



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

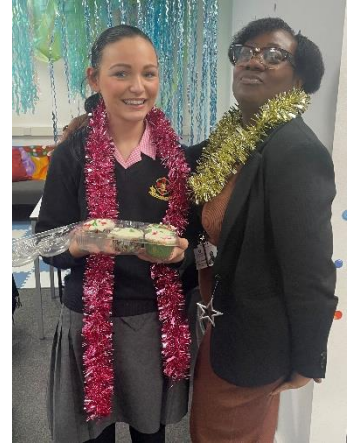
Headteacher's Comment:

Festive fun has begun in earnest this week with Christmas dinners and our 'wear something Xmas' day. This fund raiser supported our local SNAP Autism charity and added a bit of colour to the day. I would also like to thank Leah and Willow in Year 11 who treated Mr Duff and I to Christmas cakes, designed by our Prince's Trust pupils.

Congratulations to Amanda Moore who has been successfully elected as one of our Parent Governors and joins the team in the new year. Thank you to all the parents that put themselves forward and to those that took the time to vote.

A reminder that the school day finishes at 13.30 next Friday. I have recently been informed that the NIBS public buses are not running an early service. If your child usually uses this service and you require them to be in school up to the usual departure time, please can you inform your year team and we will put supervision in place.

Finally, our gifts and hospitality policy allow for small gifts should you wish to do so for any members of staff under the value of £25. For more information please click [here](#) for the DET Gifts and Hospitality policy.



Year 7 Stars in English National Ballet

Eva Ellis in Year 7 has been rehearsing with The English National Ballet in preparation for a brand-new production in London's West End, The Nutcracker opens at the London Coliseum on the 12 December and Eva will finish performing on Tuesday 31 December.

The Making of the Nutcracker will also be available to view on Sky Arts on the 9 December, which Eva has been filming at the same time as rehearsing.

Eva is not only a super talented dancer, she is part of our netball, basketball and football academies here at St Martin's. She works incredibly hard to manage her time effectively and is a reliable and committed team member! Well done Eva 🙌 We are very proud of you!



Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Duff
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St Martin's Christmas Concert, 4 & 5 December

Be The Best You Can Be



The Music Department held our annual Christmas concerts. There were representatives from every year group, in soloist and ensemble capacities, with performances on a variety of different disciplines. As is tradition at these concerts, one half of Year 7 performed at each concert, with excellent renditions of Sia's *Snowman* and Elton John's *I'm Still Standing*, and it was wonderful to see so many of them on-stage performing together. Each night also saw performances from some of our Music clubs: Senior and Junior Choirs, Flute Choir, Steel Pans Group, and the St Martins' School Band, as well as our Year 13 Class. We had a large number of pupils

signing up to perform, and those lucky enough to be selected in the draw completed the rest of the programme: **Poppy Summerhayes, Bianca Vaz Alves, Aurelia Young, Aria Edwards, Sajanth Suthagaran, Dreydon Ewan, Kaylah Stewart, Isla Giblenn, Loni Hand, Louise Percival, Holly Stoakley, Thomas Evans, Jack Newman, Phoenix Ward, Janelle Osaji-Okai, Senit Samuel, Holly Hawtree, Bobby Green, Tyler Chaplin, Cara O'Brien, Delphie Poole, Michael Timothy, Skye Fletcher, Eden Sanders, Dexter Sala Tenna, Leah McGoech, Erika Jones, Yevai Benyure, Jack Liddicott, Benji Copping and Elviene Squire.** As always there was a lot of work behind the scenes, therefore our first thanks go out to the pupils for their dedication, and the parents and carers who support them in their endeavours. Secondly to the group of staff who supported on both evenings to volunteer; selling tickets and refreshments, supervising pupils in our backstage areas, or playing violin in the School Band. Finally, a thanks to **Jack Liddicott**, Head of our student AV Tech team, **Mr Page**, our Performing Arts Technician, and all the peripatetic teachers - with **Mrs Leonard** giving up her evening to conduct and perform with the Junior Choir as well.

Thank you all for your support in making Music at St Martin's so successful. Wishing you all a restful Christmas and New Year. **Report by The Music Department**



Young Leaders Inspire

Our Year 10 GCSE PE pupils helped run a football tournament for 3 of our local primary schools last week. Their roles ranged from coaches, managers and officials. It was brilliant to see our pupils act as such positive role models, demonstrating life skills such as communication, empathy and leadership. Well done to everyone involved!

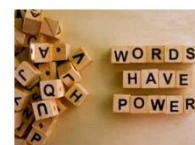


Dates for the Diary

- 16.12.24 – 17.12.24 – Year 11 PPE Art
Year 10 Speaking and Listening Assessment
- 17.12.24 – Year 7 Christmas Dinner
- 18.12.24 – Year 9 Christmas Dinner
Parent meeting Barbados trip
- 19.12.24 – Year 13 Christmas Dinner
- 20.12.24 - Early Finish for Pupils 13.25

For PE fixtures please follow twitter @STMartinsSchPE for further PE updates

Word of the Week Week 13 pioneering



adjective: introducing ideas and methods that have never been used before

Sentence: In 1969, the pioneering astronaut, Neil Armstrong, was the first man to walk on the moon.



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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Decembers Newsletter focusses again on the use of smartphones and social media and provides advice from Essex Police. There is also an article on managing your child's expectations on the run up to Christmas which some may find useful and whilst Christmas is a joyous occasion for most we do recognise that there will be those struggling with grief this year and so have provided a link for support and advice through the Winston's Wish website. Beacon house have resources for those struggling with anxieties and finally we have included why good attendance is important and some resources provided by Essex County Council on preparing for returning to school after the festive season.

Smart phones and social media

ESSEX POLICE - Sort your settings

Essex Police have launched their [Sort Your Settings](#) campaign. It provides parents and carers with essential safeguarding tips and advice on making online devices safer for children. The refreshed webpage now includes up-to-date information about new and popular online games and social media platforms. There is a step-by-step guide and advice on all aspects of online safety, including how to access parental controls, social media age restrictions, game age ratings, chat settings, and more.

Link to web page: [Sort your settings | Essex Police](#)

Link to main video: [Sort your settings video](#)

You can also access more information about online safety through CEOP here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

Social media

Source: Guardian

Date published: 30 November 2024

The Guardian has published a news story on research into harmful content on social media. The research, carried out by Digitalt Ansvar, examined whether Meta has improved its processes for moderating and removing harmful content. The researchers created a private self-harm network on Instagram and found that no images were removed in the month-long experiment. The study highlighted issues around the Instagram algorithm and the spread of self-harm networks.

Read the news story: [Instagram actively helping spread of self-harm among teenagers, study finds](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Online harms: protecting children and young people](#)



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Family life:

Managing your child's expectations at Christmas – Christmas is one of the most expensive times of the year and often parents feel the pressure of providing things when they can least afford them. Family Action has provided a useful self help guide on how to manage your child's expectations. They also provide help on how to get your child back to school after the festive season. For more information, please see here:

<https://family-action.org.uk/self-help/how-to-manage-expectations-of-children-at-christmas/>

Whilst we wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas, we do recognise that there are some who may be struggling with grief and don't necessarily feel like celebrating. Winstons Wish provide help and support that need it and their website can be accessed here:

<https://winstonswish.org/grief-at-christmas-common-questions-asked-parents/>

Resources specially designed by therapists at Beacon House to support regulation, connection and rest during December.

Download for free here and share with family and friends so everyone can access what they need during this busy time.

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

Great attendance

Here at St Martins, we want all students to achieve their full potential and part of that is our drive to improve attendance. Good attendance not only affects grades but improves resilience, social skills and emotional wellbeing. Essex County Council have produced a poster to encourage better attendance as well as signposting some self help if your child is struggling:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/good-school-attendance-can-support-your-future>

Merry Christmas from the Safeguarding and Pastoral Team

