



ST
*M*ARTIN'S SCHOOL

FOCUS

Winter 2016

Focus on personal development and academic excellence in a happy school

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL



On the 19 and 20 December 700 students and staff sat down to a delicious Christmas lunch. There were crackers, hats and Christmas music to get everyone into a festive mood. Our catering staff, from Pabulum, working as fast as they could dished up the tasty dinners, including Brussels sprouts! The



senior leadership team, teachers and support staff served the meals to the students while teachers poured piping hot gravy on request at the tables. For dessert it was a choice of the traditional Christmas pudding, mincemeat roulade or chocolate log all topped off with custard. Thank you to Pabulum and the wonderful kitchen staff, for their hard work and commitment to serving a truly festive feast and making it the beginning of a very merry Christmas.



BOSY - RENT

The evening of the 5 November brought an end to BOSY's show week of RENT the musical staged at Brentwood Theatre.

Having previously won the NODA award for the best Youth production for the performance of 13, we were delighted to be presented with the cup. Featured in the photograph are members of the cast who attend St Martin's School.

RENT was equally successful and was awarded excellent reviews in show week, but to find out on

the presentation evening that we had again been nominated for the award of best Youth production 2016, was a great achievement. Many congratulations to all of the cast, crew and production team and huge thanks to anyone who came to watch.

The cast are now preparing for 'Hairspray', which will be performed again at Brentwood Theatre in the second week of the Easter holidays.

Dan Pugh & Michael Percival
Year 12 Students



EDDIE O'SULLIVAN



Eddie O'Sullivan a Year 12 student went to the House of Commons on 11 November to participate as a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) to positively represent the views of children and young people in their Local Authority. MYPs are the only group other than MPs who are allowed to sit on the green benches. At the event, 300 elected Members of the UK Youth Parliament aged 11-18 years took part in the debate in the House of Commons chamber, chaired by the Speaker, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP. They debated five issues chosen by a ballot of young people across the UK and then voted to decide which two issues should become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaigns for 2017.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

All KS3 forms support the very worthwhile Samaritan's Purse International, Operation Christmas Child project.

PIPS in both Year 11 and 12 assist their forms in preparing boxes to send overseas for the international campaign. Every year students prepare boxes and collect money in their form groups to fund the transport, this helps deliver boxes to children in difficult circumstances, letting them know that others care. This year they managed to send 106 boxes.

Mrs Wilson, SEAL Coordinator



YEAR 11 PIPS



The Year 11 PIPS shown to the left, with Headteacher, Mike O'Sullivan and SEAL Co-ordinator, Gaynor Wilson were pictured on the first day of term before meeting the Year 7 forms they were assigned to. The Year 11 PIPS have made a huge contribution in helping settle in the Year 7 students to school. The transition from primary to secondary school is an emotional and physically demanding step for students and knowing their PIP is there to support them with things that are unfamiliar is very reassuring. PIPS volunteer from prefects selected to have additional training in mentoring and mediation skills and meet weekly to update on their forms.

HOW TO REVISE WORKSHOPS

'The vast majority of Year 11 students attended the two after school 'How to Revise' workshops held in November. The hour long sessions were run by Mr Goddard, Deputy Headteacher in the South Hall.

The sessions looked at the most and least effective ways to revise for their forthcoming PPEs in December. The active revision session looked at what constitutes effective ways to revise and how to improve memory and recall. Mr Goddard mentioned at the session that preparing for exams or tests is obviously an important life skill and not something just for school exams. Students were encouraged to interact with the material that they are revising and create something that can be reviewed regularly. Techniques included how to simplify, convert, reduce and map essential material. The students also created and demonstrated excellent learning conditions which is essential for high levels of learning and recall.



LILLIANA FOLAN



My name is Lillian Folan and that's a picture of me holding a jar of sweets for people to guess how many sweets

in the jar. Both Sophie Chandler and I have been selected to represent the Girl Guiding Association in Canada at SOAR. To qualify for the trip, we had to go through many processes. We have a target of £2300 that we have to raise which will allow us to attend the event. The reason behind the event is to build links with the Canadian Girl Guides and to share the common bond of guiding.

YEAR 9 CHRISTMAS MARKETS TRIP TO COLOGNE 2016

40 Year 9 students took part in the annual Christmas Markets trip to Cologne and it was a great success, as in previous years. This year the trip was accompanied by Ms de Pol, Mr Bourton, Mr Smith and myself. After a rather long journey through France and Belgium we arrived safely in Cologne ready for our first dinner in a youth hostel. Having unpacked and made our beds we went to visit one of Cologne's biggest Christmas Markets, located at the foot of the cathedral.



On **DAY TWO** we set about exploring the cultural sights of this beautiful city. Our first trip of the day was the visit to the famous Cologne cathedral and most of us climbed up the 533 steps to the top to experience the amazing views of the city. The rest of the morning was spent in the interactive sports museum and the chocolate factory where our tour guides explained to us the history of chocolate and how chocolate is made. After sampling the delicious chocolate from the chocolate fountain and buying lots of goodies in the shop, we went to the Christmas Market at the Heumarkt for a fun afternoon of ice skating. The evening was spent in the Hard Rock Café, relaxing and enjoying dinner with our friends.



On **DAY THREE** we travelled to Koblenz. We started by having a guided tour of Marksburg Castle, a castle perched high above the Rhine and then seeing where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet at Deutsches Eck. The group then walked into Koblenz town centre for lunch at another Christmas market before heading off for an afternoon's bowling. In the evening we visited our last main Christmas market, enjoying Reibekuchen and buying presents for our family and friends.

The **FINAL DAY** was spent at Phantasialand, a local theme park, where many of us tried out the newest ride 'Taron', the fastest roller coaster in Europe. This event rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable week, where we were able to give students an introduction to Germany, the culture of the country and the experience of how other cultures celebrate festivals. On the practical side of things students were also able to practise their language skills when ordering food at the markets, writing in their diaries and ordering their boots at the bowling alley and skating ring.

All the students had a thoroughly good time and were an absolute credit to the school. We are looking forward to next year's trip.

Mrs Mercer, Teacher of MFL

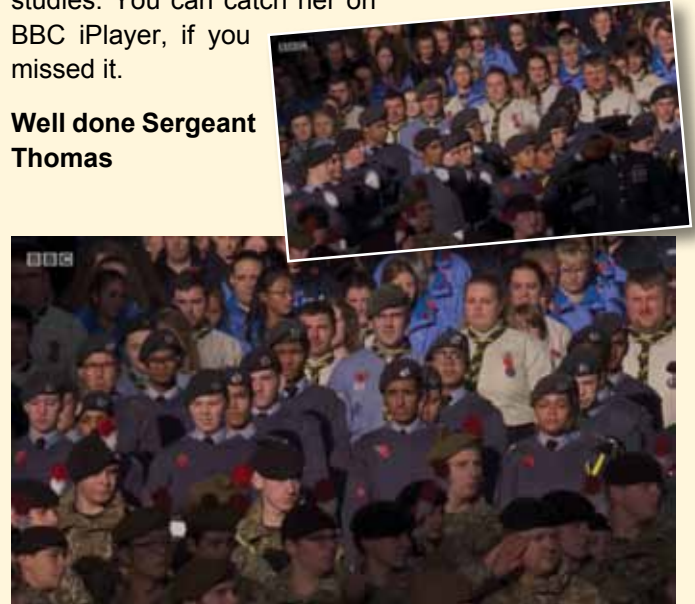


LEST WE FORGET: OUR PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE SERVICE PERSONNEL

Anna Thomas, a Year 13 St Martin's student, has been a member of the Cadet Airforce for four years. As well as providing incredible opportunities to fly, become a Regional Marksman, instructor and leader, Sergeant Thomas was given the opportunity to attend The Festival of Remembrance, a British Legion event, at The Royal Albert Hall on 12 November and The Remembrance

Service at The Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 13 November. Anna intends to study Physics with Aviation studies at university and join the forces as a pilot, or work in the aviation industry. We wish her all the best in her studies. You can catch her on BBC iPlayer, if you missed it.

Well done Sergeant Thomas



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE TRIP: YEARS 9-11

On Tuesday 8 November 2016, 35 students from our Most Able register were invited to spend a day at Emmanuel College, at the University of Cambridge. It is one of the larger colleges, which has a community of around 500 undergraduate students; 150 graduate students; 90 Fellows and 150 college staff. It was founded in 1584, on the site of a Dominican priory, by Sir Walter Mildmay, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Elizabeth I. Parts of the monastic buildings remain today.

The students took part in variety of activities such as budget planning and admissions choices, which helped them to gain an insight into life at university. They were also able to tour the impressive buildings with some current university students and took a walk through Cambridge to see some of the other colleges. The day ended with a lively debating workshop and I was thoroughly impressed by the quality of their arguments and their confidence in speaking.

Mrs Fernandez, Teacher of English



FILM MUSIC NIGHT



On Thursday 30 June 2016, the Music Department held their first Summer Showcase with a theme aimed at a particular style of music.

Staff joined St Martin's students in their inaugural Film Night Celebration, as they performed some of the world's most iconic film themes.

This memorable journey included various solos, duets and ensembles from such classics as Jurassic Park, Star Wars, Lion King with a few surprises along the way. This ambitious undertaking was the first for the

Music Department and the students. It was a truly magical evening.

School concerts are an opportunity for students to showcase their talents to family and friends and exam groups are able to have their performances recorded, to be used as the performance element of their coursework.

It was a remarkable evening and the talent on display was extremely inspiring.

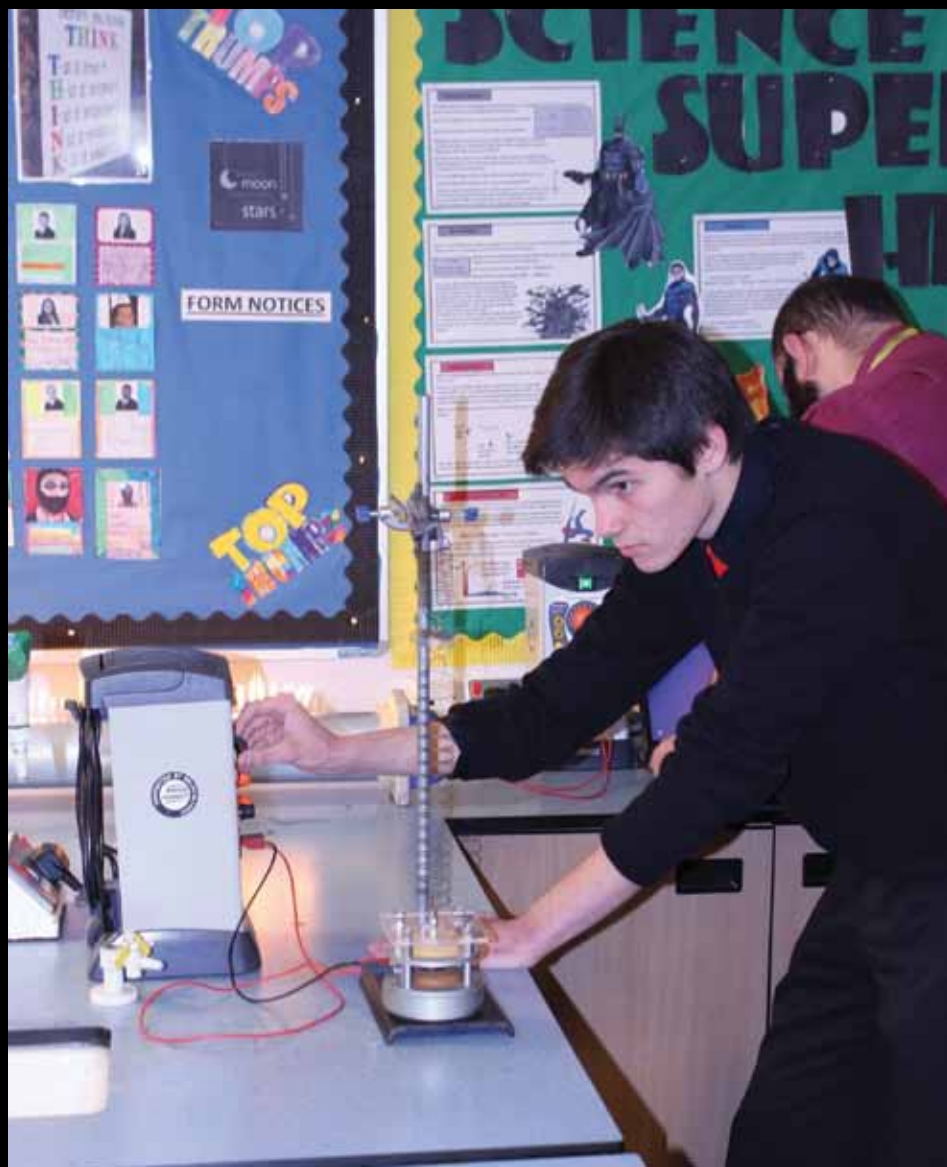
Mr Radley, Head of Music



OPEN EVENING

St Martin's Open Evening this year was attended by over 1500 people, a huge event by any standards. The staff were in their faculties displaying and promoting their subjects with passion and knowledge. Mike O'Sullivan, Headteacher gave eight presentations to packed halls each time. The site staff managed the car parking with the greatest safety and professionalism and we thank them for their diligence. The stars of the night were the prefects and student tour guides. The feedback from potential parents was unanimous in their praise and awe of these young people that had so much confidence and pride in their school. Thank you to everyone involved for showcasing St Martin's School.





VIETNAM TRIP - SUMMER EXPEDITION

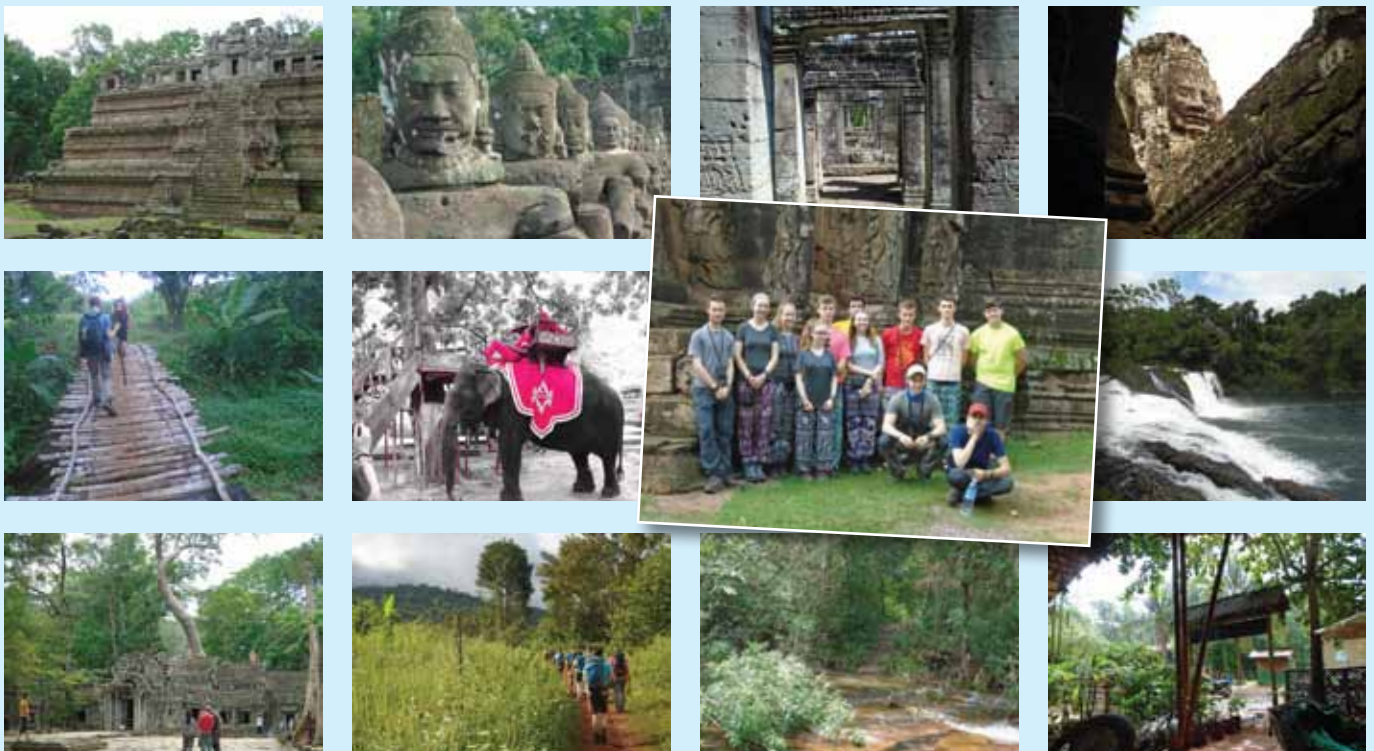
In July, two teams of intrepid Sixth Form students took part in a three-week expedition in South East Asia. Team A, thirteen students accompanied by Miss Rogers and Mr Scholier, started their journey in Cambodia and made their way through Laos and on into Vietnam. Team B, twelve students, Mr Smith and Mrs Morton, completed the same itinerary but travelling in the opposite direction. Some elements of the trip were prearranged by Outlook Expeditions, while others such as transport between locations and accommodation had to be sorted out by the students on the journey. Students were also in charge of their own budget, and with some guidance from an Expedition Leader from Outlook, they decided where to eat and how much money to allocate per person each meal. This was met with some trepidation at first

but gradually, as confidence grew, they started to excel at these tasks. Whilst in Vietnam, each group spent three days working with Volunteers for Peace in a rural, agricultural village. Jobs included, planting and harvesting crops, digging irrigation ditches, clearing areas of forest for firewood, and also working with the local children to develop their English. The work was hard in the heat and humidity but the people were amazing and it was a hard place to leave. Both teams also spent three days trekking in the Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia. From a base in Chi Phat Eco-tourism village the teams set off into the jungle, led by local expert guides. They spent several nights sleeping in hammocks in different locations before arriving back at the village on the third day. In Laos the groups spent a day travelling by river, watching

the stunning scenery unfold. Many different cultures were experienced in the locations visited, from the frenetic pace of Hanoi to the more traditional town of Sa Pa high in the mountains of Northern Vietnam, to the sleepy, peaceful Luang Prabang in Laos, to the vast modern sprawl of Phnom Penh. Arguably, the highlight of the expedition was the day spent exploring the ruins of Angkor in Cambodia. Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century. They include the famous Temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom. The whole experience was amazing and the students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school.

Mr Smith, Teacher of Science

CAMBODIA



LAOS



VIETNAM



ST MARTIN'S DAY 2016



On Friday 4 November the school celebrated its annual tradition of remembering the kind acts of St Martin, the school's patron saint, at the beautiful Brentwood Cathedral. 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. The Deputy Mayor of Brentwood, Cllr Jon Cloke attended with other 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 girl's school.

The theme of the service was Against all Odds and our Chair of Governors Mr Chris Plume read a poem to help us reflect on the theme, while our Head Boy and Head Girl relayed the story, to the congregation, of Saint Martin and what he embodies. Some of our Year 7 students were asked to read statements they had written in class earlier in the week and gave us examples of how we can all help in our own way.

The Choir, once again, took our breath away with their toe tapping songs and beautiful harmony. Then as a gesture in the spirit of Saint Martin a handful of students, accompanied by staff, visited elderly citizens in the local area. Thank you to the staff, governors, parents and students who supported and participated in the service.





U13 GIRLS ARE SOUTHEND UNITED GIRLS' CUP CHAMPIONS

Saints Girls To Represent Southend United at Regional Finals

St Martin's U13 girls football team were celebrating last week after being crowned county champions at the U13 Southend United Girls' Cup Tournament, held at Waterside Farm, Canvey.

Each season The English Football League organises a national 6-a-side cup competition for junior girls from schools across the country culminating in the Checkatrade Final which is to be held at Wembley stadium.

Saints U13 girls competed against schools from across the county including, Greensward Academy, Sandon, Shoeburyness, Southchurch High, Woodlands, Basildon Academy and Gable Hall. Each team was entered into one of two groups. The teams that topped each group then faced each other in a final to decide which school would be crowned as winners of the tournament. The Saints team remained undefeated during the group stage thanks to solid defending

from Keeley McDonald and Sophie Neal and excellent goal keeping from Lenia Smith. Saints faced Gable Hall in an exciting five goal thriller final. St Martin's took an early lead scoring inside the first minute. Freya Godfrey scored her hat-trick in the first half and then went on to score the 4th and 5th goals assisted by Sophie Cooper and Evie Morgan. Strong performances in mid field from Joyce Jacobs and Anna Scannell secured Saint's 5-0 victory.

As champions St Martin's now progress through to the Regional Finals which will take place in early January 2017. The team will be representing Southend United and will be wearing the Southend United kit.

Saint's youngest player, Freya Gofrey was chosen by Southend United organisers as the player of the tournament. They said their decision was "unanimous" and Freya was awarded a small trophy for her achievements.



Ms Jackson, coach of the girls' football team, said "this was an outstanding team performance and an excellent achievement for Freya. There were almost 70 players competing in the tournament and Freya is a year younger than most of the girls that were competing today. To represent Southend United is a real honour and an achievement the girls are extremely excited about".

Mrs Swan, Head of Girls' PE

