



DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Former Pupil, Leona Vaughan, climbs Machu Picchu to raise funds for Tenovus

Just before October half term I took on the challenge of climbing Machu Picchu in Peru for Tenovus Cancer Care. It was undoubtedly one of the hardest but yet most rewarding things I've ever done. I'd like to thank St Martins School for their help with fundraising for me! It's amazing to think that my old High School managed to get involved and help raise awareness for such a fantastic cause. To know that the money will hopefully help and change people's lives is something that everyone should feel proud of. Thank you so much everyone.



Thank you
for your
support!

Judo

A new club has been established this year and takes place every Thursday. Cardiff Central Martial Arts run this club on behalf of the school. The club welcomes boys and girls of all different abilities.

This is a fun way to make new friends and relieve some of the stress that comes with school work. A big congratulations to Sol Constantinou for completing his grading during half term and achieving a red belt. Hard work and determination pays off!!!

🐧 @StMartins_HWB



Cheshka Podosek, pictured to the right, won the World All girls Latin under 16 championship in Paris.

A huge congratulations from the PE department at St Martin's School to Cheshka for a tremendous achievement!

Two outstanding students winning the Latin closed Welsh Junior Championships were Rachel Hayward and Alex Morris. Well done girls!!

Also Crystal Williams winning a street dance and cheerleading competition. Watch this space for Dance GCSE appearing in the options block for next year.



St Martin's World Champions!

On Saturday 8th December our year thirteen PE student, Chloe Wallen travelled with her dance partner Sophie Thomas (from Bedwas High) to compete in the Latin World Championships in Paris!

During the finals day, the pair performed three dances, namely the 'cha cha', 'rumba' and 'jive'. After three superb performances, and a tense few hours, the pair were awarded 1st place, and are now World Champions!!

A huge congratulations from the PE department at St Martin's School to Chloe and her dance partner Sophie for a tremendous achievement!

Well done to Ruby Carter in winning four medals at a World Championships in Athens Greece.

It shows that hard work, over months and weeks and extra time on weekends has paid off.

A huge congratulations from the PE department at St Martin's School to Ruby and Kickboxing Club for a tremendous achievement!





Creative Writing Club

🐦 @StMartins_Eng

Creative Writing Club members have been busy every Tuesday afternoon crafting short stories and poems. The club aims to publish a book anthologising their efforts in the summer. Here is the start of a short story from Chloe Bevan (Year 8):

Small birds chirp in the distance; they seem at peace. The silence surrounding me, my whole town, is deafening. War does that. It can rob one of everything, until the only thing left is the thing itself. I would know - I had lived the experience.

Despite the many eyewitness accounts, survivor stories and such, none really describe the true feeling of watching practically everyone you'd ever known die, their bodies falling gracefully then smashing to the ground. Almost like glass. Wreckage surrounds them, making them look small and irrelevant compared to the town's loss of resources.

I almost wish I could join them. They don't have to deal with the war's consequences. I feel angry at them, jealous even. The feeling is wrong, but entirely truthful. They all left me, the eldest remaining in this town, therefore immediately designating me as leader. I was barely of age in comparison to our past leaders.

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My new position automatically put me in charge of the war's strategies, as well as the remaining survivors' living arrangements and food. It was cruel to send our warriors out now, not in their current vulnerable state. However preparations would need to be made soon. I hold no doubt that they would attack again, possibly soon.

Blood trickles lightly down my cheek, yet I make no move to wipe it. The cut stings, and is most likely deep with glass and stones. I'm lucky, many have suffered from worse wounds, both physical and mental. I can see some of the older citizens tending to the younger's wounds. Everyone looks exhausted.



Enterprise Day and the Christmas Festival

We held our first ever Enterprise Day on Tuesday 11th December, whereby Key Stage 3 were set the challenge of decorating the school ahead of the Christmas Festival. Students were tasked with the job of allocating a team leader, create a team name and business plan, identify strengths and weaknesses of their ideas, participate in team building activities and then, of course, decorate the class room ahead of the festivities.

Lesson 5 the judging panel viewed each of the room and awarded 8DMA 3rd place, 7HP 2nd place and 7LL 1st place!

The evening then followed, where the rooms were used to host the stalls of local businesses and our Year 13 Enterprise students. Each Year 13 group had set up an enterprising business as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate project in the hope to make the most profit. Our students demonstrated innovation and professionalism to the highest standard. The team work on display was impeccable too! One group were even lucky enough to have Santa as their star surprise guest.

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to students and our local community for their support.

🐦 @StMartins_ML





Mathematics News

The Mathematics Department in St Martin's School pride themselves on the wide range of extra curricular activities they offer to their students. These activities range from revision classes, mathematics magician club and a darts club for the more competitive students. To supplement this, the Mathematics Department have been in contact with Kumon, which is a company that have mathematics programmes that aim to provide students with the skills and confidence to enjoy maths and be prepared for their future examinations. These aims fit perfectly with the overall aims of the Mathematics Department at the school.

At St Martin's School, we are always looking for innovative ways to support and challenge pupils on a daily basis, but this does not need to stop when the school day finishes. Kumon also offer programmes after school and during the school holidays that provide students with continued support and challenges. We, as a department, think this could help student become confident learners and support them in achieving the grades that they deserve.

Following on from this students were given a free two week trial period on the website Mangahigh. Mangahigh also share the same vision as St Martins and Kumon by offering a positive view of learning maths. The producers of Mangahigh, King limited, pride them selves on the creation of the renowned game 'Candy Crush'. This gave students an interactive experience to learn maths through unconventional methods that we hoped they enjoyed.

🐦 @StMartins_Maths

Year 9 Assembly

Year 9 pupils have led assemblies this half term informing pupils across the year groups about the history and the importance of Maths from the subjects beginnings to the modern day.

Kumon also offer programmes after school and during the school holidays that provide students with continued support and challenges.

KUMON



MANGA
high.com

Facilities - Home Economics

Phase 1 of the exciting redevelopment of the school's catering classrooms. Extensive preparation work has begun in the school's technology faculty preparing the space for a state of the art catering classroom, providing first class facilities to support students keen to develop their catering and hospitality skills.

Second phase commences the start of Spring Term 2019.



🐦 @StMartins_DT





Remembrance Day

School children from across the Caerphilly town area gathered to pay their respect and mark Armistice Day with a two-minute silence and wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph in Caerphilly town centre. A service was held at 11am at the town's cenotaph with local dignities, ahead of the Royal British Legion's service on Remembrance Sunday.

St. Martin's School was represented by students from a range of year groups. Among them, Jacob Avery and Mali Bounds (Head Boy and Girl) introduced the proceedings and shared readings, while Remembrance Day Poetry Competition winner, Lewis Jones (Year 8), read his poem to the crowd of children and local community members.

The poem Lewis wrote for the occasion is entitled 'Thank You' and is now on display in Mrs Palmer's classroom.



Facebook.com/RoyalBritishLegionCaerphilly

[@StMartins_Hist](#)

Thank You

There is a very sad story behind our nations glory. Our worlds commonwealth was created while commonwealth soldiers waited.

These men lived in a trench with disease, sickness and a stench. They did so we could live happy and healthy but remember not all commonwealth countries are as wealthy.

Thank you so much soldiers for your dedication to our great nation. Thank you soldiers for living hungry while fighting for your country.

Remember the commonwealth is a huge organisation with nations that contain a third of the world's population.

While their families were waiting our soldiers were pacing. Look up at the stars were all under one moon, we can only hope they'll be home soon.

You fought for our country and Queen, we can't imagine the horrors you've seen.

We will always wear our poppies with pride to remember all you heroes who have died.

Lewis Jones, Creative writing Club, Year 8

Miss L Banks

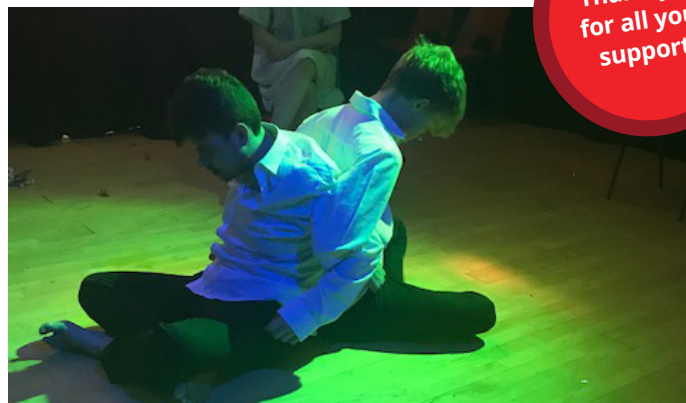
Expressive Arts News

The Expressive Arts faculty have been very busy this term. In November GCSE groups went to see Lord of the Flies in the Sherman Theatre, Year 8 pupils performed Macbeth in the Shakespeare School's Festival, Art club designed and created costumes and props for the performance.

The choir performed at Caerphilly Pensions Club and at the bandstand for the Caerphilly Christmas Market.

Then in December the festivities really picked up with our annual cluster concert and Christmas concert being performed in St Martin's Church followed by a relaxing visit to the pantomime. We have had so much fun!

[@StMartins_Drama](#)



Thank you
for all your
support!





Global Communication

Languages Department

Some of our Year 8 pupils have been enjoying weekly visits from a Languages student from Cardiff University. We have been working with the Routes Into Languages Language Ambassador Programme for many years and have experienced a significant uptake in pupils opting for Spanish GCSE since.

The ten pupils have been learning about food, culture and cities all around the world. They have also had the opportunity to learn some greetings in new and different languages including Portuguese and Italian. Furthermore they have enjoyed hearing music in a variety of languages and watching movies. They are all now considering taking a language GCSE next year!

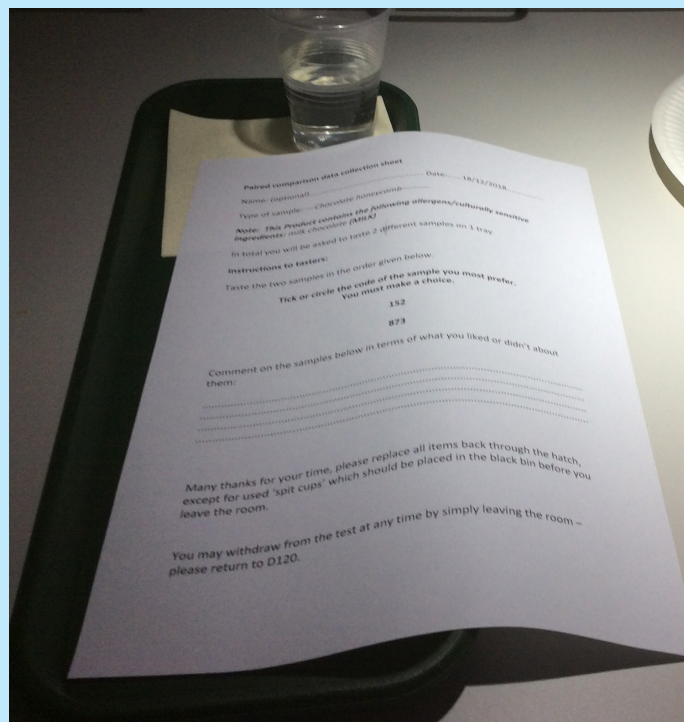
"I love Welsh but I am definitely more interested in opting for a foreign language now." Demi Hanson 8ED

Thank you so much to the student Firial Benamer who has worked so hard with our pupils and has inspired them.



Cardiff Metropolitan University

A mix of year 11 & year 10 students had the pleasure of attending Cardiff Metropolitan University to work in their zero2five food department with Dr James Blaxland. The pupils made honeycomb and saw how coffee is freeze and air dried. Everyone enjoyed the day but especially the taste testing booths where they got to sample the chocolate covered honeycomb. We are looking forward to working with the university in future projects. Mrs Shopland



YE Trade Fair Ikea Sell! Sell! Sell!

On 29 November, a select, but refined group of Directors of our current Young Enterprise Company "BTC Sales" (Business to Consumer), hit the foyer of IKEA to sell a range of Christmas products to the general public, in a bid to raise both awareness and much needed funds for their fledgling company.... And sell they did!!! £38 worth of products was initially paid for by myself, and they were invariably tasked to upsell their products to recover these initial costs; refund finance their £15 float; PLUS make that all important profit! The nerves started to kick in as the morning passing footfall was slow, but steady.. But I need not have worried! The boys - all KS4- pulled together as a strong team and divided out the roles according to their strengths. Joshua Cox (year 10) and Ashley Harris (year 11) were the ultimate, and very comical, selling team that drove home pure profit of over £80. They were most definitely our modern day Del-Boy and Rodney!! Under the strong leadership of their Managing Director, Tomos Edwards, they were the only team that sold all of their products, and ultimately came home with huge smiles of achievement and proud winners of the "Ikea Customer Service Award" - Well done boys! May your company continue to go from strength to strength!

Ms K Joyce - Enterprise Faculty



@StMartins_BST

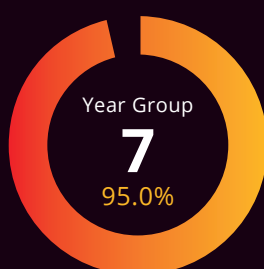
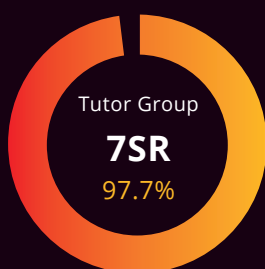


Attendance Brackets and Goals

Attendance figure	Number of days missed over the school year	Number of days in school over the school year	What does this mean?
100%	0	185	Best chance of success
97%	6	179	Good chance of success
92%	15	170	Slight concern, attendance will have impact on learning.
85%	28	157	SIGNIFICANT CONCERN, LEGAL ACTION CONSIDERED
80%	37	148	<u>SERIOUS CONCERN, SCHOOL WILL PURSUE LEGAL ACTION</u>

Attendance figures OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Highest Attendance



Showing Most Improvement



175 Pupils have managed to maintain 100% attendance over the whole term!!