



Focus on personal development and academic excellence in a happy school

THE GEOFF MORGAN BUILDING



Who is Geoff Morgan? He was a governor at St Martin's School for over twenty seven years and was the chair for three years. His children were educated at the school and after he retired he donated, via the rotary club, the defibrillator which now stands in the school's reception ready in case there should be an emergency.

The opening of the building was a significant improvement in the facilities for the English and mathematics departments. The old portocabins had gone well past their useful life. Their replacement was put off every year for many years as the school's budget was squeezed and other more pressing priorities were given the green light.

The school's conversion to an academy on 1 July 2011 meant that the budget which had previously

been top sliced by about 10% by the local authority was delegated directly to the school. This meant that in the first year an additional sum of £800,000 was received. The governors wisely decided to use this as capital and save this for the portocabin's replacement.

Architect's drawings for the replacement building of 12 classrooms as an extension to the south building estimated the cost at £1.7m. The school applied for a capital grant for the difference and was successful in obtaining that grant in August 2012.

The building was started in June 2013 and handed over just before the academic year ended. This meant that the classrooms were able to be fitted out in time for the start of this academic year.

The school has gained eight new classrooms and the knock on effect has been that it has enabled us to convert two of the old English classrooms adjacent to the canteen into a new dining area for Year 10 and 11. This will increase the capacity of the dining facilities making the queuing times for students shorter.



LOWER SCHOOL SPORTS AWARDS EVENING 2013-14



The achievements of young sporting stars at St Martin's School were recognised at our annual Lower School Sports Awards evening. 2013-14 was an exceptionally successful year of sport at St Martin's School. Three girls teams made it through to National Finals and four girls teams won their respective Essex Cup competitions.

Proud families watched as some 400 students were honoured in the presentations. Each student received a certificate listing the sports in which they had been involved throughout the year. These included ; Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Cross-Country, Football, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Swimming and Tennis.

The second half of the evening featured over 70 trophies being awarded to students who achieved 'Player of the Year' status by Brentwood Mayor, Cllr Vicky Davies and Essex Cricketer Thomas Moore.

The most committed students in each year group were also honoured with a special award. In Year 7 Grace Layzell and Cameron Tredgett were recognised. In Year 8 the awards went to Eleanor Potter and Max Bolton. The Year 9 recipients were Rebecca Dyball and James Elson.

The Young Volunteer of the Year award went to 16 year old Amy Renaut for her exceptional commitment to coaching lower school dance and cross country.

A very special trophy was awarded for outstanding dedication to lower school rugby. Sam Walls was proud

to receive the 'Lewis Frazer Memorial Trophy', from last year's winner Cameron Scott, who delivered an extremely moving speech.

The evening concluded with the 'Overall Contribution' awards being given to the boy and girl deemed to have been the most influential sports persons in the lower school. Rosie Andrews and Titas Bielskis were worthy and popular winners, having been instrumental in many of the school's successes over the past three years.

Head of Girls' PE Mrs Swan, who organised the event, took time to thank her dedicated PE team and the fantastic support provided by parents.



Most committed year 7 award winners Cameron Tredgett & Grace Layzell. Most committed year 8 winners Eleanor Potter and James Elson. Most committed year 9s Rebecca Dyball and Max Bolton (absent from picture). Overall Key Stage 3 contribution winners Megan Andrews & Titas Bielskis.



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2014 ST MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

I am pleased to announce the names of the winner and runner-up for the St Martin's School Christmas Card Competition for 2014. Yasmine Hisham (Year 11) won first place for her beautifully crafted winter landscape with snowman, while Kylan Casey (Year 11) came runner-up with his experimental painting of a Christmas tree. Both students are current Art and Design GCSE students and produced work that compliments the standard of their current coursework. Congratulations to the winners and I hope you have a safe and happy Christmas holiday.

Ms Powell, Head of Art



2014 SUMMER EXHIBITION

The annual St Martin's Arts and Technology exhibition was held on 1 July 2014. The exhibition demonstrated the high-level of skill and dedication of our Arts and Technology students. Kayleigh-Jean Mills, current Year 13 who was a part of the Textiles exhibit, said the exhibition "was exciting due to the talented work of all



students involved as well as the buzzing atmosphere created by parents and students alike." Alongside the GCE and GCSE student displays, attendees enjoyed canapés created by the Food Technology sixth form students. This is in addition to the Textiles fashion show, which profiled GCE and GCSE garments, including corset and dress making. All proceeds of the event went to Cancer Research and raised almost £200.00.

Ms Powell, Head of Art

ELLEN HARDIE YEAR 9

St Martin's student Ellen Hardie along with Livvy Palmer, both 13, are members of The Angels Dance School. Ellen won first place in the set dance at the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance, in Disco, Freestyle and Rock and Roll, National Grand Finals last week. She also came first with her dance partner Livvy in the Rock and Roll category.

Teacher Claire Blome, said: "Ellen is extremely talented. A couple of years ago, she went to a big dance competition, where she was scouted and won a scholarship to the Urdang Academy in London, she has been attending the dance school each Saturday for the past year. We are now trying to get another scholarship for her. Disco hasn't got the best name but it is really good at teaching space presence. She has done so well. There were a few happy tears after they won."

Ellen's most recent achievement was on Sunday 12 October, when she competed in the I.S.T.D National Grand Finals for Dance in Guildford, she had to qualify at a regional competition held in January to gain a place. The following Sunday she came first in the country in three out of four of her events, which were Disco Pairs and Rock and Roll (both of which she danced with a partner) and finally a set dance which was solo.

The fitness training and behind scenes practice is a gruelling regime. The girls deserve high praise for their commitment to their love of dance. Well done and keep it up.



YEAR 11 GCSE RESULTS DAY

Congratulations to all our Year 11 students on another excellent set of GCSE results.

73% of our students achieved 5A* to C grades with English and Maths included and 100% of students achieved 5A*-G.

25% of all grades awarded were at A* or A and some exceptional performances included Matthew Callow and Christina Coyle who achieved 10A* grades; Rebecca Olson 8 A* and 3 A grades; Emma Pallett 7A* and 5 A grades; Susannah Deacon 6A* and 4 A grades; Lilli Cerulli 6A* and 5 A grades; Lucy Johnson 6 A* and 3 A grades and Kwabena Adu-Poku who achieved 1 A* and 9A grades.

All of the results received are testimony to the hard work and determination of St Martin's students and staff.



SUMMER 2014 A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

Congratulations to all our Year 13 students on their A level results.

This year, 45% of our students gained A*-B grades with 19% gaining A*-A grades, both an increase on the previous year.

Some students achieved outstanding results, and these included Alex Thornton (A*A*A*), Aurimas Kudzinskas (A*A*A*), May-Li MacKinnon (A*AA), Stanley McCarthy (A*AA), Helen Jones (A*A*A*), and Beth Hinchcliffe (AAA).

The students worked extremely hard to prepare for their examinations and their results reflect their hard work and determination. St Martin's staff wish all students the best of luck whether they are now in employment or at university.

Mrs S Howells, Head of Sixth Form



ST MARTIN'S DAY SERVICE

This was the first year that the St Martin's Day service was held in Brentwood Cathedral. The venue was welcoming and spacious for the congregation that consisted of over 500 people, this included students from Years 7 and 13, parents, staff and dignitaries. Mr James, Deputy Headteacher conducted the service which was themed 'Pursuing the Goal', as St Martin's School continues to endorse its outstanding status. There were readings from Mrs Corbett Deputy Headteacher, Chris Plume Chair of Governors, Year 13's Headboy and Headgirl, who told us the story behind Saint Martin and finally our youngest Year 7 students reading their own interpretation of the ethos behind his message.

It was a poignant service as attending was Mr John Morgan, (father of our retired governor Mr Geoff Morgan) who was celebrating his 100th birthday, this tied in with the 100th anniversary of the Great War which was on everyone's mind.

Thank you to Father Martin Boland, Dean of the Cathedral for allowing us to use this beautiful venue which we hope will become a familiar tradition.



YEAR 12 PATHWAYS DAY 2014

On 2 July Year 12 students had a day dedicated to preparing them for life after sixth form. Thanks to all the staff and visitors that offered their time and expertise on the day. The Year 12 students had sessions on UCAS applications, tips on personal statements and applying to university.

Students also complete sessions to support them in car maintenance and safety (thanks to the AA), first aid and cooking on a budget.

Mr Peacock, Head of Year 13



YOUNG UMPIRES

Miss Jackson's Year 10 PE group were all entered for the Rounders Preliminary Umpires Award. All the girls passed and have been asked to umpire for the National Schools Primary Rounders Competition hosted at Felsted School. The England rounders staff were delighted with our girls' enthusiasm, knowledge and manner in which they conducted themselves. They said they were the best young umpires they had worked with. Miss Jackson described the group as a credit to the school.



WATER POLO



This summer marked a momentous occasion for St Martin's School and the P.E department as we sent our first ever Water Polo squad to compete in a game against Moulsham High School. After some training in Year 10 lessons and a small amount of afterschool training

sessions, our team consisting of Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 students went to Moulsham hungry for an initial victory. Splitting the teams in two to play two quarters each, they were led by Max Dawson (currently training locally in Basildon as well as under recruitment by GB) and Hannah Parkinson (Chelmsford Squad and Co-Coach of the St Martin's team) the teams worked hard battling Moulsham throughout. We started well with an early lead but fell back with the Moulsham team catching up. By the last quarter we were equal 8 – 8. Out of nowhere, the St Martin's team scored goal after goal to bring it to a clear win of 16 – 8. The team played hard and did the school proud with excellent sportsmanship. Man of the Match went to James Macpherson for being an outstanding team player making excellent passes, scoring a number of goals as well as being a key member of the defensive team, stopping a comeback from Moulsham on a number of occasions. Well done St Martin's, an excellent start to Water Polo at the school.

Miss Barnes (Coach), Teacher of Drama

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Here are some pictures of St Martin's girls, football teams in the Southend Community Cup, a competition entered by 15 different schools across Esse. Both teams played to an excellent standard with the Year 8 girls coming runners up, unfortunately narrowly losing the finals on penalties.

Miss H Jackson, Director of KS3



CHANCE TO SHINE

As a result of St Martin's involvement in the "Chance to Shine" cricket campaign, we were granted the opportunity to attend a day's play at Chelmsford County Ground to watch Essex v Glamorgan.

30 girls attended the trip as a reward for their excellent commitment to extra-curricular activities. As well as watching our County in action the girls got to record commentary of the game, showing off their skills on the outfield during the lunch break and met former St Martin's student Tom Moore who made his debut for Essex earlier that week. Head of Girls' PE, Mrs Swan who organised the trip said "Tom was an excellent all rounder at school, representing St Martin's in swimming, athletics, rugby, football, basketball and of course cricket! It was wonderful for the girls to spend some time with him and opening batsman Jaik Mickleburgh."

Mrs Swan, Head of girls' PE



ST MARTIN'S GIRLS NET THE TOP SPOT

The St Martin's School U14 netball team, were celebrating as they qualified in pole position to the County round of the National Schools Cup Competition.

The first round of the annual competition is divided into districts, St Martin's playing in the Mid-Essex rally, held at Brentwood School. The top four teams from each of the district competitions go on to play on Sunday 16 November at Newhall School.

Saints played exceptionally well in their group stage beating Chelmsford County High School 7-2, Shenfield 8-3 and William de Ferrers 17-2.

The girls went on to defeat Great Baddow Sports College 13-10 in an exciting semi final match.

The final saw our girls defeat Boswells School, Chelmsford, 9-6 to take the top place in the competition.

Mrs Swan, Head of Girls' PE, said: "Netball is an extremely popular sport in the Mid Essex district and many schools have achieved County, Regional and National success. Our girls have worked exceptionally hard as an U14 squad, continuing their training in the summer term to work out our best combinations. This versatility proved to be crucial when our starting goal shooter fell in the warm up and was unable to participate in the rally. The girls really stepped up their game in response to this and thoroughly deserve their top slot in the County round."



ESSEX PLATE CRICKET SEMI FINALISTS



Congratulations to last year's Year 8 boys cricket team who were unlucky to lose out in the Essex Plate Semi Final in July by just 3 wickets. The boys set a competitive score of 96 runs on a slow out field for Lister Community School to chase down. With some excellent bowling from Matt Hills and smart wicket keeping from debutant Dan Game, St Martin's had taken 3 wickets in the first 5 overs and looked destined for the final. Unfortunately, it was not to be with the next batsmen scoring over 60 of their runs as Lister made 98 runs with 8 balls to spare. The boys played an exciting game and walked away as excellent sportsmen.

Mr Roberts, Teacher of PE

YEAR 10 SPORTING SUCCESS



The cricket team progressed to the quarter finals of the Essex Cup losing to the Felsted School who had won the National competition the preceding season. However, Captain Alex Tredgett rallied the players in the Mid-Essex final with a Man of the Match performance worthy of winning the competition. Alex and Harry Palmer scored just under one hundred runs between them to secure the cup in their final match for St Martin's School.



The Year 10 teams continued their success, winning both the Mid-Essex Rugby competition, beating William De Ferrers and, in the Essex Plate competition, beating King Edward Grammar School. In addition the team progressed to the later stages of a National competition, finally losing to Felsted School in a hard fought match. Captain James Hutcherson and vice captain Harry Swailes led by example, controlling large parts of the game from back row and centre respectively. Max Kyle has been one of the players of the season in the pack showing the physical strength and self discipline that has been a corner stone of the team's success.

Mr Foster, Director of KS4

BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In addition to being a key part of the St Martin's basketball team, three Year 10 students, Titus Bielski, Dan Pugh and Joseph Willis are part of the National League Brentwood Fire Team which, for the first time in their history, won the National Championship earlier this year. After a season where they were unbeaten, they overcame tough opponents Manchester Magic in the semi final and ended with a resounding victory against Worthing Thunder in the final by 85-65, putting in a strong final quarter to win by a comfortable margin. This is an excellent achievement for our students who can now proudly say they are National Champions.



OUTSIDE LIGHTS

Installed during the summer holidays new flood lighting to our Multi use games area and Tennis/Netball courts gives greater opportunity for after school sports and community use.



THE TRENCHES



On the dark, rainy windswept morning of 24 October 2014 fifty Year 9 students, 4 members of staff and two battlefield guides departed

from St Martin's School to visit the battlefields of the Great War. Our expert guides took us first to Lijssenthoek Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium. Among the most poignant graves were those of the Chinese Labour Corp, who were employed by the British Army to clear up the battlefields when the war was over. Next we went to Poperinghe where we visited the tiny courtyard of the Victorian Town Hall. This was base HQ for the Army during the war inside were the cells and the firing post where British troops were executed for cowardice. We then followed the well worn paths of Tyne Cot and Langemarck cemeteries. It is at these places, with their endless white headstones or dark bronze mass graves, that the huge scale of the fighting and the killing during WW1 is most evident.

That evening, with the rain falling gently through the open sky lights, students laid a wreath at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This gate commemorates 54, 896 men who are missing, 34595 names are recorded at Tyne Cot. Every day since 1928 the local authorities sound the last post at 8pm. If it was sounded for every name on the gate, it would take another 74 years.

Saturday morning found us heading south of the Somme. We visited the Sheffield Park Memorial, a piece of

preserved ground where the 'Accrington Pals' fought. Here we saw the 'iron harvest' the debris of battle that is still dug up by farmers. We also visited Lochnagar Crater, the memorial to the Tank Corp, the Ulster Tower, and most poignant of all, Newfoundland Park. It was here the Newfoundland Regiment was wiped out on the first day in the Battle of the Somme. The battlefield, now grassed over, has been otherwise preserved exactly as it was on that day. A lone, shattered tree marks the spot where many Newfoundlanders fell.

Our pilgrimage ended at the Theipval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. As we approached Lutjen's monumental arch, the weak autumn sun fell upon the red English bricks that would have reminded so many soldiers of home.

Overall students felt this was an insightful and enriching experience at a time when the Great War is present in all our thoughts.

Mr. I Hagger, Head of History



WORLD CHALLENGE 2014 SOUTHERN TANZANIA



Back in May 2012 I held an assembly with the theme of 'Challenge', little did I know what an epic adventure I would start.

Twenty eager Year 12 students were soon whittled down to 17 after the mammoth task that lay before them was unveiled. They had to fundraise £2600 if they wanted to get to Tanzania. A team mentality was quickly established and they worked together with events like selling roses for Valentine's Day in school and Sainsbury's bag packing outside of school. Then came the individual efforts such as Naomi's wonderful cabaret night and Matt, Dom and Alex's Race Night. There were quizzes and card selling, raffles and candy canes, but through it all, they maintained their focus on their A levels.

The summer of Year 13 was looming large and with exams taking the focus, very quickly, the build up day was upon us. Kit was checked, anti malarias were taken and visas and passports double checked!

This was it, what we had all been waiting for, almost two years...we were off to Tanzania to help re-build a dilapidated primary school in the heart of the southern foothills.

The journey itself was relatively straight forward until we arrived at Dar es Salaam at 4 in the morning, only to find no bus waiting for us. It quickly became obvious that communication was going to be vital on this trip and the Swahili phrase books were never far!

After stocking up with provisions and changing our pounds into shillings, we were ready for our first adventure in the form of two 15km hikes.

Our driver took us to Crocodile Camp, which was about a 6 hour journey from Dar and about 1500 metres above sea level. We pitched our tents and were treated to a wonderful first traditional meal, with chicken stew, ugali (pounded yam) and homemade soup. This was to ease us in gently...the rest of the cooking was done over the camp fire or on trangias (paraffin stoves).



We awoke early next morning to start our hike and were waved off by wild elephants who had come to the river for their ablutions. Dugout canoes were our mode of transport across the river followed by a hike through the valley to Msosa village. The scenery was spectacular and the people welcomed us with a smile and a wave. I think the children of this village really made an impression upon the students who were very sad to leave.

Our second campsite had an unwelcome visitor in the form of a snake in the showers but we quickly evacuated while our guides expertly scared it away. Hike number 2 brought us to stunning waterfalls which we all took a dip in, a once in a lifetime experience.

Then it was on to the project phase. Once again, we stocked up with provisions and headed out to Iringa, a small town in the South West of Tanzania. Our school was thirty minutes from here and transport was hard to come by once we said goodbye to our bus.

We quickly set about erecting tents and getting organised for the project phase, there was lots of work to be done! The school we were at, Ikuvilu School, was a school that went through from primary to school leavers' age, 15 in Tanzania. Mornings started with sweeping the courtyard and a group sing-a-long – songs of gratitude for their school and teachers, their beautiful country and each other. It was a truly humbling experience to see how grateful these children were for the very little that they did have. I wonder what would happen if we introduced a morning sing a long in assembly here!

The school was in quite a bad state of disrepair and we were charged with the task of making classrooms inhabitable through redecorating and helping to put



the roof back on as well as repairing broken desks and teaching some lessons.

The St Martin's students designed a beautiful mural and it came to life very quickly on the back wall of classroom 1. The rest of us tried to get the classrooms ship shape for the students, who returned to the school on the second day we were there, after a national holiday and were so excited to see us. They sang to us, painted with us and generally had a wonderful time interacting with the students, teaching them Swahili and playing football with us!

When it was time to go we were so sad to leave Ikuvalo behind but knew we had really made a difference.

Now, the students were looking forward to their well earned break on the southern shores of Dar es Salaam. The beaches were stunning, the people could not do enough and as we sat and soaked up a few rays before heading back to the airport, we reflected on our expedition and all that we had achieved. The students had grown and changed before our very eyes, becoming leaders, making decisions and facing emotional challenges.



We were so very proud of all they had accomplished and knew that this experience would remain with them forever.

It was wonderful to return home and there were emotional reunions at the airport. I'm still finding sand in shoes and smiling at memories of Tanzania, the Year 13's are now off at university but I have a feeling they will be smiling too, for many reasons!

Now, to organise the next one...

Miss J Rogers, Head of Year 13 2013-2014



BIKEABILITY

This is an annual training event that is supported by the school. We hope it will equip students with the knowledge of how to cycle and cross roads safely.

Below is a joint quote from the students that attended this year. They all passed their Grade 3 and were awarded badges and certificates. Well done!

"I thought bikeability was amazing. Sometimes it was scary because it was busy on the road. Apart from that it was great, the best part was just relaxing while cycling along. The coaches were amazing if you made a mistake they would talk you through it and you could have another go."

Thomas Kirkpatrick, Lucy Jarman and Jake Holla (Year 7 students)



STREET FOOD COMES TO ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL



In the summer, the Year 9 Food technology students investigated the new trend sweeping the busy streets of London, street food. This trend for affordable, tasty and freshly prepared food is so popular that it is now sweeping the country and into the streets of Brentwood. Students were given the task of making popular street foods of a particular country. Some of the dishes produced were exciting and creative like Chimmichangas burritos, breakfast bagels, tofu salsa, tacos and pasta cup bakes.

The students really worked hard on this project producing some products of excellent quality. Well done Year 9.

Mrs S Moodley, Head of Food Technology

GCSE GEOGRAPHERS GO TO THE SEASIDE

On Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 September 2014 sixty one Year 11 students, along with staff from the Geography department, visited Walton-on-the-Naze to participate in a range of data collection activities in preparation for their controlled assessment.

With the sun shining students took a stroll along the Naze beach to investigate how physical processes of erosion have influenced the variety of coastal features found along the coastline.

Students undertook a range of fieldwork techniques which included measuring the rate of longshore drift, assessing the wave type through the use of a swash-metre, completing a beach profile and sketching the cliffs. Practical events like this help to reinforce the classroom learning but also enables the student to see things first hand and let the wind blow away the cobwebs!

Miss Purdy, Head of Geography



Students hard at work completing a beach profile

THE YOUNG LEADERS TEAM



The Psychology department is proud to announce the formation of their new Psychology Young Leaders Team. The team consists of twelve top performing Year 13 students as seen in the photo above, from left to right back row to front; Vishali, May, Elise, Lauren, Josh, Anna, Christie, and Georgina, Rianna, Jodie, Haneefa and Jeanelle.

The students have taken on the honorary role of psychology's young leaders, not only to enhance their own study at A2 but to also help and support the Year 12's with their studies at AS. The young leaders each mentor a student where they provide advice and support, developing key study skills. They also provide advice on how to manage a demanding timetable and will design and deliver unique presentations to the Year 12's to supplement their learning. This is an excellent scheme that provides revision sessions delivered from a student perspective that will enable the Year 12 students to effectively engage with the AS specification.

In return for their contributions, our young leaders are given extra resources and provisions to provide them with extra challenge and to stretch them to higher levels of achievement. This is aimed at bridging the gap between their A level and degree level studies, preparing them well for university.

To celebrate the team's collaboration and kick start their A2 studies the young leaders took part in a day trip, to the Anglia Ruskin University at Cambridge. The trip was aimed at providing the students with firsthand experience and insight into what it is like to study Psychology at degree

level and to soak up the academic ambience and inspiring energy of Cambridge City and its famous colleges, after all some of them will be studying there next year!

Mr Lambert, Teacher of Psychology

We would like to thank Miss Maynard and Mr Lambert for arranging our trip to the University in Cambridge, it was very rewarding for all of us. We met some student representatives and discussed student life including what it was like for them and the many personal benefits and challenges that would be presented to us at university, it was really useful to get their personal accounts.

We attended lectures from two of the lecturers at the University. These included an interesting and unusual lecture about the brain's activity and processes involved in consciousness and self-perception. We also attended a more general lecture about the topics we would study at Degree level and how the course might lead to career opportunities and research, this was really useful for those of us that are hoping to pursue a career in psychology and even for those that are still considering it.

One of the highlights of the day was our tour of the Psychology labs, this was a totally new and exciting experience because our A level course does not include experiments and many of us didn't realise that the University would have such high tech equipment and that we would carry out real-life experiments, that could actually be published.

We also took a tour around the University and campus before walking through the park and the city centre. We explored the numerous colleges and took in the awe inspiring and historical buildings. Finally, Mr Lambert said that we could not visit Cambridge without having a punt up the river so we enjoyed a punting tour along the river with a tour guide. The guide was hilarious, he delivered a very comical yet interesting version of the historical events and traditions of Cambridge and its colleges. It was a great finish to a demanding yet thoroughly inspiring day.

By May Wright and Jodie Stubbles, Year 13 students

2014 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All Key Stage 3 students support the work of Samaritan's Purse International, by collecting gifts that can be boxed and sent to children living in poverty, natural disasters and sometimes war zones. Every year we are overwhelmed by their generosity. It is a lovely gesture which allows form groups to work together and focus on world issues, taking a moment to reflect on how lucky they are. This year it is estimated that we will break last year's records of 120 boxes. My thanks, as always to PIP's, students and their parents for supporting this worthwhile charity.

Mrs G Wilson, SEAL Coordinator

*Students featured with some of our gifts for 2014's
Operation Christmas Child*



PROJECTS ABROAD

'SHORT-TERM VOLUNTARY WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS FOR 16-19 YEAR OLDS'

TRIP TO JAMAICA

On this project we will dedicate our time to improving the lives of children in a local poor community by helping to run a summer camp programme. The aim of this project is to foster social development and cultural exchange through art, drama, dance, and sports. During our stay we will live with a local host family. The trip will also include a rich immersion into the music, dance, food and other cultural aspects for which Jamaica is known.

All of the volunteers will be involved in scheduled activities with the children including arts and crafts activities, debates, quizzes, photography, sign language and performing arts like dance and drama. Volunteers also arrange both indoor and outdoor games including football, hide and seek and treasure hunts. We will be trained in first aid and we will help to teach health and hygiene practices to the children. If any volunteers are musical we are allowed to teach the children how to play an instrument such as the piano, violin, guitar or drums with the instruments provided.

Where possible, volunteers will help paint fences and walls to create colourful murals in the grounds of the placement. Volunteers will also help plant vegetables and fruits in the home's garden. At the end of the two weeks there will be a mini-concert and an arts and crafts exhibition where the children will get to showcase their talents and their art pieces; something they don't usually get to do!

While on the project, we spend every day supervised by full-time professional staff. During the working week, we work side-by-side with the staff. Then in the evenings the staff organise and supervise a programme of cultural activities and entertainment.

Throughout the project, we plan to use a 'Go Pro' camera to create a video diary of our time in Jamaica, so when we come back we can share our experience and the things we learned. We are looking for sponsors and for opportunities to raise the funds to finance the trip so any ideas or offers to support us will be gratefully received. Please contact us via deputy headteacher Mr Camy at the school.

Jodie Tarrant and Laura Kelly, Year 10 students



ROAD SAFETY



'Perfect' commissioned by Essex Road Safety was performed by 'Tiny Giants productions Ltd', to St Martin's Year 8 students in early November, as part of our Civics Enhancement programme. Sadly the story is based on a real life tragedy which allows students to explore themes such as, 'peer pressure', 'relationships', 'family fallouts' and 'road safety', especially the necessity for wearing seatbelts.

To remind the students of the clear messages the play delivers, choice, decision and consequences of our actions, students were encouraged to plant the 'Forget me not seeds' kindly donated by road safety to remind them in future months of the important

messages demonstrated by the play. Our Year 8 students seen in the picture decided our new patio area would be 'PERFECT' to plant the seeds so we never forget.

Mrs G Wilson, SEAL Co-ordinator

PIPS

PIPS (prefects in peer support) pictured here, are the largest group ever to be trained since St Martin's started the initiative as a pilot scheme nearly ten years ago. Since then not only have numbers grown, but thousands of students from Year 6 in transition to Year 8 have been supported.

PIPS support every form in Year 7 from their Year 6 transition to secondary school, both relieving anxieties and promoting our anti-bullying and anti-discriminatory policies. Year 12 PIPS continue to support Year 8, sometimes throughout Key Stage 3 and are an invaluable asset to form tutors, Heads of Year and our school community. We are very proud of their efforts.



Picture to the right, Headteacher, Mr Mike O'Sullivan and SEAL Co-ordinator Mrs Gaynor Wilson with Year 11 PIPS team

CES AWARDS DAY

A gadget that prolongs the life of a cricket bat has won a St Martin's student an award. James Southgate, 17, was one of five students from St Martin's School that were entered into this year's Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society's school contest. His cricket bat restoration system which acts like a steam iron to revitalise damaged bats, impressed the judges so much that he received the Lucy Pettet Innovation Award sponsored by the technology body, Selex. James, who made the prototype for his A Level course, said 'currently the average price of a good cricket bat is around £200.00 and the lifespan of a bat is usually about three years, depending on how often it is used and the maintenance of it. My restoration system aims to extend the lifespan. It has a water tank, a valve to control the flow of the water onto the bat and a heated plate.' Mr Wilson Head of Technology added 'James has worked extremely hard on this project and has designed and manufactured a working prototype. It is so pleasing to see students working on innovative projects.' The other four St Martin's students were also all highly commended by the judges. Well done to all.



SNAP (SPECIAL NEEDS AND PARENTS)

The students and staff of St Martin's School have been extremely supportive of SNAP over the years and we were delighted to welcome Mike O'Sullivan and Mrs Wignall to see the difference this has been making to local families.

The SNAP Centre in Brentwood provides vital information services for parents of children and young people with special needs and disabilities including a very busy helpline, a directory of contacts, parent courses and advice from our team of parent advisers. Children and young people love coming to the SNAP Centre to enjoy play sessions, therapies and clubs and to use our multi-sensory room and specialist IT suite. More than 1,500 families are currently receiving help from SNAP and over the years 3,200 families have been supported by our charity.

There has been an amazing group of volunteers over the years from St Martin's School who have helped at after

school and holiday sessions, some of whom continue to volunteer for us during their breaks from university. Through cake sales, collections and non-uniform days, St Martins has raised over £3,000 towards the vital services that SNAP provides to local families. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents of St Martins School who have made this possible and we look forward to even more exciting things ahead.

To find out more about SNAP, please visit www.snapcharity.org.

Robert Dennis, SNAP Charity



'S CLUB 7'

In science 2 of our enthusiastic teachers have set up a Year 7 Science Club. In this the students will be carrying out a range of practical activities not covered in the Key Stage 3 syllabus. These include fire writing, learning how fireworks are made and crystal formation. The first few of these clubs have been well attended however there is always space for a few more if interested. The club is run by Mr Swift and Miss Jacklin on a Tuesday after school in south science and has been really successful so far. I hope the students find it as exciting and interesting as we do. Below a message from one of the students:

"Science club was awesome, we blew up hydrogen filled balloons and they turned different colours. Also, we did fire writing." Joe Hutchins 7Q2

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr Reeder, Head of KS3 Science



JACK PETCHEY AWARDS

St Martin's School 2013-2014 Jack Petchey Award Winners



Each year the student council select several students to receive a Jack Petchey Award from the numerous nominations that we receive from staff, parents and their peers. There is no set criteria except the council look for a deserving winner from those that have overcome adversity to exceptional achievements both inside or outside of school. To make a nomination please email the name and reasons into the school and they will be put forward to the council for consideration.

OLIVIA LANCASTER



Olivia organised several fund raising events for Great Ormond Street Hospital where her brother was treated for Burkitt's lymphoma. The family organise a charity event every year and Olivia has always done her own additional things to support the day.

SAM HOAD



Sam has supported the family through difficult times looking after both his mother and sisters while still achieving at school.

CIERA-ANN MCGUIRE



Ciera was diagnosed with diabetes earlier in the year and took it in her stride. She has continued with her sports even though she finds it difficult and always without making a fuss.

ABBEY HARVEY



Abbey organised a charity raffle last summer for Hopefield Animal Sanctuary and has raised money towards refurbishing the stables and now she is busy organising a charity dog walk from Hadleigh to Leigh on Sea for the Dogs Trust. It is to be held on 17 November 2014 and she is working extremely hard making posters and contacting radio stations and Ashley and Pudley for advertising.

REBECCA MAWER



Rebecca is highly regarded in her voluntary work at Riding for Disabled Association (RDA) at a local facility at Highwood, displaying a caring and compassionate character, as well as been very reliable, committed and hard-working.

GRACE AULT



Grace is a kind hearted student who puts others before herself. She has raised over £400 for charity and is always supportive of those around her.

ROSELLE CULLENDER



Roselle is a thoughtful, kind and considerate student whose work for various charities work including St John's Ambulance and supporting younger students in the school which has made a real difference to many young people.

KATIE-ROSE MCGUIRE



Katie exemplifies perseverance and a positive attitude. Overcoming glandular fever in Year 11 to excel in her sixth form studies as well as dedicating her time to tutoring younger students, has been an inspiration to many.

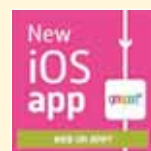
DEXTER TYLER



Dexter regularly gives up his own time to support the school and the local community. He has raised money for the local retirement home and Cancer Research and also supports local primary school students.

PODCAST

We have subscribed to a service called GCSEPod which is completely free to our students and could be a great help when preparing to learn a new topic or when revising before an assessment. GCSEPod has over 3,500 teacher-written, audio-visual podcasts produced specifically for mobile devices and containing all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that learners need for assessment success. The GCSEPod website can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the podcasts can be downloaded for offline viewing. All students have already been registered with GCSEPod and so simply need to activate their account and choose a username and password. Once logged in, students can search for podcasts by keyword, by a specific exam or by subject area. Students can create their own personalised learning playlists which can be easily downloaded for offline viewing. With a selection of relevant clips on a mobile phone, students will even be able to revise where ever they may be.



Mr A James, Deputy Headteacher

ACCELERATED READER NEWS

The year has started fantastically with the Accelerated Reader scheme at St Martin's School. Year 7 are giving Year 8 a run for their money with amazing book quiz results! The library is a hive of activity from early in the morning, break, lunch and afterschool with students keen to take up their book quiz and get their STARS on the display board.

Overall 86% from both Year 7 and Year 8 have completed at least one book quiz over the last 30 days.

Year 7 are storming ahead, their success rate is 73% of students scoring over 85% on their quizzing regularly, although Year 8 are starting to close the gap with 65% of students scoring 85% or more on their quizzing. Year 7 will have to keep up the pace to hold the lead!

Well done to all quizzing super stars!

Mrs T Peters, Main School Librarian, Accelerated Reader instructor



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2014/15

After a record number of applicants, shortlisted students underwent a vigorous selection interview. The successful students, pictured below, will take an active role in sixth form and whole school events. The sixth form team wish them all the best as they embark on their new roles.

Mr Peacock, Head of Year 13



Main picture from left to right: Dominic Gillett (Deputy Head Boy), Susannah Johnson (Deputy Head Girl), Leonarda Sahani (Head Girl), Frank Peek-Pullum (Head Boy), Zola Atkinson (Deputy Head Girl) and Tom Denman (Deputy Head Boy).

TALENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Every outstanding, forward thinking school has an obligation to prepare the next generation of middle and senior leaders. Since 2005 St Martin's School has run a highly successful Talent Management Programme that seeks to develop the management and leadership capacity of young staff with a view to accelerating their careers.

This year ten St Martin's School staff are involved in the extensive year long programme, which started in September. The programme is eligible for all second and third year teachers who have been identified as a future potential middle and senior leader. The programme consists of six modules and an ongoing project that the staff themselves manage, maintain and promote. Members of the programme select a project that fits neatly into the school priorities and this year projects include co-ordinating the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, promoting a growth mindset in Year 7, and establishing links and learning opportunities with Amnesty International.

Last year one of the very first members of the original group secured a senior leadership position at St Martin's School. Dean Goddard, Deputy Headteacher, who runs the programme, expressed his delight by saying:

"We provide high quality professional development at St



Martin's, especially for those who are newly qualified and at the early stages of their careers. The Talent Management Programme was set up to try to grow the next crop of future school leaders. Therefore, it was really pleasing to see one of the first members of the Talent Management group gain a position on the executive senior leadership team at St Martin's School."

Many former members of the programme, which has a proven track record, have gained management and leadership positions at other schools as well as St Martin's School. The photograph above shows the 10 current members of this year's Talent Management team.



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GERALD ANDERSON



The school was saddened to hear the news on 26 November 2014 of the death of one of its governors, Gerald Anderson.

He served the school for many decades, on the parents' association and governing body, seeing many headteachers, secretaries of state and educational

initiatives come and go. In a time of such flux he was a welcome steadying influence.

He brought his accountancy skills to the finance and premises committee, scrutinising successive budgets and ensuring the school remained in a healthy surplus each year.

He was a keen cricketer, being a member of Hutton Cricket Club and was a regular diner at the Rotary Club.

The school will be poorer for the loss of Gerald.

HUMANITIES WEEK

During 5 – 14 November 2014 students participated in Humanities week. The topic for this week was commemorating the Great War. Students learned about the different theatres of war and the weather conditions in those places during the war. They also studied the Home Front and those conscientious objectors who refused to fight, but still served their country in non-combatant roles. Finally they looked at the deep grief that manifested itself in the shape of memorials in almost every village, town and city in the United Kingdom and across the then Empire. Students were asked to consider why remembrance is still so important today and how we should commemorate all of those who fought, those who died during the war, those whose names are inscribed on memorials, the names of those only remembered by their families and of course the survivors and how they went on to live their lives.

Students ended this week with a greater understanding of the war, but more significantly at this time of the year when we remember the fallen, and in particular the events of 1914, it gave students a deeper meaning for their own acts of remembrance.

Mr I Hagger, Head of History

MATHEMATICS HOUSE COMPETITION

In July we hosted the first house competition in maths for Years 7 to 9. We received over a hundred entries including models, powerpoint presentation, posters and cakes. We were overwhelmed with the standard of so many entries that choosing the winners for each year was very difficult! Certificates were awarded to the winners in an end of year assembly. Let's hope for just as good a response when we host the competition again in July 2015.

Mrs N O'Hare, Head of Mathematics

