



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.



Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster



Headteacher's Comment:

The Christmas dinners and Honours assemblies mark the end of 2024 at St Martin's School. Over one thousand certificates have been awarded in the last two days for attendance, Satchel points, subject efforts and achievements. A special mention must go to the young people that performed at the assemblies in front of their peers, which takes real courage. I am so impressed with their talent and confidence. One example is Bobby Green, who is pictured opposite on the guitar in his solo performance.

Pupils return on Monday 6 January 2025 at the usual school time of 08.25. We are expecting the weather to start to turn, therefore please ensure pupils have access to appropriate outer layers and/or the school V-neck jumper if required.

Have a lovely Christmas break and New Year; I look forward to welcoming the community back in 2025.



Festive Fundraiser

Last Friday we hosted a Christmas Charity Fundraiser. We asked pupils to come in wearing festive accessories or a Christmas jumper with their uniforms. The pupils looked incredible! Furthermore, we were able to incorporate it with the annual Christmas jumper day that the Sixth Form team run every year. We were raising money for SNAP, a local charity that helps people with disabilities and additional needs. The funds are being counted by SNAP themselves, but we know that the Sixth Form themselves managed to raise over £100!



Brentwood District Champions

Our Year 7 girls are Brentwood District Sport Hall Athletics Champions beating AES, BCHS and Shenfield on track & field! The whole team performed brilliantly, only dropping 2 points out of the total available to take the title. We can't wait to compete at the County Finals in March! #HigherFasterStrongerTogether



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St Martin's Alumni

Last Wednesday, St Martin's welcomed back alumni Emmanuel Abiola, for our latest careers talk. Emmanuel left St Martin's in 2016 and has since qualified as a doctor in Bulgaria. He now works at Broomfield hospital as a Junior Doctor. Emmanuel was able to inspire not only future medics, but also pupils considering to studying abroad. He gave current Sixth Formers advice on studying and gaining work experience and also answered any questions.



Year 7 Boys through to last 32 in National Cup

Congratulations to our Year 7 football team for the impressive 2-1 victory over East Bergholt High School. This win secured their place into last 16 of the National Cup.

The match was highly competitive, and with just 10 minutes remaining, they found themselves trailing 1-0. However, **Luke Hanreck** making his debut, equalised the score to 1-1 pushing the game into extra time.

The final four minutes, **Joel Mazungunye** who came on as a substitute, scored the decisive goal bring the score 2-1.



The team: **Zack Atkins, Charlie Waller, Eden Ojo, Conor Folan, Maximus Elliot, Bertie Todd, Arthur Higgins, Seb Garwood-Bond, Joshua Hercules, Jacob Mansell, Blake Palmer**, all showcased excellent defensive skills and demonstrated outstanding game management throughout the match.



Dates for the

- 06.01.25 – Return to school Week A
- 08.01.25 – BTEC Sport Fitness Training and Programming
BTEC Business Unit 2
- 09.01.25 – BTEC Business Unit 2
Year 11 Parents' Evening in person
- 10.01.25 – BTEC sport Unit 1
BTEC Health and Social Care

Word of the Week
Week 14 Yuletide



noun: the period around Christmas

Sentence: Preparations for Yuletide started as early as September!

For PE fixtures please follow twitter @STMartinsSchPE or [click here](#) for further PE



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10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, career and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly released by National Cyber Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, visit our page: www.thenationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family parties to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1. MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays. Increased screen time can lead to cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Educators should monitor student activity and encourage digital literacy. Parents should use parental controls and encourage children to report any concerning content. Educators should encourage students to use strong passwords and avoid sharing personal information online.
- 2. PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The excitement of holiday lights, candles and incense can increase the risk of fires. Educators should ensure that fire extinguishers are accessible and that students know how to use them. Parents should ensure that children are not left alone with candles or incense.
- 3. CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in increased road traffic. Educators should encourage students to use seatbelts and avoid drinking and driving. Parents should ensure that children are not left alone in a car.
- 4. BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often include many foods that may cause allergic reactions. Educators should ensure that students with allergies are safe to eat. Parents should ensure that children are safe to eat at holiday parties.
- 5. PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and increased indoor gatherings can increase the spread of viruses like the new COVID-19. Educators should encourage students to practice good hygiene and avoid close contact with others. Parents should ensure that children are not exposed to sick contacts.
- 6. STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic highlights the risk of accidents. Educators should encourage students to use seatbelts and avoid drinking and driving. Parents should ensure that children are not left alone in a car.
- 7. MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Holiday decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if misused. Educators should ensure that students are safe to use decorations. Parents should ensure that children are not left alone with decorations.
- 8. SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some kids and parents can get excited about shopping, buying gifts or sending cards. Educators should encourage students to be respectful and avoid bullying. Parents should ensure that children are not pressured to buy or receive gifts.
- 9. ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday preparations can lead to burnout, which affects both parents and children. Educators should encourage students to take breaks and avoid overexertion. Parents should ensure that children are not overworked.
- 10. DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about driving and supervision. Educators should encourage students to avoid drinking and driving. Parents should ensure that children are not exposed to alcohol.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a national health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in providing safety and community safety. Specializing in risk assessment and safety management, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

The National College

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The holiday season is fast approaching! 🎅
While we hope you're excited to kick back, relax, and enjoy some well-earned rest with friends and family, it's still vitally important that we do all we can to safeguard the children and young people in our care over the festive period 📺

However, it can be tricky to know what specific steps we can take to ensure our winter break is as calm and risk-free as possible, which is why we've put together this week's free guide. Check out our expert advice on keeping youngsters safe over the festive season 🍷🛡️

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