



# 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, what an exciting end to the term we have had with Christmas concerts, Christmas dinners and Certificates of Honours being awarded to the students for their excellent achievements. Congratulations to Finley for his Headteacher's Gallery award, it was a real pleasure to meet him and hear all about how he went out of his way to help a member of our community, well done!



Headteacher's Gallery

Congratulations to:

**Finley Hutchins 11Q1**

For going out of his way to perform a great act of compassion towards a member of our local community.

*Be The Best You Can Be*

I now share with you our certificate from GCSE Pod where we have reached 5,000 downloads which is a tremendous achievement by students of all year groups. Also, below are some fantastic photos and news regarding the Christmas concerts held last week from our Head of Music Mr Harris.

Finally, please can I remind you to keep testing regularly at home during the holidays to minimise the risk of COVID-19. I wish you all a well-deserved peaceful and Merry Christmas!



## GCSE Pod



# Congratulations!

This is to certify that your school has reached

# 5,000

Pods streamed & downloaded so far this academic year



Brought to you by





The GCSE Pod team



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**Executive Headteacher: Mr R Duff**

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## Christmas Concert

After lots of virtual activity, much patience and plenty of preparation over the past 20 months, it was a true pleasure to finally be able to host our full-scale Christmas concerts last Wednesday and Thursday.

It really is true that good things come to those who wait, as last week we were treated to two perfect evenings of astonishing talent. After many months of inactivity, our extra-curricular ensembles made their triumphant return and over the two nights, we enjoyed performances from the Concert Band, Ukulele Ensemble (led by Year 13 Oliver Grimes), Guitar Ensemble, Junior and Senior Choirs, Brass Ensemble, Steel Pans Ensemble and Jazz Band. Our Year 12 and Year 13 A Level classes also gave polished performances showing what fine ensemble musicians they are, and I was particularly proud of our new Year 10 GCSE students who gave a large ensemble performance, many of whom were performing on the stage for the first time.

Accomplished solo performances were also in abundance across the two nights, with highlights across the two nights including Emily Thomas-Scrine, Alex Rebel, Evania Hand, George Ham, Alex Young, Noah Taylor, Isabella King, Georgia King, Ben Hart, Dara Towoba, Chris Willoughby, Eliza Kane, Claudia Burgess, Tasia Hand, Ella Abberley, Sophie Cross, Sienna Shipton and Jack Liddicott. It really is testimony to the strength of our students that we can have so many outstanding soloists perform live in front of such a large and appreciative audience.

I have always been a great believer in mass participation in events like these and passionately believe that all students have the right to an outstanding musical education and outstanding musical experiences. After all, the benefits to participating in music are endless; it assists with concentration, it is a vehicle for self-expression, it is a highly social activity and it speaks to people in an unmatched way when words are not sufficient. Without doubt, the best way young people can benefit from these advantages is to take part in music from as early an age as possible. So what better way to give students the opportunity to experience them than having all of our Year 7s taking part! The huge numbers of Year 7s that took part in the mass chorus across the two nights were an absolute credit to the school and we feel very privileged to have such a talented cohort, many of whom will make invaluable contributions to St Martin's Music in the years to come.

It has been an incredible start to the musical year at St Martin's. Boosted by the easing of pandemic restrictions, in the space of three months we have already welcomed exceptional new cohorts of Year 10 and Year 12 students, launched a new A Level in Music Technology, rolled out our largest ever programme of extra-curricular ensembles and crowned two new Young Soloists of the Year. Alongside this we have been on trips to Cadogan Hall and the Royal Hospital School, delighted a packed audience at Brentwood Cathedral for St Martin's Day, led many rehearsals for our upcoming production of 9 to 5 and welcomed a professional actress to lead a workshop on the smash-hit West End and Broadway musical Dear Evan Hansen. The sky really is the limit for St Martin's Music.

As ever, my most heartfelt thanks go to my incredible colleagues Mr Williams, Mr Bates and Mr Scates, without whom we would certainly be a mere fraction of the department we are. Both myself and the students are extremely lucky to have them. And most of all, my thanks go to you, the parents, who facilitate and support these events allowing them to be the success they are.

**Mr Harris, Head of Music**



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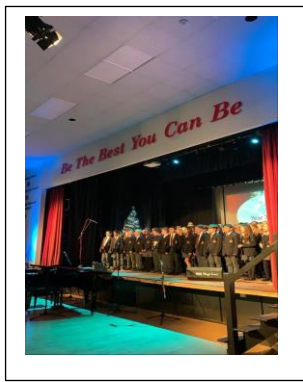
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## Chrimstas Concert Cont'd



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