



FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

A Day of Rap, Hip-Hop & Beatboxing at St Martin's!

St Martin's Pupils were lucky enough to see the return of the Higher Wales Tour this term! Through rap, beatboxing and hip-hop tunes the Christian band Soul Box taught our pupils important lessons on self-esteem, choices and consequences. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the gig, which was evident through the serious dance moves going on! Pupils also deeply engaged in the important messages being taught, displaying both excellent behaviour and respect for one other.

Thanks to Raf and Alison and the Club 707 team for organising the event. We hope to see the band return in the near future.

@StMartins_PRE



PiXL Edge

PiXL edge has been re-launched to Year 8 and introduced for the first time to Year 7. This is a an exciting programme that successfully launched last year to help students develop character - focusing on Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Innovation and Communication. Last year, 15 of our best Year 8 students were invited to City Hall, Cardiff to the Annual PiXL Edge Awards Ceremony.

Students are required to record the ways in which they have shown the mentioned skills on the PiXL Edge website <https://theedge.pixl.org.uk/> (or by using rmunify.com). It's a great way for us to get to know our students and learn about the wonderful activities they participate in outside of the classroom as well as encouraging them to develop their character by completing a number of simple, but meaningful challenges.

@StMartins_ML

Technocamps Game Of Codes 2019 Coding Competition - Smart Cities

Thank you to the Technocamps team from the University of South Wales who have been working with our code club enthusiasts this half term to deliver the "Smart City" initiative. Students were set the challenge in January to create a piece of software using the 'Smart Cities' theme. Our participants were split into two groups - group 1 created a healthy eating / wellbeing app called "Sportaneous", whilst group 2 created a virtual world of the future using scratch.

After weeks of hard work, our entries were submitted just last week so we await the results of the competition. Fingers crossed for both teams who were highly creative and showed the upmost dedication to ensure their aims were met every week.



@StMartins_ML



Plastic Pollution Supermarket Improvement Plans

In English, class 7S have been learning about plastic pollution. We conducted a lot of research and have written Supermarket Improvement Plans. The idea is to reduce the amount of single-use plastic in supermarkets and schools.

We gave suggestions such as using gravity dispensers for package-free pasta and rice, and eliminating plastic packaging on fruit and vegetables. We will send our plans, plus a persuasive covering letter, to supermarkets (such as Tesco and Asda) to make this an authentic learning experience.

While most students wrote theirs to high performing supermarkets, others wrote to the school to complain about the plastic use and lack of recycling facilities at St Martin's. The persuasive letter acted as our most recent writing assessment, but hopefully it will change the way plastic is used in supermarkets too!

Written by DJ, Year 7



@StMartins_Eng

Brilliant Club



We are once again working in collaboration with the Brilliant Club and this year we will be giving two cohorts of more able and talented year 7 and 9 students the opportunity to take part in the scholars programme.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools and universities across the UK and exists to both provide opportunities for more able pupils whilst increasing the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds progressing to highly selective universities. The Scholars Programme recruits, trains and places doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in schools to deliver programmes of university-style tutorials, which are supplemented by two university trips.

This term our year 9 students welcomed the opportunity to visit Bath University for their launch trip and have now completed two seminars with their Cardiff University tutor. They are focusing on the topic of "The benefits of shared decision making and joint consultation in teenage healthcare." Students will research this topic in depth and will each write a 2000 word assignment which will be assessed using undergraduate criteria.

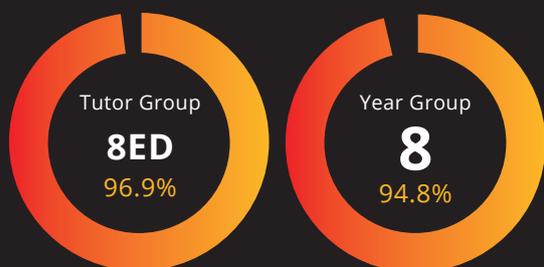
The tutor has commented that all our students are "highly engaged and enthusiastic." Oliver Skinner, year 9, stated that to date he is finding the programme "A very beneficial and worthwhile experience."

We are looking forward to our year 7 launch trip and the opportunity to stretch and challenge more of our young learners outside of the classroom environment.

@StMartins_CM

Attendance to date - ending 08.02.2019

Highest Attendance



Showing Most Improvement



Whole School Attendance



174 Pupils have managed to maintain 100% attendance since September!!



Easyfundraising



Don't forget help raise funds for St. Martin's School whenever you shop online!

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,500 big name retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, and Booking.com - and when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for us every time. It's that easy!

Help support us and our students by visiting the link below:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmartinsschoolcaerphilly

Scan this QR code to watch a 60 second video that explains how easyfundraising works and how simple it is to help support us every time you shop online - but at no extra cost to you.



BTC Sales are back!

After launching our business BTC Sales in September and attending our first ever business event at IKEA at Christmas, our team continue to meet every Monday to work on our next project.

The main purpose of our business is to save the bees in the world today. This is very important to us and we plan to do this by purchasing and selling a range customised flower seeds packets that bees are always attracted to. By creating more flowers in our gardens, it will increase the bee population ensuring they thrive and grow. This will create a sustainable living for us! Please look out for us at an event near you, very soon!

We are already thinking about how we could extend our business plan even further by selling beeswax products such as candles. Our business ethos and USP is to make the world a better place at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to represent St. Martin's and we all excited to take our business forward in the year ahead!

[@StMartins_Ent](https://twitter.com/StMartins_Ent)



RED AND GOLD STUDENT NEWSPAPER

We are excited to announce that we have started a student newspaper!



All newspapers editions can be found on the school website under news or by visiting bit.ly/redandgoldnewspaper.

The school newspaper is for year 7 at the moment but as the team grows we will hopefully bring it up throughout the years. At the moment the newspaper team are writing their sixth edition. We have motivational video of the week, student and teacher interviews as well as faculty announcements!

To view you must be logged into a St Martin's account.

[@StMartins_News](https://twitter.com/StMartins_News)



COMING SOON!

We are working very hard behind the scenes to set up our school radio station to be broadcasted to you from our Red and Gold Office. Watch this space! For all other faculty news, please visit bit.ly/stmartinsenterprise



Girls Football

Girls football has seen a great increase in numbers, especially in the new year 7 intake. We were lucky enough to receive some funding to get new kit through Premier League Starts and the girls have been very excited to represent St Martins in their new pink kit! A huge thank you to [@plcommunities](#) and [@footballfoundtn](#) for their support in promoting girls football in St Martins. Girls football will now continue with our PGCE student Miss Burrows Thursdays after school.

[@ StMartins_PE](#)

[@ StMartins_PE1](#)

[@ StMartins_HWB](#)



Sports Tour

The girls PE department are running a netball tour to Holland during the Easter holidays 2019. This will see the girls engage in coaching sessions, matches and tournaments against other travelling UK schools. Keep an eye out on the PE twitter for updates and photos of our adventures! Training for tour is every Monday.

[@ StMartins_PE](#)

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New Football Kit

We're super excited to receive our [#PLPrimaryStars](#) kit pack thanks to [@plcommunities](#) and [@footballfoundtn](#)!



Why should you join our Sixth Form?

Most students often wonder what they should do after completing their GCSE's, and we are here to provide a worthwhile opportunity to join our Sixth Form in St Martins School. Our teachers are friendly, experienced and are real experts in their profession. In addition, they will do whatever they can so that you will achieve the best A-Level grade possible, as well as the school providing excellent facilities including a common room and a study room, not to mention a whole area dedicated to only the sixth former students as well.

We also take pride in the fact that many of our students meet and exceed their predicted grades, we are always open for you to come and speak with us and we do organise open evenings, so you're perfectly welcome to attend. It can also be rather overwhelming studying elsewhere, so why not stay as research proves students achieve high if they remain in their own school, as the teachers already know you! and will get the best out of you as you learn.

Mathematics achievements

[@St Martins_Maths](#)

The maths department have celebrated a fantastic set of results from the November sitting.

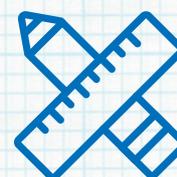
88% of those students who sat the exam achieved A* - C and 100% A* - G.

Revision continues on a Monday evening for GCSE.

We also have a class of 37 students entered for the AS mathematics exam in the Summer. This is the first year this has happened, we hope this will continue in the future.

AS revision continues on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Finally a well done to all staff and students for their hard work since September.





Cluster Cross Country Event

A newly revised cluster event took place on the 6th February. All the runners from Twyn, Cwrt Rawlin and St James all finished the event showing true grit and determination.

Well done to Twyn in Year 3 and 4 race 1st, 2nd and 3rd and overall team event.

Well done to Cwrt Rawlin in Year 5 and 6 race 1st, 2nd and 3rd and overall team event

 @StMartins_PE

 @StMartins_HWB

 @StMartins_PE1



CSSA Competition

Year 8

Well done both Year 8 sides at the CSSA comp today. 'A' and 'B' team won 2 drew 2 lost 1. Great effort.

Year 7

The A team were very successful, winning 3 and drawing one game in last week's competition. Stand out players were Adam Sow and Milo Crompton.

The B team also had a good afternoon, playing 5 and only losing once. Stand out players were Sam McMahon and Keegan Walby.

Dragons

Well done U16s players William Oates, Joshua Jennings and Hamish Anderson and Tristan Kugler on their selection into the Dragons U16s. Inspirational for the younger St Martin's Rugby Players that look up to you. Great Role Models.



Judo Taster Sessions

Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a judo taster session with Judo club attendees leading the demonstration.

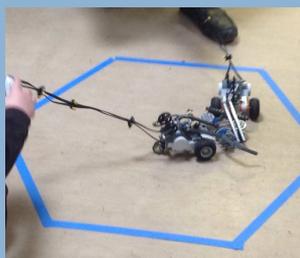
Well done to everyone involved.





Chris Jones - Glamorgan Valleys and Welsh Squad Athletics

Well done to Chris Jones from Year 8 representing Glamorgan Valleys County in the WSAA National Championships 2019 event in Brecon on the 13th Feb. He came in 61st out of 90 runners and was running a year early. One to watch out for in the future!!!



School Code Club

Thank you to technocamps for attending our after school code club this half term, delivering the Smart Cities initiative and exciting lego mindstorm sessions.

Check out these robot sumo wrestling action shots. This enrichment activity is part of the cracking the code EAS initiative, working with Pasyfelin Cwrt Rawlin Twyn and St. James

Hockey

A huge well done to St Martin's hockey team, who competed in their first matches at Ysgol Cwm Rhymini during December. The mixed team were involved in playing a variety of mini matches as well as a larger sided match against the school. The team thoroughly enjoyed their experience of playing competitively, and managed to achieve several wins and a few draws. A big thanks to Nate in year eight, who kitted up in full goalkeeper attire for the matches.

Miss Harris is really proud of the progress that the hockey team have made week on week, as the squad continues to grow, progress is being made every session. If you fancy coming along to hockey training, it is held every Tuesday after school. All abilities welcome!

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Latin Dance

A huge congratulations to Emily Morgan, Rachel Hayward and Alexandra Morris who travelled up to Blackpool during the weekend of the 9th February 2019 to compete in the 'All girls championship'. Alex and Rachel achieved 1st place in the competition, and Emily and her partner Annie managed to achieve 4th place. An incredible result for all! Da iawn merched! #StMartinsDancers

[@ StMartins_PE](#)

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If you would like to come along to St Martin's school dance club, it is held after school every Monday

New York and Washington DC Football Tour

An exciting trip that will provide your child with inspiration and experiences that will stay with them for life. This trip will give your child an opportunity to play three games of football and participate in and experience some amazing sights such as The White House, Arlington Military Cemetery, Madison Square Garden and the Statue of Liberty to name a few.

This trip will be for current Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils and there will be a limit to **40 spaces**.

[@ StMartins_PE](#)

[@ StMartins_PE1](#)

[@ StMartins_HWB](#)

