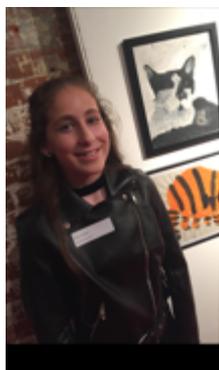




DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to Molly Bulmer Year 8

Molly's painting was exhibited at the OXO tower in London on Friday 17th November as part of the National Open Art competition. She had to attend a presentation evening where she received a certificate to commend her piece and as mum says someone bought her work for £150.



Remembrance Service 2017

On Friday the 10th of November a group of 20 Year 8 students attended the memorial service in Caerphilly town centre. The group was accompanied by staff from the Humanities Faculty and the Head Boy and Head Girl who both gave readings to the assembled group. The younger students laid crosses and poppies at the base of the Cenotaph. Many thanks to Councillor Steve Kent Governor at St. Martin's for liaising with the Humanities Faculty and providing students with this opportunity to commemorate those who gave their lives for us.



Well done all - a fantastic achievement!

November - St Martin's Running Club

On 12th November several members of staff from St. Martin's Social Running Club took part in the Cardiff MoRun in Bute Park. It was a chilly morning but spirits were high in the build-up to the start before the runners set off on either a 5km or 10km run around the park.

Everyone pushed themselves and were pleased to come across the finish line to be awarded with a medal and lots of cheers from the crowds! The aim of the run was to raise awareness for Movember Foundation, a great cause which addresses some of the biggest health issues faced by men, and the group were so pleased to raise £370 to support the cause too.

Congratulations to Mia Home Year 7

For taking part in the Welsh Gymnastics Trampoline Grading's at Sophia Gardens on 22nd October 2017. Mia won the Synchronised Competition with her partner Lacey, from the Twyn School. Resulting in competing in the Welsh Schools Trampoline Competition on the 26th November 2017.



Christmas concert

Thank you to St Martin's church for hosting our annual Christmas concert. This truly was an evening where we were able to celebrate the musical and theatrical talents of our pupils. A special thank you to Mrs Williams for all her hard work in preparing the event. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all!

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Year 8 pupils went back in time to the 1980s for this year's Shakespeare Schools performance of Romeo and Juliet at the Riverfront Theatre, Newport on 14th November 2017. Pupils stunned the audience with a dazzling neon performance. Romeo and Juliet created a romantic extravaganza which ended in tragedy. Pupils excelled themselves dedicating both their time and dedication to create this stunning performance. Well done to all!





Toilet refurbishment is a hit with students

The toilets were previously in a poor condition and improvements were made possible through donation of more than £10,000 from local company Robert Price Builders' merchants and a number of their suppliers including Ideal Standard, 3D Flooring, Treforest Glass, Rixonway Kitchens, Wavin, Seren Electrical and Nuairé.



Work was carried out by Caerphilly council's housing repair operations team, who are responsible for carrying out repairs to the homes of council tenants throughout the county borough.

Lee Jarvis, head teacher at St Martin's said: "The new facilities have made such a difference to our students' lives. Without the support of the council and the generosity of the numerous companies who donated items to this project we would never have realised such a high standard of finish to these toilets."

English Department trip to the Globe Theatre

On October 23rd, pupils from year 8 and 9 travelled to London for a day packed with adventure. After a bleary-eyed 6.30am start, we arrived on the bank of the Thames to visit Shakespeare's Globe. Here, pupils split into two groups and were taken on a tour of the beautifully restored theatre by actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. We were regaled by the stories of cutpurses and catastrophic fires as we stood where the groundlings would have stood in Shakespeare's day.



After this, we visited the Shakespeare Exhibition just next to the Globe to watch an exciting demonstration of Elizabethan stage combat techniques, led by experienced professional fight director Philip Stafford. The pupils learned how stage fighting was used by Shakespeare in his plays, and were even allowed to hold the (very heavy) swords. During our time in the exhibition, we also caught a sneak peek of the Elizabethan dressing demonstration, with one of our brave pupils volunteering to be dressed up!

After lunch, we walked along the Thames and bustling Southwark to the Clink Prison Museum which is built upon the original site of The Clink Prison, which dating back to 1144 was one of England's oldest and most notorious prisons. Here, pupils went on a guided tour and learned about the scandalous and gruesome underworld of London. After a quick stop in the Globe gift shop on our way back to the coach, we began the journey back to Caerphilly feeling very tired but very contented. What a fantastic day!

Sixth Form Open Evening

A very successful Sixth Form Open Evening was held on the 7th December. Lauren Stokes and Rhys Lloyd, our Head Girl and Head Boy gave a superbly informative talk on life in the Sixth Form. Parents and pupils from Years 10 and 11 were able to access information on the post 16 courses available at the school. Cardiff University, The University of South Wales and Careers Wales were also on hand to give pupils and parents guidance on higher education. The event was very well attended and the school will be repeating the evening towards the end of the Spring Term.



Panto trip

On the 20th December a number of excited year 7 pupils attended our annual Christmas Pantomime trip to the Riverfront Theatre, Newport. Pupils were wowed by the fun packed entertainment and of course the ice creams were also a welcome addition.



Year 7 Cadbury World Trip

Year 7 enjoyed their day in Cadbury World learning about the History and Geography of Chocolate. The day was spent being taught about the journey from cocoa bean to chocolate bar, and tucking into plenty of free samples along the way! Here are some pictures of pupils learning lots about chocolate and the company in some of their educational talks.

