



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

As a school we are continually looking at how we can improve our safeguarding provision for all staff and students. A major step in this process was the installation of the school fencing which secures the school during the day. However, before school, the gates are currently open from very early in the morning which leaves the site vulnerable. Therefore, we are considering an opening time of the gates to students at 7.30am. If you feel this may cause an issue with your child's arrival to school please contact Mrs Killington at skillington@st-martins.essex.sch.uk so we can determine if this suggestion is appropriate going forward.

Since the start of term, the Grease rehearsals have been well underway for the upper school productions taking place on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February. For tickets please contact the Drama department.

In this week's News and Views, we share information from Parent Zone to join a live virtual session explaining everything you need to know about TikTok. Also, this week we hear all about the N-Act Theatre Company who visited our Year 8 and Year 9 students to perform their play 'invisible'.

Have a good weekend.

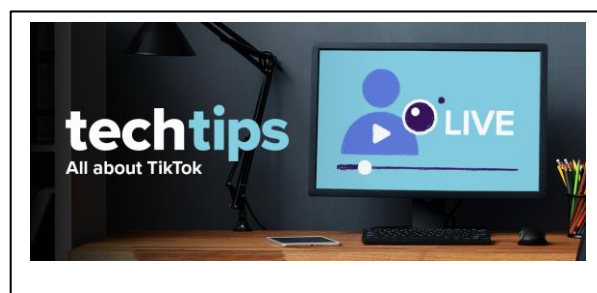


TikTok Virtual Session



Ahead of **Safer internet Day** we are raising awareness with parents of the fastest-growing social media platform, **TikTok**. We know that many parents have questions around how it works and how to help their child use it safely. That's why they are hosting a live and interactive workshop to provide you with all the 'need-to-knows.'

On 31 January 2023 at 4.30pm, you can join a virtual session explaining everything parents need to know about TikTok. This live-streamed event will cover functionality, settings and safety features – from the experts at Parent Zone. Head to www.parentzone.org.uk/tech-tips-live for more info.



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N-Act Theatre Company

We were delighted to welcome back N-Act theatre company last week, to perform their new play 'Invisible' to our Year 8 and 9 students, which touches on the topics of mental health and is based on a true story.

'Invisible' follows the story of Denny who has written a blog to his 12-year-old self, which he shares with the audience. Through a mixture of humour and pathos, we learn from his experiences when growing up. Denny's story makes the audience think about perception, stigma, how to recognise if someone is suffering, how students can help each other, and when to ask for professional help.

Students received information to signpost for further advice and follow up work will be completed in their PHSE lessons.

We are extremely grateful to the Youth Service for commissioning this project for schools.

