



MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

A huge thank you needs to go to our PTA who have worked tirelessly to raise funds and place bids in order to improve our school facilities and provision for our pupils - **they've raised in excess of £12,000!** We have received new seating, sports equipment and funding to support our vulnerable learners to name but a few of the successes. Their beautiful baking and dedication are second to none. We are looking to recruit new members to further enhance this excellent provision, so if you are interested please get in touch with Leanne Mitchell at the school. Mrs. J. Underwood - Assistant Headteacher



Awful Auntie

Year 7 and 8 pupils had the pleasure of attending the New Theatre, Cardiff on the 10th May for a performance of Awful Auntie. The show was fun packed and we were treated to front row seat!

[@StMartins_Y7](#)

[@StMartins_Y8](#)

GCSE Art

The GCSE Art exam conducted on the 26th and 27th April was a huge success! Pupils had prepared thoroughly and conduct was outstanding. The final outcomes were beautiful.



[@StMartins_Art](#)

English

[@StMartins_Eng](#)

This half-term has been very busy for the English Faculty and its pupils. Year 13 have recently completed their 3500 word prose studies for coursework.

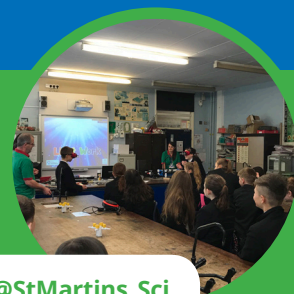
Work submitted was of an excellent standard, some at undergraduate level! Topics included: how the subjectivity of African American females is reclaimed in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*; the ways in which Kazuo Ishiguro and Shirley Jackson present the theme of social isolation within their novels *Never Let Me Go* and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*; and how the ideologies of American society are presented in F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

Years 10 and 11 submitted their GCSE Literature coursework; again, the standard was very high. Finally, Miss Banks and Miss Porter visited Tywn School to work with Year 6 teachers from across our feeder primaries on moderating work produced by Year 6 and Year 9 pupils. It was so great to see the beautifully presented books from Year 6 and, of course, the impressive standard of work. We look forward to welcoming you all in September!

Year 7 Science

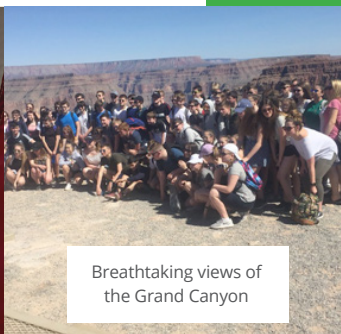
Year 7 had an exciting morning with Technquest looking at lights and heat. A great time was had by all.

[@StMartins_Sci](#)



Humanities trip USA

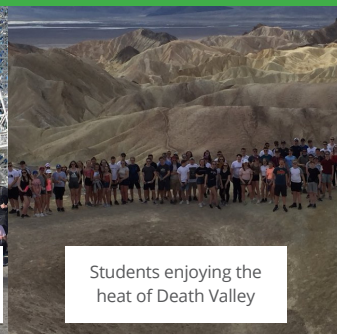
[@StMartins_Geog](#)



Breathtaking views of the Grand Canyon



Great way to finish the trip with a day at 6 Flags roller coaster park in LA



Students enjoying the heat of Death Valley



RUGBY REPORT

Year 7 Caerphilly Plate final versus Lewis Boys

We finally arrived at Ystrad Mynach all excited for the final against Lewis Boys. It was brilliant weather. We kicked off and Hudson caught the ball. The game was very tight for the first 10 minutes, with Lewis Boys putting pressure on us, however our defence was awesome and stopped them every time.

The game started to swing our way, and we started to break through their defence. After a few phases and hard work, we finally got the try we deserved, with Jac Facey scoring. The tries kept on coming and Lewis Boys really struggled to compete with our pace and handling skills. In the end Jac Facey scored 2, Charlie Undery scored 2, Ethan Roberts, Sawyer Hill and Charlie Humphries all crossed the line. It was a dominant performance by us, with Jac Facey getting man of the match.

Awesome first season in St Martins School.
Harvey Picton - Year 7 Rugby Captain



Year 10 rugby side triumph in Caerphilly Schools' Cup final

Capping off an unbeaten season captained by Jack Yandle our Year 10 rugby side win the Caerphilly Schools' Cup final in a marginal victory over a talented Islwyn High school team. We started off the season with a big win over a weak Gwyndy side to claim our first three points in the group stages of the tournament. The win instilled confidence in the team resulting in another big win against Newbridge High which took us to the quarter finals. After our opponents Risca withdrew from the tournament we then went through on default.

We then travelled away to face a strong Lewis Boys team. At one stage in the match we went down to 14 men after a harsh decision from the referee. We ultimately won in a closely fought match decided by an outstanding penalty kick by Josh Jennings which took us through to the finals in Ystrad.



🐦 @StMartins_PE

Year 8 Rugby

On 27th April the Year 8 rugby team travelled up to the 4G in Ystrad Mynach to play Lewis Boys in the final of the Caerphilly Plate. It was a rainy day which led to difficult playing conditions. The Captain (Huw Anderson) shook hands with the opposing captain before the game kicked off.

It was a tough first half and with five minutes left, we were on our line defending. Thankfully, Jacob Anderson turned the ball over to prevent Lewis Boys from scoring which led to us counter attacking and kicking the ball down the field for a great chase. We retrieved the ball but the referee unfortunately wasn't on our side and gave a scrum to the other side for what he thought was a knock on. The half time whistle was blown and Mr Thomas and Mr Faulds gave us a talk on what we needed to do in the second half.

The second half started and within five minutes Lewis Boys scored a well worked try which meant they had gone into the lead with five points. With ten minutes left of the game it wasn't looking promising but our heads didn't drop and we kept attacking. We came closer than ever to scoring but didn't quite make it over the line. With only 5 minutes to go, we were on the half way line and we had a penalty awarded to us. Josh Insley quickly tapped the ball and ran down the pitch. He dummied one, dummied two and before we knew it he was running down the wing chasing the try line and popped it over. We were ecstatic! The score was now even 5 all. We raced back to the half way line. Lewis Boys kicked off, we caught the ball and took it up. A couple of passes wide and the ball is back in Josh's hands and he repeats what he did just minutes before and ran down the wing and scored in the corner. We all cheered as we were now winning 10-5. As we cheered the final whistle blew and we were declared the champions of the Caerphilly Plate and Josh Insley was awarded Man of the Match.

In the final we then faced a talented Islwyn High team who took the lead in the early stages of the game. We quickly responded with a well worked try which saw William Oates cross the white wash for our first try of the game, levelling the game. A well worked team move and a quick turn of pace from Ben Holifield gave us a substantial lead before half time.

The final try scored by William Jones came in the latter stages of the game which secured our victory. This was our first ever piece of silverware in our team and we are now rightfully crowned the best team in Caerphilly. We now look forward to a fun packed tour to Canada in July and we hope to maintain our 100% record this season while having fun.



Mathematics

🐦 @StMartins_Maths

On April 26th 2018 one hundred of our highest achieving students from yr 7 and 8 were entered into the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge. We are very proud to announce our highest scoring student achieving a silver award was Harrison Shepherd from Yr 8. Other students who achieved highly by achieving either the silver or bronze award and deserve recognition are as follows:

Year 8 - Bronze

Seren Fletcher
Lewis Meyrick
Lucy Watkins
Rosie McMahon
Jay Lintern
Ellie Jones
Oliver Skinner
Ffion Edwards
Emily Lewis
Nick Williams
Huw Anderson

Year 8 - Silver

Emilia Whiting
Luke Evans
Ioan Olsen
Holly Brown

Year 7 - Silver

Charlott Carr
Ellie Hann

Year 7 - Bronze

Josef Ward



This was the first time for St Martin's to enter a national mathematical competition. The maths department would like to say a big well done to all the students who took part in this year's competition and look forward to working with our students next year to improve on this result. Have a good summer all and see you in September.

Maths with MAT primary pupils

Since September Miss Smith has been working with a group of around 30 primary school children to develop their problem solving and reasoning skills. Once a half term, MAT pupils from the catchment schools are invited to St Martins for a 2 hour session on problem solving.

The pupils have been shown many methods of how to problem solve and how to break down questions with lots of information. They have even brought their own methods to the session and taught Miss Smith a thing or two. Each session the pupils work through some NNT papers as well as trying some maths GCSE questions.

All of the pupils are working so hard; they are doing themselves and their schools proud. Miss Smith is challenging the pupils with different activities, such as, a Numeracy Ninja challenge and getting competitive playing Kahoot.



🐦 @StMartins_??



🐦 @StMartins_Span

Modern foreign language student mentoring

During a period of 8 weeks, a selected group of year 8 students have had the wonderful opportunity of being part of the "Modern foreign language student mentoring", organised by Cardiff University. Throughout the course, our pupils have reflected upon the importance of studying a foreign language, and also the career opportunities available to those with language skills. Their hard work has been rewarded by Cardiff University during a ceremony that took place in the City Hall of Cardiff. As part of the Ceremony our students took part in a guided tour to the Language School, where they visited the different facilities and workshops available for those who decide to continue studying languages in University. They even learnt some Italian in a fantastic university style lesson! Once again, well done Year 8. You definitely are a credit to the school, congratulations!

St Martin's Philosophy, Religion & Ethics Department Conference



St Martin's Philosophy, Religion & Ethics Department proudly hosted a conference with Dr Greg Barker a published author and visiting research fellow at the University of Winchester. This was a very valuable revision conference aimed at our AS students on their Ethics and Philosophy courses. The conference was well attended by pupils from a variety of other Schools and Colleges in South Wales. Students were well informed and enthused by his energetic style and gained a large amount of very useful resources to help with their revision.

🐦 @StMartins_RE



ALL THINGS BEES !!!

Thought provoking, yet sadly, potentially very true. To this end, St. Martin's Year 10 Business pupils have become highly proactive in trying to play their small, but significant part, in maintaining this balance. After months of negotiations and advice from Kevin Eadon-Davies of Caerphilly Council and Lorne East, the very charismatic bee-keeper and Project Manager of Sirhowy Valley Honeybee Company; our business pupils finally had the opportunity on 23 April to get up close and personal with the bees! And what an experience we had!

Kitted out in the finest bee keeper outfits and flowery wellies (and that was just the boys!) each pupil had the opportunity to get an insight into the sustainability of the bees; the importance of the Queen bee, and her amazing ability to lay 1500-2000 eggs a day!! Whilst also having the amazing experience of having the bees fly directly around them, plus the added delight of tasting honey straight off the comb! A taste to be savoured!

But it didn't end there... just two days later, the experience continued for 4 lucky pupils: Ashley Harris; Katie Loader; Cameron Clarke and Harry Owen, alongwith our fabulous site staff, Tina and Dylan, to undertake more detailed training via a basic introduction to bee-keepers course! All listened intently, and showed both courage and focus in handling the bees. Without doubt, I am sure they will all make admirable bee-keepers on behalf of the school!

All that remains now, is to get the hive on site, showcase what we have learned, allow the pupils to hopefully produce their own honey and by-products to sell and enhance their business knowledge, whilst most importantly continue to play our small, yet important role, in maintaining the environment! For us, this is just the beginning, watch this space!

*"If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth,
man would have no more than four years to live."*

Albert Einstein