



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



Science for Dragons

At the start of the spring term Year 7 were lucky enough to take part in the Science for Dragons work shop. The show is based on the books 'How to Train your Dragon'. The learners investigated and explored the science of how dragons fly and then, using some of the science behind the different dragon fire types (steam, icy fog, explosive gases and of course big flames!) plus dragon's disgusting digestion processes, they engineered ways to capture dragons, train them to blow smoke rings and protected their Vikings from attacking enemy clans, they also helped Astrid's sick dragon "Stormfly" gain enough energy to take to the sky!

Year 7 then used the inspiration gained from this work shop to enter the BBC short story competition with a short story about their dragon.

[@StMartins_Sci](#)

Good luck to all learners who entered this competition!

PE Department News

The PE department has seen some additional funding through the Enthuse project in order to provide pupils with new and enhanced experiences in both boxing and gymnastics. However the PTA contributed a substantial amount of money and we would like to thank them for this.

The arrival of the new trampets and balance beam has seen an increase in the interest for gymnastics clubs, along with new boxing facilities and equipment. Miss Giamei and Mrs Griffiths have been running clubs on Tuesday afternoons, and have seen some brand new faces in attendance at extra-curricular clubs, alongside pupils who often participate in the extra school programme.

We are currently working with our 5x60 officers to try and work a satellite club for boxing from St Martins and hope this will be successful in the future. Numbers are increasing for swimming clubs, along with the traditional basketball and football clubs and boys rugby and football. The PE department work hard to provide a range of activities for participation after school, along with enrichment trips for pupils.

The boys PE department will be touring to Canada for their rugby tour in July and the girls PE department will be taking girls to Holland in 2019 for a netball tour.

Keep an eye on the school twitter for updates on new clubs in the new term.

[@StMartins_PE](#)



Well done to all!

Orierton House Field Trip

[@StMartins_Geog](#)

The Sixth Form Geographers attended a fantastic residential fieldwork course at Orierton House in Pembrokeshire. Students immersed themselves in physical and human studies around Milford Haven, Tenby, Saundersfoot and Freshwater. Students approached their studies with diligence and worked well into the evening each night planning and testing hypotheses using statistical techniques.

The real-word fieldwork techniques will serve them well in the summer exams and will prove invaluable as they continue their studies into Y13, particularly with regard to their Individual Project.



Geographical tour of the West Coast of USA

The Humanities Faculty continues to provide wonderful opportunities to enrich the education of students at St Martin's.

This Easter we will be taking 88 students to the West Coast of USA on a tour of some of its geographical delights including San Francisco Death Valley, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon to name a few. In addition there will be a trip to Iceland in 2019 during February half term during which students will undertake a glacier walk, study volcanoes and how they affect the islanders, experience a glacier calving icebergs into a glacial lagoon, not to mention a visit to the Blue Lagoon.

Finally a trip is also being offered to study art and religion in Rome during the Easter of 2019. Students will be visiting the Vatican, and numerous world famous sculptures and galleries.



@StMartins_Geog

Brilliant Club



This year I was lucky to be selected for the Brilliant Club which is an academic enrichment programme delivered by a PhD student. This course was organised by Mrs Avery and Mr Brookman. It started with a visit to Cardiff University, at which we took part in study skills sessions and a tour of the campus to get us in the mood for being 'undergraduate students'.

Over the next few weeks, our PhD student, Catherine, delivered five tutorials about her field of study: the psychology behind the education system. After all 5 sessions, we were required to write a 2000 word essay on what we had learned in the style of an undergraduate assignment and submit for grading.

We have very recently found out that we all passed the programme, and we will soon attend a graduation ceremony at Bristol University, where again we will have a study skills session and will be able to experience university life firsthand. We will also receive a qualification which will help students get into the top universities. I found the whole experience really challenging, but it's definitely given me the skills I need to feel comfortable starting university in a few years' time. Also, it's impacting my school work right now as I'm much better at planning work. It really was... brilliant!

James Dunlop (Year 10)

Year 10 Set 1 Maths Results

Year 10 achieved their GCSE Maths results on the 11th January. As they walked into the hall to pick up their piece of paper worried expressions quickly turned to smiles and cries of joy. These were the best results ever achieved by a top set. 18 A* 14 A and 2 B grades, a set of outstanding results.

@StMartins_Maths

Well done to all of the students! They worked extremely hard in the lead up to the examinations and it paid off. Now for additional maths in the summer.

What the students said:

"I was ecstatic when I first saw an A* on my paper. I was incredibly proud."

"I was ecstatic when I got my results. I was so nervous but when I saw the A* on my sheet I was very emotional. Even more incredible, was finding out how well all of my friends had done. It was one of the best days of my life."

"I was very pleased with my results. They were the first results I had received and it showed that all the hard work paid off."

"I was so relieved and didn't believe I had the best grade possible. I cried to my teacher."

"I was overwhelmed with my A grade. I'm very grateful for the support from the maths faculty."

"Personally, results of the exam seem terrific! I am ecstatic! I am glad that all the work I put in has paid off, and a year early. I'm extremely pleased."

"I cried with joy. One of the best moments of my life."

"The feeling was impeccable, I've never felt so alive."



Safer Internet Day

As part of our ongoing work to promote e-safety within the school, the week of 5th February saw us promote Safer Internet Day across all year groups.

Our Student Digital Leadership Team agreed and implemented the following strategies to raise awareness of Digital Footprint and Citizenship across the school: changing the school desktop for a week, Key Stage 3 e-safety lessons, core skills sessions and assemblies for Key Stage 5. We have a Parent E-Safety Support session planned for early next month too - more information on our website.

For e-safety advice (social media help guides, parent support documents etc), please visit our Digital Toolkit (via our school website) bit.ly/StMartinsDigital.

[@StMartins ICT](https://twitter.com/StMartins ICT)



Nurture's Festive Fun

Nurture starts the Christmas countdown by getting into the festive fun. We started with our infamous secret Santa and Mother Claus gave us a visit as well!

Then we kicked it all off with a round of games which was a laugh. Guess who showed off their talent at our party? Mr Yeoman sang us some festive tunes on his guitar, everyone joined in singing their hearts out to finish off the festivity.

I would like to give a special mention and thanks to the wonderfully talented Mr Yeoman, all of the parents who contributed to our party and the fantastic nurture staff who made this a reality.

Amy Greening 11LF

Year 8 Win Against Lewis Boys in Caerphilly Cup

Standout game this half term has to be the Year 8's win away at Lewis Boys School in the Caerphilly Cup. The result was 17 - 0 and men of the match were Huw Anderson, Jacob Anderson and Josh Insley.

Looking forward to the knock out games after Half Term.

Year 7 verses Bedwas in the plate

Year 9 verses Cwm Rhydney in the cup

Year 8 verses Risca in the plate

Year 10 verses Risca in the cup



[@StMartins PE](https://twitter.com/StMartins_PE)



Intergen Christmas party

Intergen Christmas party at the Vans Community Centre. The buffet was prepared and served by our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering group.

The pupils received lots of praise for their work and how they conducted themselves.

[@StMartins_Y7](#)



Y8 Volunteers

Y8 pupils began working with our office staff this term, which contributes to them achieving the Organisation element of their @PiXLEdge Apprenticeship.

Over forty pupils volunteered for the first terms worth of work. Jobs on reception, manning the phones and helping out with our finance department have all been completed to the very best of their abilities.

All involved have been organised, enthusiastic and friendly throughout.

[@StMartins_Y8](#)

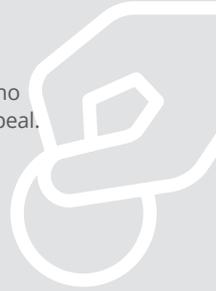


Penny Appeal

Well done to all the Year 7 form groups who raised a massive £329.15 in the penny appeal.

Pupils from 7DMa went shopping and purchased food and toiletries which were donated to the local food bank.

[@StMartins_Y7](#)



Champions of Tomorrow 2018 - All Girls Champions

This title is one of the most prestigious titles to win, the only one held in Blackpool in the famous Winter Gardens.

Nicole Warr-Townley is now on the champions roll of honour after her win.

Gymnastics

Mia Home 7LH competed in the Welsh Gymnastics Trampoline Gradings on Sunday 11th February 2018.

She finished 2nd in the 11-12 category individual competition and later she teamed up with her partner from the Twyn School and won the Synchro Competition.

