



NEWS & VIEWS

Be The Best You Can Be

Headteacher: Mr I Smyrk

Traditional Values

Learning for the Future

Outstanding Personal Achievement



Headteacher's Comment

Welcome back after the October half term, it has been a great return to school this week.

Next week we have the sixth form open evening on Wednesday, the Year 11 presentation evening on Thursday and St Martin's Day service at Brentwood Cathedral on Friday so we have a very busy week coming up to prepare for these events. As you are aware, school will be finishing early on Wednesday and due to the late start on Thursday 11 November please be advised we will be upholding the two minute silence for Remembrance Day at 12.23pm which is at the end of Period 3.

We have distributed another round of COVID-19 rapid flow tests today so please ensure to carry out regular twice weekly testing at home so we can minimise the spread of the virus in school.

I have pleasure in sharing with you the Year 12 Senior Leadership Team in Headteacher's Gallery. They showed outstanding teamwork in producing a fantastic school video about how some of our students view their futures. This video formed an invaluable part in our staff inset day before half term.



Finally, I now present as part of our support staff our IT Trust Manager Matt Calhoun who shares with you the importance of password security within our school network. Also, Year 12 students visited Emmanuel College before half term to see what life is like at university in Cambridge. Enjoy and have a great weekend!



IT Department

As well as spending half term making sure all St Martin's computers, projectors and printers were ready for use upon the students return after their break, IT Support have been looking closely at improving network security and ensuring that all our data across all 3 schools in the Trust is as robust as it can possibly be. This has involved ensuring all staff have a very strong password on their accounts; a minimum length is required plus capitals, numbers and symbols to bring it in line with the complexities expected when you use your bank and other services. We also ensure we have 2 copies of the whole network available, backed up from the previous day, should we need to recover any data.

An 'ethical hacking' exercise was undertaken over the summer. This replicates an actual cyber-attack allowing us to patch any weak points discovered. Happily, there were no issues!



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enquiries@st-martins.essex.sch.uk



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Emmanuel College Trip

Inspiring the Future, Emmanuel College Trip

On Thursday 21 October, 24 Year 12 students were invited to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to see what life as an Oxbridge student would be like should they choose this route. Emmanuel College is set in the heart of Cambridge and is a beautiful building, with lots of hidden open space inside the college. Students took part in a super curricular task, a tour of the college and grounds as well as having the opportunity to learn about the application process to Cambridge. After lunch, two current third year students answered a plethora of questions from St Martin's students, ranging from interest in societies, representation and diversity and what the food was like! A great experience and such an opportunity to actually visit and get a feel for the collegial system.



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