



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

Welcome back, I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break!

As we start the summer term, lots of activities will be taking place over the next few months including trips, fixtures, exhibitions, music concerts and drama productions. We will be sending out a schedule in next week's News and Views to keep you updated with these events.

We also approach the last few weeks of Year 11 and Year 13 as they get ready for their upcoming exams and I know the teachers are working hard to prepare them for this. As you will be aware, we do have NEU strikes coming up next week and the week after and I will be writing to you all regarding the arrangements at the beginning of next week.

In this week's News and Views, please join me in welcoming our new Assistant Headteacher for sixth form, Mr Langley, it is a pleasure to be working with you and we wish you every success here at St Martin's. Finally, our Head of Years 12 & 13, Mrs Page, tells us all about the amazing Hollywood trip that took place over Easter. Thank you to all the staff who helped out on the trip I know the students had a brilliant time and were really appreciative. Have a good weekend.



New Assistant Headteacher for Sixth Form

"I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Sixth Form at St Martin's. I joined the school having previously been Assistant Headteacher in South London.

What has impressed me most in my short time at St Martin's has been the courtesy, work ethic and traditional values that the students display around school and in lessons. Whilst I will predominantly be working with the Sixth Form I will also be doing some work with students in lower year groups, considering careers progression, university and apprenticeships. I look forward to meeting you all at future events and joining in the continued bright future of the school and our students".

Mr D Langley – Assistant Headteacher



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Hollywood 2023

During the Easter Holidays the Drama and Music departments took 61 Year 9 and 10 students to Hollywood, Los Angeles for a life-changing and fun-filled, jam-packed week of activities.

Following a very long flight, our first full day was spent in beautiful Santa Monica. Students spent an hour cycling along the stunning Venice Beach and spent time on Santa Monica Pier. Dinner that evening was at the famous Bubba Gump's restaurant, with some of the students and staff winning prizes for their knowledge of the movie, *Forrest Gump*!

We travelled to two local theatres in LA during our time there, to take part in workshops led by professional actors and musicians working in Hollywood. Students were instructed on the techniques of improvisation, building characters and narrative. In both workshops, we had the opportunity to ask the instructors questions, and gained some insights into working in the Performing Arts industry in Hollywood.

Another highlight was our walking tour of Hollywood, we trod the Hollywood Walk of Fame – spotting celebrity stars, 'walked the red carpet' up to the Dolby Theatre – home of the Oscars, visited Grauman's Chinese Theatre with the cement-preserved hand and foot-prints and learnt about the history of Hollywood Boulevard from our tour guide. We also took a trip to Beverly Hills and walked the length of the iconic Rodeo Drive with its designer outlets and high-end fashion.

In stark contrast, the following day, we had an unforgettable experience at Union Rescue Mission. The Mission are one of LA's homeless charities in Skid Row and serve over 3000 meals a day to the homeless community. After six weeks of rehearsals at school, our students performed a Beatles medley at the Mission, during their food service to the many families under their care. The experience was incredibly moving with the poignancy of the lyrics not lost on the students or staff as we sang. *I Want to Hold Your Hand*, *Imagine* and *Hey Jude* were followed by Ella Abberley in Year 9 singing *Let it Be*. The families and Mission staff thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were very grateful that we had given so freely of our time to support the Mission.

A highlight for many students was spending a day at the world-famous Universal Studios Hollywood where we had time to explore the park, including Harry Potter World and the brand new Mario Land. The weather was perfect for going on rides and taking the Universal Studios Tram Tour ride which took us through the back lot of the adjacent studios.

On our final day, we toured Warner Bros Studio which took us through a variety of film sets including the streets used in movies such as *Annie* and *Spiderman*. We saw the inside of a soundstage and visited their exhibition which included memorabilia from the TV series *Friends*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Harry Potter*, *DC Superheroes* and *Game of Thrones*.

During the trip, students were able to earn their very own Hollywood Star for their actions on the trip. Our winning stars were awarded for demonstrating maturity, empathy, resilience and versatility at various stages of the trip. Our final award was an Oscar, presented to Keith Jellis. Keith fully embraced every part of the trip from his resilience in workshops, empathy during the Mission performance, to his maturity and positive attitude during the sightseeing tours.

The trip was truly unforgettable, from the friendships forged to the amazing memories created.

Mrs J Page
Head of Year 12 & 13



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Hollywood 2023 Cont.



Dates for the Diary

- 24.04.23 – Year 13 Controlled Music Assessments
- 25.04.23 – Year 11 GSCE Art Exam
- 25.04.23 – Year 13 A Level Performance Music Exam
- 26.04.23 – Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccinations
- 26.04.23 – Year 13 Controlled Music Assessments
- 26.04.23 – Year 11 GCSE Art Exam
- 26.04.23 – Year 13 EPQ Drop Down Day
- 26.04.23 – Lower School Production Rehearsals
- For PE fixtures please follow twitter @StMartinsSchPE or [click here](#) for further PE updates.



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