



NEWS & VIEWS

Be the best you can be.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Jamie Foster

Headteacher's Comment:

Preparing our pupils for the workplace is an important part of their journey, and we strive to equip them with the skills and experiences they need to succeed. I am pleased to share that this year we have combined our Year 5 Day with 'Take Your Child to Work Day' for Years 7, 8, and 9. This event will take place on Friday 4 July, while our current Year 10 pupils are on their work experience placements. For those in Years 7, 8, and 9 who are unable to secure a placement, virtual work experience or online work will be set to complete at home. More details will be shared soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and pupils that mobile phones and Air Pods should not be used during the school day and will be confiscated if seen on site. This policy is in place to ensure pupils remain focused on their learning and fully engaged in school life. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this message at home.

As always, we remain committed to fostering a positive, respectful, and ambitious learning environment. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us achieve this vision.

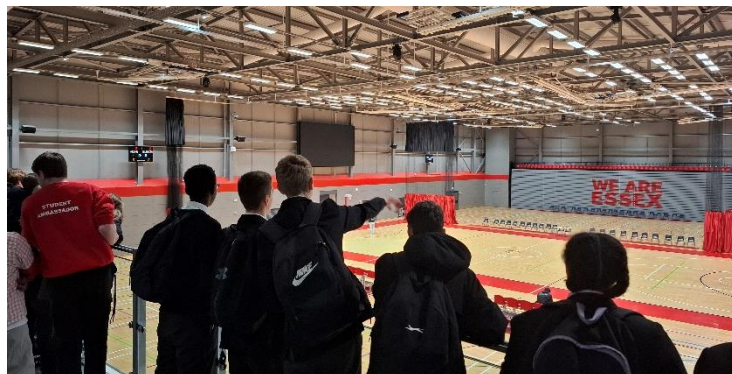
This week's Headteacher award goes to Roshan Sangar in Year 8, for successfully completing his advertisement project with excellent sound effects in music. Demonstrating outstanding dedication and precision, he meticulously aligned over 50 sound effects with the video, ensuring perfect synchronization. Well done!

Our Make a Difference award this week goes to Miss E Stokkerit for the support she provides staff and pupils.



Year 9 Visit to Essex University

On Wednesday 18 March 2025, Year 9s visited Essex University for a taster day. Whilst at the Campus, pupils had a guided tour by a Student Ambassador, listened to a talk about student life and attended a session on revision skills. The day was designed to open students' eyes to further education opportunities and in turn inspire and motivate them to apply themselves as they start their GCSEs in September.



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Visit by Chris Bradford, Author

This week, Years 7 & 8 had the opportunity to see the world famous and award-winning author Chris Bradford. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience which had them on the edge of their seats, from the beginning, through to the end!



Chris is also a trained bodyguard and he gave pupils some examples of the protection moves described in his book and then asked for pupil volunteers to try out the moves for the protection duty scene.

Pupils enjoyed watching their Head of Year and the Deputy Headteacher being manhandled from the stage. Some pupils gave their feedback and commented; *'The start made me jump and laugh, I wasn't expecting such a good time'*; *'It was cool seeing all the bodyguard training he had to learn to write the brilliant books'*. Well done to all the pupils who took part, they were amazing and very well behaved.



Year 13 Drama and Theatre Students performance

Last week, the Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students delivered an outstanding performance of *A Comedy About a Bank Robbery*, along with their monologues for their Component 2 A-Level exam.

The students showcased exceptional talent in front of an audience of family, friends, and fellow drama students, who thoroughly enjoyed the comedic performance.

The drama staff could not have been prouder of their remarkable achievement.



★ U14 Essex Cup Netball Finalists

Our U14 Girls are through to the Essex Cup Netball Finals! We played an exciting Semi-Final match v Brentwood School this week ending in a 33-27 win to SAINTS. The whole team played brilliantly and have worked exceptionally hard in training at our Elite Netball Academy all season. The girls have had some outstanding results on their way to the final, including notable wins against Southend High School for Girls and Woodlands. Our Year 7 Girls were unfortunately knocked out in their Essex Cup Semi-Final game, in an extremely closely contested match v Fitzwimarc School (Rayleigh). In the last ¼ there were just 2 goals in it, but this year we will have to settle for bronze medals. The U14 Final takes place on Thursday 27 March at Newhall School. Good luck girls. We are already very proud of you!



★ Year 7 Girls top of the table at Regional Athletics

Our Year 7 boys and girls had their first experience of competing for St Martin's in indoor athletics at Lee Valley last week. Our girls A team topped the table coming 1st out of 23 teams and our girls B team came a fabulous 11th! This is a remarkable achievement, as it is a Regional level Competition. We are really looking forward to the finals, which will be held on 26 March

#Going4Gold #HigherFasterStrongerTogether



★ Year 12 Study Skills Day

This week, Year 12 students had an excellent opportunity to participate in a 'Bright Futures Workshop' with Study Skills Zone, where they explored revision strategies and study skills in preparation for their upcoming PPE exams. They received guidance on using techniques like Cornell notes, flashcards, and revision plans, as well as tips on interview skills and teamwork. The students found the day to be highly successful and incredibly valuable.



★ Brentwood Gazette Reports on Sixth Form Revision

Revision techniques shared with school's sixth formers

SCIENTIFICALLY-PROVEN revision techniques are being shared with sixth formers to boost results.

St Martin's School, in Hanging Hill Lane, Brentwood, is working with Study Skills Zone to support Year 12 and 13 students to learn independently.

Based on the work of leading educators, psychologists, memory champions and authors, the Bright Futures programme gives young people a toolbox of revision strategies and self-management skills.

Graham Samuels joined the school last month as deputy head teacher with responsibility for the sixth form.

He immediately set about helping students to dig deep and find the information they have already stored and to teach them ways to retain further knowledge to support them with their learning.

He said: "As a student, I had lots of notes and did not know what to do with them. I found myself focusing on things I already knew and writing

that out again and again which was not effective. Students do that and hope the information is going in.

"These workshops tap into cognitive science around revision, with proven methods around what we do with study notes and how to prepare for mastery across different topics."

Mr Samuels, and the workshops, focus on the Five Rs of Review, Reformat, Reduce, Recall and Repeat.

Within each R are ten to 20 ideas of how to improve your revision technique.

Mr Samuels said: "I am keen to work with our students to add value to their outcomes. I want to see more structure to their revision.

"The aim is to embed study skills systematically throughout their two years in sixth form. In fact, we want to even start that before Year 12, so there is a gradual progression from Year 7 onwards.

"We want to be constantly upskilling students to make the best use of their free time."



Students at St Martin's school in Brentwood, are being helped with their revision skills



Dates for the Diary

- 24.03.2025 – Year 13 A level Business Grade Booster Trip
- 25.03.2025 – Year 12 BTEC National Business Unit 3 Booster Trip
Year 11 Beauty Room Brentwood Networking Breakfast
- 26.03.2025 – Spring Concert
- 27.03.2025 – Barbados Meeting 17:00 South Hall
- 28.03.2025 – Year 11 Edexcel GCSE Grade Booster
Year 9 Ypres 2025 Trip

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

Word of the Week
Week 24 gregarious



adjective: someone who enjoys the company of other people.
Sentence: Tom's gregarious personality made it easy for him to get to know people at the party.



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