



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, congratulations to Daisy Goode and Julia Doherty in Year 11 who were awarded Headteacher's Gallery this week for their amazing commitment to coaching a Year 7 netball team. Well done!

Year 9 also had a civics enhancement day this week whereby a theatre group visited the school to perform a show based around gang violence and county lines. The Children's Society followed this up with presentations on the dangers of vaping and alcohol misuse.

In today's News and Views, we hear all about the World Book Day celebrations and a special visit from the children's author Chris Bradford from our Deputy Head of Faculty for English, Mr Griffiths.

Have a great weekend!



World Book Day – You Are The Reader!

World Book Day (WBD) celebrated its 25th year last Thursday and there was plenty going on throughout the week at St Martin's.

In form time, all Year 7 to 11 students were given a £1 WBD token to mark the occasion. This year's theme was 'You Are The Reader'. They also competed in a WBD themed quiz to win points for their respective houses.

On WBD itself, Miss Underwood delivered a special assembly promoting a love of reading and its vital role in helping students become better writers. Continuing that theme, all Year 7 and 8 English lessons on the day were devoted to our 500 word writing competition. For this, students were encouraged to use ambitious word choices and take inspiration from their favourite authors. At the time of writing, entries are still pouring into room S203, with the deadline set for Friday 25 March.

If that was not enough, we also ran 'word count' competitions across Years 7 and 8 throughout last week in a bid to find the most well-read English class in each year group. Any time a pupil finished a book and completed a quiz on it, the book's total word count was added to their class total. In Year 7 **EnLily** claimed top spot with a staggering 904,908 words read between them! Year 8, **EnBoyne** finished first after clocking up an impressive 882,192 words. Both classes will receive their prizes in class next week.

Speaking of prizes, the top three individual readers for World Book 'Week' at KS3 can also be revealed. In Year 7, **Harry Scammell** read 204,984 words, **Emilia Harvey** managed 186,542 and **Jacob Phillips** covered 169,441. They will be receiving book tokens for £15, £10 and £5 respectively. In Year 8, **Roshni Sangar** topped the charts with 183,840, **Dimitrios Tsatsa** came second with 169,441 and **Oleysa Borman** was third with 139,556. Book tokens are also on their way to this trio of avid readers. Well done and keep reading!



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'Young Samurai' author shows us his skills

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the acclaimed children's author Chris Bradford paid the school a visit on Tuesday 8 March.

Chris has been writing children's fiction for 14 years and is best known for his Young Samurai, Bodyguard and Soul series. A trained martial artist, he even brought some of his stories to life on the South Hall stage with samurai sword and self-defence demonstrations.

Year 7 students were first to hear from Chris, with a special two hour session arranged across periods 1 and 2. Our guest then very kindly signed posters and copies of his books throughout break time, before treating Year 8 to his one man show across periods 3 and 4. Still in demand, Chris continued signing autographs and posing for photos well into lunchtime before joining some lucky students for a 'Q&A' lunch in the library.

The enthusiasm from students at lunch, as well as during the extended sessions earlier in the day, was clear for all to see. Chris was bombarded with intelligent questions from the audience, ranging from 'How long does it take you to write one of your novels?' to 'How do you come up with the names for your characters?'

Who knows, perhaps we have some future children's authors in the making at St Martin's...? Watch this space!

Special thanks go to the school librarian, Mrs Peters, for arranging this unforgettable event.



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