Davey, Lily-Anne Dunmow, Grace Elliot, Dominic Fisher, Jessica Folley, Severus Howe, Darcy Inman, Ceri Jones, Aleya Kartal, Madison Manning, Milly Napper, Sally Phillips, Benedict Scammell, Belle Sprake, Aaron Thomas, Edward West, Lewis Wright and Jacob Wright.



ST MARTIN'S DAY



On Friday 8 November, Year 7 and Year 13 students attended the annual St Martin's Day service held at the Brentwood Cathedral and led by Mr Andrew James, formally a Deputy Headteacher at St Martin's but now Headteacher at The Chase High School in Southend. The theme of the service this year was 'Looking After Our World', a theme that is reflected in the values of Saint Martin himself. Those attending the service had the opportunity to listen to the choir, led by Mr Harris, who sang beautifully, and also readings given by selected Year 7 students and the Head Boy and Girl, Louis McCarthy and Anna Cooper. Following the service, the Student Leadership Team and the choir visited residential homes in the local area to distribute gifts to the elderly and entertain them. Thank you to all staff and students involved.



GCSE RESULTS DAY

Congratulations to another outstanding set of results for the Year 11 students at St Martin's. There were some amazing achievements from so many students which is testament to the hard work they have put in, not just in Year 11 but since joining five years ago. They should be commended on their dedication, resilience and determination to achieve the best they could. A special mention to Katie Gold who achieved 9 grade 9's and 1 grade 8. It was great to present the certificates at the recent awards evening. We wish all of this cohort the very best wishes with their next path.



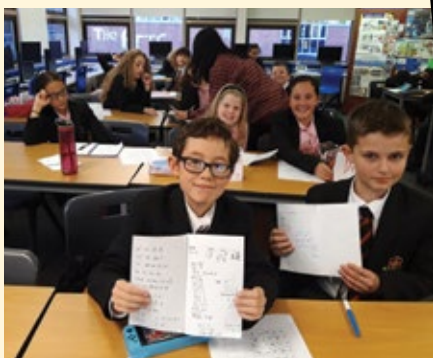
MANDARIN LESSONS

OCTOBER 2019 - JULY 2020



Mandarin club is fun because I can learn how to speak Chinese. The teacher is kind and does a really good job at teaching this language. I enjoyed learning about countries in Mandarin. I am travelling to China and I will be ready to use my new skills. (Owen McLaren, Year 8)

I like Mandarin because it is fun and we play games to help us learn about words. I think the best lesson was when we painted a Peking Opera Mask. I would recommend going to Mandarin Class. (Charline Wang, Year 8)



I like this class because it gives me a chance to learn things that I would not normally get to learn in every day classes. I have learned more in a couple of weeks than I would in a year on duo lingo. (Sophie Cross, Year 8)

I liked Mandarin because it is quite easy when you learn the pattern. Also because I like doing the symbols and it is fun. Some of the words sound funny, like dad is "ba'ba" and the symbol is 爸. (Cydney Pengelly, Year 8)

We are very pleased to offer our popular Mandarin taster lessons to students in Year 7 and 8 again this year. These classes form part of our enrichment programme in languages. Sessions have been

running since October and because of increasing demand will continue until the end of the summer term.

The lessons run every Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and are free of charge. They are led by our new Mandarin teacher Miss Zhang, who is from China, accompanied by a member of the languages department. Lessons are predominantly language based with the main focus on learning to write and speak Mandarin, but also provide a fantastic opportunity to learn about Chinese culture and traditions. At the end of the school year students will have the opportunity to be entered for the HSK Level 1 entrance exam and achieve a language certificate for all their hard work.

Mrs Mercer, MFL Teacher

MFL BAKE OFF

On the 26 September 2019, the Modern Foreign Languages department celebrated the European Day of Languages by hosting the Marvellous MFL Bake-Off. The bake-off was organised so that KS3 could celebrate cultures and traditions from across the continent by baking European specialities. Cakes ranged from replicas of the Eiffel Tower and Colosseum to traditional Lithuanian cakes to Hungarian delights. With over 30 entrants from Year 7 alone, the day was a great success with Quinlan winning all three year groups (Year 7, 8 and 9). Despite Quinlan's

success, it was clear every single entrant had worked really hard and it was a very tough decision for the judges to decide a winner in each category.

In addition, there was a charity bake sale at lunchtime, which was supporting East African Playgrounds,



a charity that builds play areas for disadvantaged children in Africa. Our school's donation was put towards a project based in Uganda and this will help the children to develop a number of life skills, which without East African Playgrounds they would not have had the opportunity to do.

YOUNG SOLOIST OF THE YEAR 2019

This year, we launched an exciting new music competition in collaboration with the house system – the Young Soloist of the Year. I was overwhelmed by the response and eagerness from so many students to sign up, which is testimony to the calibre and quantity of talented musicians we have here at St Martin's.

On the evening itself, we began with the Junior Category, contested between eight of our students in Years 7-9 (two per house). After some excellent performances on

a variety of instruments, we were delighted to award 3rd place to Year 7 student Leah McGeoch with her rendition of 'Shallow' and 2nd place to Year 9 student Kiera Chatrath for her performance of Scott Joplin's 'Maple Leaf Rag'. In 1st place however was Year 9 student Katie Mollard, whose rendition of 'She Used To Be Mine' from the musical Waitress brought a tear to the eye of many audience members.

We then moved onto the Senior Category, again with eight participants but this time from Years

10 and above. Once more, the large audience were treated to an outstanding range of performances, and it was certainly not easy to choose a winner. However, we were very pleased to award 3rd place to Year 10 student Lucas Goulbourn with his guitar rendition of Jimi Hendrix's 'All Along The Watchtower', and in 2nd place it was impossible to separate Hayley Aubrey's version of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and Pedro Lourenco's own classical guitar composition (both Year 10). In 1st place was Year 11 student Tom Beck, whose trombone performance of 'The Acrobat' was so polished and professional it was difficult to distinguish him from a professional trombonist.

We were delighted to welcome Mr David Pickthall MBE as the guest adjudicator for the event, a highly experienced musician whose credits include Wallace and Gromit, the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. David's highly-tailored, specialist advice and feedback to the students will no doubt be invaluable for their future progress, and we are extremely grateful to him for his time.

Other thanks must go to my fellow teachers, Mr Williams and Mr Osborn, as well as the house system co-ordinator Miss Barrell, without whom this event would not be possible. Other thanks go to our invaluable AV Technician Mr Moseley and his student helpers Jack, Reggie and Oliver, who ensured the evening was smooth and seamless. Finally, my thanks go to all the other teachers who gave up their time to assist with refreshments, tickets and supervision. Looking forward to next year's event already!

Mr Harris, Head of Music



NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY FINALS



St Martin's U13 Girls' Cross County team have reached the National Finals of the English Schools 2019 Cup. In the first round of this annual competition, St Martin's competed at Felsted School in Dunmow. Here Saints dominated, their team coming first, over 30 points clear of second placed Newhall School.

The Regional Finals were held at Appleton School, Benfleet. Saints again performed brilliantly against an exceptionally strong field of runners from across Essex and Suffolk. There were some outstanding individual performances on the day from St Martin's with Amelia King 4th, Abigail

Swan 6th and Sienna Shipton 8th.

The Junior Girls' teams from St Martin's, Coopers Coburn (Upminster) and Southend High School for Girls took their place in the National Finals in Sheffield on 7 December.

Head of Girls' PE Mrs Lynne Swan said, "I am so proud of all our runners. The girls have been working extremely hard in training and to have 3 runners in the top 8 of a Regional event really demonstrates their commitment. This is the first time we have qualified for the National Schools Final having missed out by one place last year. I am delighted for them."

Pictured left to right - Henri McCarthy, Sienna Shipton, Abigail Swan, Amelia King, Sophie Willson and Daisy Marshall.

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL STARS

We are exceptionally proud of George Earthy and Freya Godfrey in Year 10 who both represent England in football. Freya recently attended an intense training camp at St George's Park while George played for the U16 national team beating Norway 2-1 and Scotland 2-1.



PRE JUNIOR ENGLAND GYMNASTICS TEAM

Paige Moroney 8B2 went to Thessaloniki, Greece to participate as part of the pre-Junior team for England. The team placed 2nd out of 19 teams. Paige placed 3rd on bars and 3rd on floor and came 5th overall. There were 12 countries that took part in the competition.

