



Focus on personal development and academic excellence in a happy school

YEAR 10 MFL TRIP TO BERLIN

At the end of June, twenty-seven Year 10 students set off on the Modern Foreign Languages inaugural trip to the capital of Germany, Berlin.

Mr Bourton had prepared a packed itinerary for the long weekend to ensure that we saw as many sights as possible. On the first day as well as visiting the well-known sights of the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and the moving Holocaust Memorial, we also ventured further afield travelling by S-Bahn to Oranienburg to visit Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Following a meal at the hostel, we headed out for a game of bowling.

On day two we explored Berlin on foot accompanied by a very informative guide who showed us the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears) which was the former border crossing at Friedrichstraße between East and West Berlin. We visited the East Side Gallery where parts of the Berlin Wall still exist. The afternoon was spent shopping on Berlin's equivalent to Oxford Street,

the Ku'damm. Day 2 was finished off by a meal in a traditional German restaurant with a live oompah band and yodelling.

Our final day in Berlin was spent visiting the TV Tower at Alexanderplatz to experience fabulous views over the city, the Topography of Terror (on the site of the buildings of the former Gestapo) and a picnic in the Tiergarten.

It was a wonderful introduction for our language students to the capital city where they were able to practise their language skills and for some of them, experience their first visit to Germany.

Mrs Ballard, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Germany was a good cultural experience. We got to learn about the history of Berlin and about the people. The traditional German restaurant was exciting and unique – the evening activities were fun.

Tomi and Tonie



I found the trip really interesting, especially the Holocaust memorial which was fantastic. The meal on Saturday was really nice. **Rory**



Sightseeing around Berlin was great and really interesting. Also eating German food was delicious.
Georgia

DEBATING MATTERS



On Tuesday 10 November students from St Martin's School sixth form took part in the National sixth form debating competition called "Debating Matters".

Tuesday was a knock-out round, the first challenge was Palmer's College. Our two Year 12 students facing Palmer's was Themelis Kalaitzis and Laura Ovens. They were both excellent and they dominated the debate, the

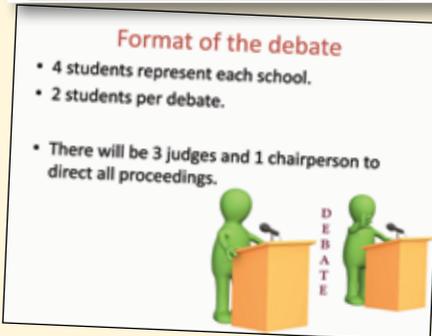
girls rallied the audience and most importantly the judges and won the first round. They really held their own against the tough scrutiny of the judges as well as a barrage of questions from the audience. Their motion was the topical emotive subject; "Performance enhancement drugs in sport should be allowed" and they had to argue in support of the motion. (Image 1)

In round three St Martin's School faced the winners of round two, which was Southend Boys sixth form, they had the following motion: "Western museums should repatriate artefacts back to countries that ask for them". (Image 2)

From St Martin's School we had Matthew Callow Year 13 and Lisa Shaw Year 12 arguing against this motion. This was a much tougher debate, the judges' questions were on a much more intellectual level, the audience had very challenging questions and Lisa and Matthew put forward a tremendously strong argument. The chairman deemed it one of the best debates he had ever seen. The debate was equal from both sides and after much deliberation, the judges declared Southend Boys School to be the winner for better team work in answering questions.

Finally at the end of the competition there was an award given to the one individual who asked the most astute questions and formulated their points confidently and this award went to our very own Laura Ovens! Well done and congratulations to what is a great team and look out we are gearing up for next year.

Miss Ahmed, Teacher of Science



2015 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All Key Stage 3 students support the work of the 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 forms to work together and focus on world issues, taking a moment to reflect on how lucky we are. This year the sixth form students supported lower school by organising a cake sale, which raised over £200, to help towards transport costs for our gifts.

My thanks, as always to PIPS, students and their parents for supporting this worthwhile charity.

Mrs G Wilson , SEAL Coordinator

Students featured with some of our gifts for 2015's Operation Christmas Child.



ST MARTIN'S DAY 2015

This year the weather for St Martin's Day was a wet and windy affair but the happiness and warmth radiating inside the beautiful cathedral was overwhelming. Kim Corbett, Deputy Headteacher gave the welcome and represented Mike O'Sullivan, Andrew James, Headteacher of Chase High School and ex Deputy Headteacher at St Martin's School, led the service with an inspirational sermon. We were graced by the presence of the Mayor of Brentwood, Cllr Mark Reed and his escort Mrs Sue Ereira. We had guests from the school community, notably ex Chair of Governors Mr Geoff Morgan and Mrs Molly Grice who was one of the first teachers of the original girls' school.

The theme of the service was Embracing Diversity and our Chair of Governors, Mr Chris Plume, gave a reading that led us to reflect on our actions in modern day society, while our Head Boy and Head Girl told the congregation the story of Saint Martin and what he embodies. Some of our Year 7 students were asked to read statements they had written about embracing diversity in class earlier in the week and gave examples of how we can all help in our own way.

In the setting of the beautiful Brentwood Cathedral the Choir and Advance Vocal Assembly quite literally sounded like angels. Some of the Year 13 and Year 7 students were escorted and then went on to deliver gifts to the senior citizens in the local area. Thank you to those who attended and supported this significant day in our school calendar.

Pictures taken by photography student Kimberley Holmes.



TRENCHES 2015

A rain swept car park in the dark of an October morning. The orange glare of street lights are reflected in the car park puddles. Thirty nine St Martin's students stand in line, Mr Walton at their head, jotting down passport numbers and boarding them on a coach. Then with a wave to the scattered parents, the annual Year 9 trip to the battlefields of the First World War had begun.

Several hours later the students, wrapped in their coats and wellingtons on their feet, disembarked in a small muddy lane overlooking a shallow valley in Belgium. We were at Bayern Wald, (the Bavarian Wood). Here a line of excavated trenches threads through the new woodland, marking the place where the German army dug its reserve trenches in early 1915. This was the students' introduction to trench warfare. Here they learned how the Germans defended the territory they had conquered and how they coped with the rain and mud.

From the scene of the battle to the aftermath, the coach wound its way through the Belgium villages neat, fresh and empty of people, to Langemarck. At the war's end the Belgium authorities combed their land for the dead of the invading Germans. Everyone they found they confined to just two small cemeteries. Here the dark shades of the overhanging oaks guard the German dead. Only the silent rows of bronze names mark their place.

The coach laboured up the hill from the defeated Germans to the victorious Allies. Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world. Here in row upon row the white headstones sit in neat clipped lawns, among the flowers of an English garden. The graves face up the hill, the direction of the advance, and face a huge memorial to the missing. Our battlefields guides spoke of the dead. We heard about Captain Clarence Jeffries, an Australian killed taking a German machine gun post. He was 24. We heard too how his parents came from Australia to search in vain for his missing body, and how

eventually it was found and laid in Tyne Cot.

We paused at Vancouver Corner. In 1915 the Germans used poison gas, and when the French line broke, the Canadians rushed in, eyes and throats burning with the gas. Students learned not just of the horrors of gas, but of fighting back, the PH hoods and the gasmasks for men, for horses and dogs, and its effects on the lungs which would last long after the war had ended. In Ypres we moved to the Menin Gate under which soldiers had marched a hundred years ago to the front. Surrounded by thousands of silent people, and tens of thousands of names of those who have no grave, three students laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

Sunday morning broke bright and clear. Overnight we had moved south, to the limit of the British line, the Somme. Students heard that on the first day of the attack on July 1st 1916 how the Sheffield Pals went over the top, how the plan went wrong and the unremitting five months of battle that turned disaster into victory. We visited Lochnegar Crater, here British engineers tunnelled through chalk to lay 20 tons of amatol under the German lines. Now a huge hole in the chalk reminds us of the violence of war. We visited the Ulster Tower, where the 36th Division stormed the Schwaben Redoubt on the first day of the battle. Students learned about grenades, and how Private McFadzean saved his comrades by throwing himself on one that landed in his trench. He was 20 years old.

From here we could see the huge Thiepval Memorial, its red brick façade now covered in scaffolding, preparing for the centenary next year. We climbed the short hill to the memorial, and in its shadow, we stood in silence to remember.

Mr Haggar, Head of History



ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME



The Technology Faculty are once again running the Engineering Education Scheme with four Year 12 students; Tara Burns, Alex Chamberlain, Fifeh Mustafa, and Jacob Reilly. We are lucky to be sponsored by Selex ES from Basildon, an international engineering company. They have set our students a brief of designing and prototyping a remote controlled (or autonomous) vehicle that can take photographs of a suspicious person in a crowd and possibly beam those photos back to a control centre. The event was launched at the Aerozone at Stansted Airport where students took part in a team building exercise. On the run up to Christmas they will be working on designing a solution to the brief before spending two days in an engineering department of a university to prototype their solution.

Mr Parker, Teacher of Technology

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

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



ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARD BY JESSICA LAMB, YEAR 11

Jessica said 'she loves Christmas and cannot wait for Christmas morning'. She wanted to make the card colourful with a setting of animals in a forest. Jessica is taking GCSE Art, her painting was picked out as the winner, by the Headteacher, from amongst all the entries in the competition. Thank you to all the students who entered the competition and making such an effort – remember there is always next year!



SPORTS DAY 2015

On Tuesday 14 July 2015 St Martin's students took a trip to Chelmsford Athletics Stadium for their annual sports day. Sadly the weather decided to be autumnal; it drizzled for some of the day and remained mostly cloudy but that was never going to stop the competitors. As the day progressed it was clear that there were some great sporting achievements being witnessed by those in attendance. Some of the younger participants had been selected from gruelling trials during PE lessons and they were all looking to come out on top. There were a number of stand-out stars from each year group who helped add to the points and picked up multiple medals for their house.

With Hunter house going into the day in top position they were fighting to hold onto the lead but Roman, Becket and Quinlan were following close behind. After a competitive day for all participants Roman managed to take the lead and become victorious for the academic year 2014/2015.

There were many stars that day; well done and thank you to all students, staff and parents for their commitment, involvement and support for a very important and inclusive day in the whole school calendar.





YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY

The Sixth Form welcomed back those who were with us in Year 11 and new students joining St Martin's School. Induction day was the first day in Sixth Form for the new Year 12 students and provided an enjoyable ice breaker

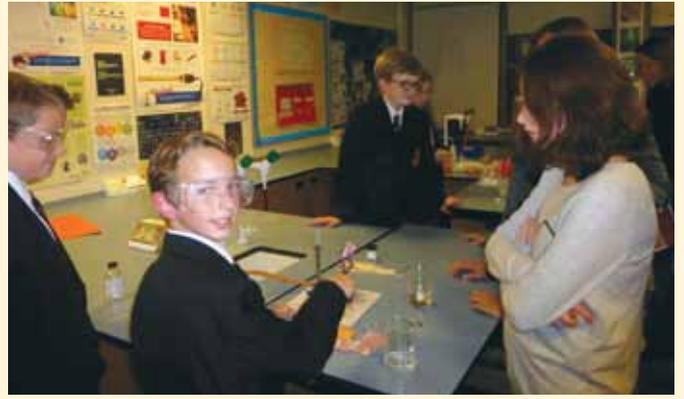
for the start of the academic year. Students were able to get to know each other in a less formal environment with activities run by Year 13 students. Each form group was split into Team A and B and then completed a rotation of various tasks such as the old fashioned sports day and a digital treasure hunt in order to gain points. The day ended



with a presentation from the winning form 12R3, form tutor, Mr Scholier with the winning house Roman taking the glory.

Nathan Addai – Head Boy






OPEN EVENING
A TASTE OF ST MARY'S





ENING 2015

MARTIN'S SCHOOL



A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES TRIP TO STRATFORD UPON AVON

In June 2015, the Drama and Theatre Studies students went on a trip to Shakespeare's home town of Stratford Upon Avon for an educational weekend visit. The weekend consisted of watching two of Shakespeare's plays; 'Othello' and 'Merchant of Venice', both performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Upon arriving students were involved in a 6 hour practical workshop which was led by the RSC education department. The next day students went to Shakespeare's birthplace and participated in the local street theatre. Students were then lucky enough to go on a back stage tour of both the Swan and RSC Theatres, exploring the costume and wig rooms and going under the stage to see the ingenious mechanics of the staging. The purpose of the weekend is extremely beneficial to unit 4 of the course, being a historical study of Shakespeare.

Mrs Page, Drama teacher



'OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD' AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

On 13 October, Year 12 and 13 students travelled to London's South Bank to see 'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker performed at the National Theatre. The play follows the stories of the passengers on board the first fleet that landed in Australia in 1787 carrying England's convicts and the Royal Marines who become their gaolers. For our Year 12 students, this production brought the play they have been studying to life and the outstanding performances, clever set design and atmospheric music have given inspiration to our Year 13s for their current devising unit.

Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Drama



U14 ROUNDERS NATIONAL CHAMPS

The St Martin's School U14 mixed rounders team are celebrating as they were crowned Champions at this year's National Schools Finals.

Having dominated the Brentwood district and Essex county rounds of the competition back in July the team travelled to the University of Leicester to test their skills against other County winners from across the country in a day long tournament.

In the group stage Saints set out their stall early beating Danum Academy (Doncaster) 6-3 and Soar Valley College (Leicester) 6-4½. Cameron Tredgett and Lana Pask's teamwork as backstop and 1st base ensured that any batsman missing Brandon Kelly's fast bowlers would walk. The last group game saw some nerves kick in and fielding errors coupled with a low batting score resulted in a loss against The Streetly Academy (Sutton Coldfield) 4-4½. This meant that two teams in the group finished on equal points but Saints qualified to the knock out stage of the competition with a superior rounders difference.

Intelligent decision making in the field and calculated risk taking when batting resulted in a convincing quarter final win against Crown Hills Community College (Leicester)



9½-4 and a subsequent semi-final victory against Wilmslow High School (Cheshire).

The final, against Wath School (Rotherham) saw the St Martin's side bat first. Exceptional hitting, in particular from Dylan Mills, brought about an impressive 10 rounders off 18 good balls, Saints highest score of the day. Faultless fielding with some outstanding catches by Amy Hills kept the opposition down to a total of 8, giving Saints the National title.

Head of Girls' PE, Mrs Swan, said of the victory "This is the

second time in three years that we have won the National Schools U14 Championships. The team's success was down to a dedicated commitment to training and a real sense of shared responsibility and desire to win. Our squad was made up of girls and boys from Years 7-9 each of whom played integral roles at different points during the tournament resulting in the overall win. The standard of play was extremely high with County Cricketers in all of the teams. I am extremely proud of their achievement".

LEE VALLEY CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS FOR ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

In the first cross country race of the season both Year 11 student Harry Tullett and the Year 7 Boys' team produced outstanding performances to take silver and gold medals respectively.



In the first race of the day Harry produced a measured performance to take 2nd place in the Year 10/11 boys' race. Running strong and always being at the sharp end of the race ensured Harry came away with a silver medal; the first time a St Martin's student has achieved such success in this event.

Following on from this the Year 7 team went one step further. The team of Dan Houchell, Taj Cook, Noah Jameson and Owen Adams produced an outstanding piece of front running to lead from the gun to take the

trophy. With the Year 7 race consisting of a relay format, the lead was never lost from the first leg. It was a fantastic performance for St Martin's beating both Southend High School for Boys and Coopers', the only other two teams to have won this prestigious title.



2015 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 Day. 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.

Throughout the day students worked on themes developed in the play and were reminded of their on-line safety and "netiquette", which was also sent to parents to help reinforce the key messages at home.

**Mrs Wilson,
SEAL Co-ordinator**



ST MARTIN'S TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

Technology students from Years 13 and 11 entered products that they had designed and manufactured into the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society annual competition. The competition was held on one of the hottest days in July at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford. Three of the four projects entered received awards. Matthew Pearson in Year 13 designed and made a revolving guitar rack which was highly commended by the judges. Fedeline Smyth, Year 11, received a similar accolade for her highly original clothes hanger design. The Year 12 Engineering Education Scheme (EES) team (Jack Wells, Christie Spicer and Sophie Moody) won the Design Execution Award for their team project 'The Medic' designed to take medical supplies to casualties on the front line via a remote controlled buggy. We are extremely proud of the students' achievements and that the faculty actively encourages students with ambition to enter the world of engineering.

Mr Wilson, Head of Technology Faculty



YEAR 12 RUSSELL GROUP VISIT: HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD

A group of Year 12 students aspiring to apply to a Russell Group university next year enjoyed a day visit to Oxford University. The day consisted of a literature based tutorial, a tour of the college and lunch with the undergraduates. St Martin's students then had the opportunity to question current students about the application process and life at this prestigious college. This has created an exciting and challenging target to aim for and given greater insight into life as a "Russell Group" student.

Mrs Lewis, ICT Teacher



YEAR 7 ROAD SAFETY

2015 Year 7 Civics Enhancement Day theme this year was, 'Transition'. The Riot Act theatre group sent a powerful message, engaging everyone in the audience with their talented, energetic performance, which raised awareness of the dangers of roadside distractions from music, phones and friends.

This together with clear messages about Cyber Safety and Peer Pressure throughout the day hopefully gave students strategies of support.

Mrs Wilson, SEAL Coordinator



BOSSY

Brentwood Operatic Society's youth group, BOSSY recently performed Jason Robert Brown's award winning musical '13', at Brentwood Theatre. 13 students from St Martin's School took part and on opening night shared centre stage with Mike O'Sullivan to thank him for his continued support, without which BOSSY would certainly not be able to run, giving all Brentwood teenagers, from all secondary schools, the opportunity of a theatrical experience.

Katie Lawrence, an ex-St Martin's student, who recently appeared as a finalist in Britain's Got Talent, choreographs for the group and is pictured with the cast along with Director, Gaynor Wilson.

Students interested in joining should contact Andy Prideaux on bossybrentwood@gmail.com.

Gaynor Wilson, Director



BARONESS BLACKSTONE VISIT

Year 12 students and staff were treated to a very informative and inspiring presentation by Labour Peer Baroness Blackstone. Many students commented on how the visit has made them think more deeply about their next steps in life and the impact that choices can have on their future pathways.

It was clear that Lady Blackstone catalysed such a positive effect on our students as many stayed to meet her in person and ask their own personal questions. Year 12 student Lisa Shaw commented "I hope I'm like Baroness Blackstone later on in my life, she has had a lot of influence in her work, she is very inspiring to young women".

The sixth form team would like to thank the Baroness for her time. There was definitely a "buzz" going around the common room after the Baroness' presentation. She imparted some very useful advice on how making the right choices now can lead to success in the future.

Baroness Blackstone stayed for a cup of tea and was joined by the sixth form council, pictured here, with whom

she spoke candidly and with great encouragement about their future prospects.

Mr Peacock, Acting Head of Sixth Form



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

In June of last year, our current Year 11 GCSE students undertook their practical mock exam for their Drama and Theatre Studies GCSE. They used Shakespeare's plays to inspire their own version of the classic tales to evidence their progress over the year. Plays included; 'Macbeth', 'Othello', 'The 'Taming of the Shrew', 'Hamlet' and 'A Midsummer's Nights Dream'. The students rehearsed the pieces bringing their own take on the story with some modernising or twisting the plot and themes to come up with a new, original performance. Both classes demonstrated their outstanding ability, showcasing an enjoyable evening of performances in front of a delighted audience of friends, family and peers.

Miss Barnes, Drama teacher



'BROKE' BY THE PAPERBIRDS



On Wednesday 23 September 2015, The Paperbirds Theatre Company visited St Martin's School and performed their show 'Broke' to 100 Upper School drama students. After the show, Year 13 and Year 11 drama students took part in practical workshops designed to aid them in preparation for their forthcoming performance exams. Together the show and workshops were outstanding and have lifted the aspirations and ambitions of all the students involved.

Mrs Donaldson, Drama teacher

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

This term sees a number of changes to the St Martin's governing body, including three new governors. Becky Powell, Head of Art and Design was successfully elected as a staff governor. Our two newest parent governors are Mr Jaco Venter and Mrs Tracey Luke, both of whom attended the termly governors' visit day on 10 November. We also welcome back Tim Grimes who will be serving his second term as a staff governor.

We bid a sad farewell to one of our longest serving governors, Mrs Gaynor Sproul. During her 12 years on the governing body Gaynor has served as Vice Chair, committee chair as well as governor with designated responsibility for safeguarding and student wellbeing. We thank her for her enthusiasm and enormous contribution. Gaynor will continue to serve on the board of the Brentwood Academies Trust.

One of the highlights in the Chair's calendar is the St

Martin's Day service. This was the second year that we have been fortunate enough to hold this event in Brentwood Cathedral. We were pleased to see former Deputy Head, Mr James return from his new role as Headteacher at Chase High School who led the service. Also in attendance was the Mayor, Councillor Mark Reed, former St Martin's teacher Mrs Molly Grice, who has attended every single service and the previous Chair of governors, Mr Geoff Morgan.

The performances by the School Choir and the Advance Vocal ensemble were truly outstanding. Both Geoff and I agreed that the latter performance was the best we have ever heard and Geoff was a St Martin's governor for 25 years so that is high praise indeed.

Chris Plume



HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL 2015/16

After interviewing a high quality group of candidates and after much consideration 6 successful candidates were chosen.

They will form part of the sixth form council and represent the school at key events. Mr Peacock would like to thank all those that applied. Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Camy, who formed part of the interview panel, were impressed by the calibre of the candidates which made the decision an even more difficult one.

We wish them all the best in their new roles.

**Mr Peacock, Acting Assistant Headteacher,
Head of Year 13**



Pictured: From left to right. Lucy Bacon (Deputy Head Girl), Jonathon O'Neill (Deputy Head Boy), Nathan Addai (Head Boy), Sophie Moody (Head Girl), Jack Richards (Deputy Head Boy) and Roselle Cullender (Deputy Head Girl)

A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

On Thursday 13 August 2015, our Year 12 and 13 students received their AS and A level results. The overall pass rate increased, the students did extremely well and 76% were successful in progressing on to university.

At A2, special mentions must go to Louise Jagger who achieved 3 A grades and an A grade in her Extended Project and to Rachel Clark and Tony Denman who both achieved an A*, 2 As and an A for their Extended Projects. Rachel is now at Warwick studying Film and Literature, Louise is studying Biochemistry at York and Tom gained a place at Exeter studying Modern Languages.

At AS Level, Jonathan O'Neill achieved an outstanding 5 A grades, Florence Coventry achieved 4 As and 1 B grade, Christina Coyle achieved 4 A grades, Kwabena

Adu-Poku achieved 3 As and 1 B grade and Matthew Callow achieved 3 As and 1 B grade.

Special mentions need to go to William Hann, Scarlet Frost, Natalie Zedomi, George Hodgson and Megan Luff all of whom have made exceptional progress from the end of their GCSE courses to the end of their AS Level programmes.

Congratulations to the class of 2015; all the staff at St Martin's School wish you luck in the future.

Mrs Howells, Head of Sixth Form



YEAR 13 LEAVERS' BALL 2015

Year 13 celebrated their time at St Martin's on the 1 July 2015 at their Ball held at the picturesque Mulberry House in High Ongar. They made the most of their final event on the hottest day of the year and we wish them all success in the future whether it be university or employment. On behalf of the students I would like to thank all the staff that have supported the year group and helped them realise their full potential. Class of 2015, we wish you farewell.

Mrs Lewis, Acting Head of Year 12

