



# NEWS & VIEWS

*Be The Best You Can Be*

Headteacher: Mr I Smyrk

Traditional Values

Learning for the Future

Outstanding Personal Achievement



## Headteacher's Comment

Good afternoon, I am delighted to announce this week's Headteacher's Gallery awards to Jonathan in Year 8 and Chindan in Year 9, well done! This week I have visited Shenfield St Mary's, Warley, Holly Trees and St Joseph the Worker Primary Schools to see their Year 6 students and answer any questions they had about coming to St Martin's school.



Headteacher's Gallery

Congratulations to:

**Jonathan Cap 8R2**

For being extremely courteous and helpful whilst carrying out his duty student role.

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Headteacher's Gallery

Congratulations to:

**Chindan Sivanesan 9H2**

For persevering during his German lesson and for demonstrating excellent grammatical skills.

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This week I also had the pleasure of attending the Young Soloist of the Year competition and it was great to see such amazing talent from the students who performed brilliantly and I was proud to be a part of such a wonderful evening. Thank you to everyone involved. Mr Harris, our Head of Music shares below some information and photos of the evening which I hope you will enjoy. Lastly, I now introduce Mr Morris, our resistant materials teacher who tells us about the students involved in STEM Club who have been designing cars for race day. Have a great weekend!



## STEM Club – Pinewood Derby Final

### STEM Club – Pinewood Derby Final

After a long wait from last year, STEM club came back with a bang this term. Students were given 3 weeks to finalise their car designs ready for race day last week, being judged on not only the speed of their car but also judged on build quality by Mr Smyrk!

The whole project was based on learning by trial and error, figuring out the most efficient design and weight distribution, combining science and maths skills. The cars were timed between two light gates and calculations were made to figure out the speed, with thanks to Mr Smith helping set this up and assist students in working out the best time/weight distributions. Congratulations to the overall winner Josh Freeman, with William Johnson taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tom Lambert in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done to all who took part.

Participating students in the final: Christopher Morris, Brynley Hare, Thomas Lamb, Sam Cross, Josh Freeman, William Johnson, Zack Cristescu and Tom Lambert.



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## Young Soloist of the Year 2021

We were thrilled to be able to host our first music event of the year on Wednesday evening, The Young Soloist of the Year Competition. This has now become a much-loved annual staple in the music department calendar and the atmosphere in the room was absolutely buzzing as the audience arrived to witness who would be claiming the coveted title.



The concept of the event is very simple, there are two categories, junior and senior. For each category, there are two representatives per house. Each participant receives a mark out of 30 for their performance, decided by our guest adjudicator. The performer in third place will receive five house points, second place ten house points and first place twenty points as well as the trophy.



We were delighted to welcome back Mr David Pickthall MBE to adjudicate the event for the third time. David's extensive musical CV and experience as an educator makes him the perfect person to offer advice and support to our young performers.

We started with our junior category, where we enjoyed excellent performances from Casey Lord, Alex Rebel, Alexa Camilleri, Alex Young, Darcy Herbert, Siobhan Seabrook, Poppy Logan and Elvie Squire.

However, there could only be one winner and huge congratulations to Alex Rebel, with his outstanding performance of Koetsier's *Romanza*. Next up was the senior category, with Lucas Goulbourn, Stephanie Wong, Isabella King, Isabella Bone, Eliza Kane, Will Beech, Emily Thomas-Scrine and Chris Willoughby showing us their talents. Our winner was Chris Willoughby with a stunning drum rendition of *Waving Through A Window* from Dear Evan Hansen.

These events are a huge team effort, so my heartfelt thanks go to all involved, from the student technical team of Jack and Timothy to my wonderful colleagues Mr Williams, Mr Bates and Mr Scates, not to mention all the staff helpers and our wonderful guest judge David. Already looking forward to next year!

**Mr Harris, Head of Music**



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