Traditional Values | **Learning for the Future** | **Outstanding Personal Achievement**

Headteacher's Comment

Good afternoon everyone,

It's been another busy week at St Martin's. Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the awards presentation for the current Year 12 to celebrate their successes from last year's GCSE results. The ceremony had to be cancelled originally for obvious reasons and due to restrictions this one was not as it would usually be. However, it was still a special occasion and a real pleasure to hear the wonderful citations about why each student earned their award and how special it is. It is always important to celebrate and acknowledge hard work, success and *Being The Best You Can Be……* Well done to everyone involved and congratulations!

This week we give you an insight into what Year 12 have been working on in their computer classes. Digital literacy plays an extremely important part in today's society and how it is continuously evolving. We also have some great work from our talented students in Art and Photography. Enjoy!

Computing Department

Year 12 have just finished working on the OOP paradigm and have been studying how the work of John von Neumann and Claude Shannon in the 1940s shaped how almost all modern-day computers function. In the abstract world of computers nothing is quite what it seems. This week we have been working to understand how **words** are transferred in **bits** via **busses**. Here are a few things we have discovered that all of us take for granted when we use our laptops and smart devices.
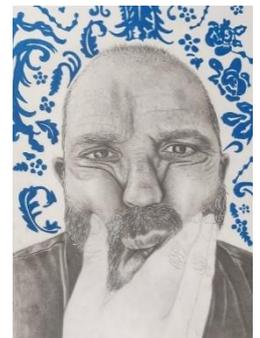
Data comes in different sizes, **bits**, nybbles, bytes. The smallest amount of data that can be sent or processed is a bit. Processors use three different **busses** (control, data and address) to move data around. Over the years, although processors' speeds have increased, bus capacity has grown and the size of a computer word may have changed. W**ords** are still measured in **bits** and transferred on **busses** just as it was envisioned by von Neumann in 1945!

Computer science is an ever-evolving field. Who knows what new advances in hardware and architecture, like GPUs and qubits will bring to the future?

Art & Photography Department

Over the past year, Art and Photography students in Year 11 and 13 have been working on their portfolios of work, which are now near completion. They have been working hard over the past two weeks on these final designs. Here are some photographs of our students' coursework.

Art & Photography Department Continued

Year 11 students are working on their GCSE Fine Art final pieces in class. From left to right, Elijah Ayomide Bello chose to work on the theme of architecture, while Oliver Cockerton chose to look at natural forms. Jasmin Sena works on her portrait final piece and Olivia Rothwell adds final details to her tropical palm painting for her natural forms coursework portfolio.

From left to right, Year 13 students Alana Heathfield, Sophie Milham and Jackson Coker are working on final pieces and designs for A-Level Fine Art. Work from other members of the class is displayed behind, showing the immense talent of the cohort.

Here, Year 13 Faye McKinnon has set up her final photoshoot in the studio. She will then edit and present these photographs as her Photography A-level final pieces. Faye has taken influence from fashion photographer Tim Walker who works with exaggerated sets and themes.