



Welsh Bacallaureate trip to Swansea University

As a year group, we were fortunate enough to be able to attend Swansea University's Singleton Campus to gain advice on choosing a topic we could use for our Individual Projects. Picking a subject which will determine 50% of our grade is a difficult decision. As a group, the majority of us were and still are unaware of which subject we would like to address as our focus point for our Individual Project, but after receiving the advice of Sian Rees and Iwan Williams, we now know how to narrow down our choices in order to come to a definite conclusion.

The day as a whole was useful as we were able to access information about how to select our sources. After listening to a panel of journalists and publicists undergo a Q&A session, led by Iwan Williams, a specific detail had been reiterated to us – choosing our sources. This aspect of the course is essential as we must carry out an extensive level of research before picking the sources we would like to reference within our project as it is extremely important to ensure that each source is valid and reliable. They emphasised it was vital to steer away from 'Fake News', and to check the websites we use thoroughly, as it could result in many of us using the wrong information in our Individual Projects.

In addition to this, due to the Welsh Bacallaureate trip being held in a University, our talks were held in a large lecture theatre. This helped us to understand how it would feel in a real life lecture, which some of us will experience when we venture to University next year. It was also beneficial to view the grounds and see for ourselves if Swansea University could be a potential choice for us. *Tayla Parsons*



Routes into Languages' National Spelling Bee Finals

'In July this year two of our pupils, Charlotte Mathieu and Ella Parry, attended the 'Routes into Languages' National Spelling Bee Finals at Aberystwyth University. The girls confidently made it through the first round of the Spanish category and through to the final round which was held in a large hall in front of all participants, teachers and supporters - approx. 150-200 people.

They held their nerve and were awarded 1st and 2nd place! Ella (1st) and Charlotte (2nd.) The standard was extremely high but both girls were fantastic. They conducted themselves impeccably throughout the day and were a credit to the school. They came away with trophies, bags of goodies and beaming smiles!

Thanks goes to Senor Lopez, without whom the girls would not have had this great opportunity. The girls' achievements are a testament to their own and Mr. Lopez's commitment in practising each week throughout the year.



WELL DONE GIRLS!

Science Results 2017



The science results at St Martin's school were also excellent again this year with 89% of students achieving A*-C and 98% achieving A*-G. There were also some outstanding individual successes with the following learners achieving an A* in science:

- Tomas Davies
- Thomas Tiltman
- Tamah Osa-Peters
- Alys Turner
- Sam Hughes
- Abbie Sykes
- Connor McIlhney
- Ben Davies
- Rowan Thompson

The A level scientists also did very well with students achieving 100% A*-C in chemistry and physics, with 75% achieving A*-C in biology.

Pilates for Year 7 girls

Throughout the month of June the Year 7 girls had the opportunity to try their hands at Pilates and Yoga thanks to Mrs Griffiths at Caerphilly Leisure Centre. Over 4 weeks the girls were all invited to put their balance and bodies to the test and attempt many varying moves in response to our healthy body, healthy mind drive!

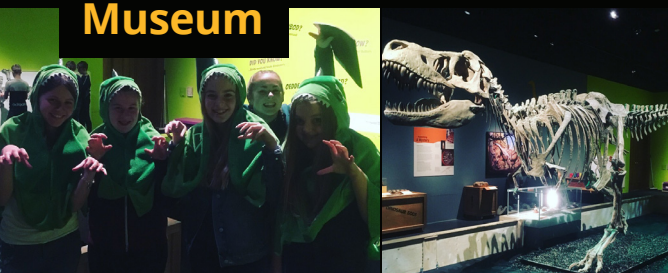
The response was amazing! The girls not only showed determination and core strength beyond anything that I could ever imagine, they also learned a whole new range of terminology!! There were no basic 'squats' here... they took on and conquered 'Lord of the Dance Pose', 'Monkey Pose' and the 'One Legged King Pigeon Pose' to name a few!

I hope that this will give the girls the inspiration they need to continue, as there was definitely a lot of talent in that room! Well done girls!

Ms K Joyce – Head of Business & Law.



Art school trip to Cardiff Museum



Year 9 showed a very mature attitude on the Art school trip to Cardiff Museum last Thursday. The trip took us to the exhibition, 'Dinosaur Babies' where the year 9's collected artist research and carried out primary observations.

Pictures have been uploaded to the school Instagram and Twitter accounts (Stmartins_Art) showing the pupils interacting with the artwork and making some quick and detailed sketches. The gallery workers commented on the excellent behaviour and manners the St. Martin's pupils had which was very good to see. Overall a very successful trip, Miss Hopkins and Miss James are very proud.

'The Brilliant Club' Scholars Programme Cardiff University Launch Trip

Year 10 students have embarked on a 'brilliant' project that will both academically challenge them and provide an excellent insight into what higher education is really like. During the Cardiff University launch trip, students attended a variety of lectures and a tutorial with their allocated PhD tutor. Contributions in tutorial sessions were commendable - ideas were perceptive, articulate and very engaging. It was impressive to observe!

The opportunity to explore the various university buildings left many students in awe, especially in the Glamorgan building where they were overshadowed by elaborate sculptures and breath-taking watercolours during a lecture about academic referencing.

Students will now complete five further tutorial sessions and after-school study sessions so they can discuss, research, write and submit a final university-style 2000 word essay on the question: 'What is the point in school? Examining the role of education in our lives.' We'll let you know how they get on after the final deadline in January.

Good luck, scholars! L. Avery

Mathematics results 2017

72%
A* - C

**BEST
RESULTS
EVER!**

Excellent effort by both staff and students. Students attended week sessions after school which were extremely successful. In addition the mathematics department offered breakfast revision with refreshments before each exam.

Students found all of these extra sessions highly beneficial. This was clearly reflected on results day with the school securing the highest GCSE maths results in its history. The mathematics department are looking forward to improving on this next year.

Year 8 budding entrepreneurs take on Ikea Business Masterclass!

On 11 July, Year 8 pupils who had already expressed an interest to take Business Studies, were offered the chance to attend some 'Business Masterclass' workshops at IKEA Cardiff, in collaboration with Young Enterprise. With the lure of potentially free meatballs and loganberry juice, 25 keen budding entrepreneurs from Year 8 excitedly set off!

On arrival, we realised that we were one of three schools in attendance - one of which was an exclusive private school, but we were not deterred. The confidence and enthusiasm to take risks was on display with our pupils from the start, and all day they volunteered themselves to answer questions during the #BrandMe workshop; they put themselves out the front to interact with a given "guess who" scenario when others were too shy; and their lively personalities shone through when pushed to question IKEA staff on their roles and responsibilities in seeking out what makes a successful company tick. Joshua Cox even managed to "think outside the box" and find a way of acquiring a free IKEA t-shirt... although the nose bleed was maybe not his best move!

All in all, some basic principles were covered to assist them in their study of Business Retail... and they are already planning their next trip out! Well done to all those involved!
Ms K Joyce - Head of Business & Law



Humanities Department

Summer 2017 saw strong performance in Humanities subjects with over 70% of all pupils getting between an A* and C grade. Uptake at GCSE remains very strong with almost 100 students opting to take geography and 60 for history in year 10.

There has been an increase in the number of students opting to study multiple Humanities subjects at GCSE which is testament to the quality of teaching within the Faculty. Easter sees a Faculty trip to California with 88 students travelling to see geographical features such as the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Yosemite and the Hoover Dam.