



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

BBC

Master Class

Our Student Newspaper Editors were lucky enough to have a BBC Wales journalism master class this half term, courtesy of Sarah Hibbard and Matt Murray.

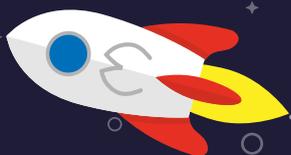
Our news reporters and future radio presenters learnt all about how to spot fake news, the key elements to a breaking news story and recorded their own TV link!



Aerospace Engineering Talk

On the 21st of March a group of year 7 and 8 pupils attended an after school Skype talk with Tyler Olson a good friend of Miss Rance. Tyler is an aerospace engineer with a masters in engineering. He also completed a summer project with NASA a few years ago.

The students had a fantastic time asking about how they could peruse a career in engineering and finding out what it is like to work at NASA. The talk was led by the students' questions and Tyler said, 'I was impressed with the students mature questions'.



"It was very interesting to learn about all the work NASA is doing. We got to find out what GCSEs you need if you want to work at NASA. It was interesting to find out about Tyler's project at NASA."
Gemma Read Mayer - Year 8

"I found it very educational to listen to. I also liked to hear what NASA are doing. It was fun that we could ask questions."
Carys Pearce - Year 8



UDO Dance Competition

Since February, the dance team have been rehearsing after school 2-3 times a week in preparation for the UDO dance competition. The girls had learnt a routine to one of Christina Aguilera's biggest hits - one in which wouldn't usually be associated with a street dance competition (so nerves were running high!). The routine comprised of a surprise Latin section, alongside a variety of formations and general street dance content.

The competition was held on Friday 15th March in Sophia Gardens. There were sixteen entries in the 'junior' category, with the top five going through to the finals in Stoke on Trent in June. The audience and judges really responded to the music, and there was lots of 'woo-ing' and applauding as the music began... the routine was performed better than Miss Harris had EVER seen it before, so listening to the final results was very tense.

5th - no, 4th - no, 3rd - no, 2nd - no... either we had won, or we hadn't got through at all...

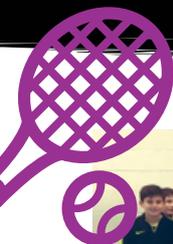
And in first place... St Martin's Dancers!



A huge congratulations from Miss Harris and the rest of the PE department to the following dancers:

Jess Anderson, Caitlin Carter, Caitlin Williams, Lowri Higgins, Seren Martin, Rachel Hayward, Sophie Bye, Dannii Reed, Rubie Mitchell, Meg Goodwin, Ella Paige Hughes, Chloe Henderson, Emily Morgan, Mia Edgeworth and Molly Bulmer...

We cannot wait to start preparing for Stoke!!



Tennis Leaders Course

Busy day for Jon from Caerphilly Tennis Club as he trained 23 new Tennis Leaders from St Martin's. Well done all and we all look forward to working with you on both **#SchoolOfTennis** and our own Leadership project! Thanks **#CTC HC Jon**, Luke **@tenniswales** and Claire **@sport_leisure**. The future of Tennis at St Martin's.



GCSE PE Moderation

A very successful GCSE Moderation from all the students involved. Weather was not on our side but you all performed exceptionally well. Good luck in you Summer Exam and remember Easter revision with Mrs. Griffiths and Mr. Faulds on 24th April.



Rugby Cup Finals



Year 7 v Blackwood - Bowl Cup

What a performance at the Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence. The Year 7's hard work and training has paid off. After a slow start to the season they have shown great resilience and have become Caerphilly School's Year 7 Bowl Champions. Casey Morkot and Sam McMahon scored twice and Milo Crompton got a great individual try. A great all round team performance. Man of the Match was Cai Wardman who control the game well from number 9. Looking forward to next season.

Remember training continues over the summer.

Year 9 v Bedwas

Year 9 are taking on Bedwas in the Caerphilly Plate Final. Unfortunately, this was cancelled due to snow. Snow in April? The game is to be rearrange for after Easter at the Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence Pitch, which I'm sure will be a fantastic experience for all involved.

Cardiff City Primary Cluster Competition

On the 21st Feb we host the CCFC girls primary school Football Competition.

Well done to @TwynSchool. They only went on and won the tournament. A nail biting final against Rhiw Syr Dafydd that went to penalties. Well done girls.

The future for St Martin's football is looking promising.

External Sporting Accolades

Gymnastics

Year 7 - Tom Brooks

Tom is off to Ireland to represent Wales in Gymnastics over Easter. What a fantastic achievement. Watch out for the Newsletter next half term for an up date. Good Luck Tom!!!!!!



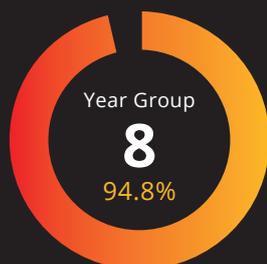
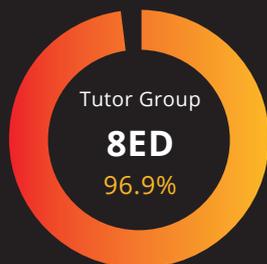
Judo

Year 8 - Cairon Murphy, Sawyer Hill & Oliver Brimble

Well done to the three boys in achieving their Red belts with CMMA Judo club. Watch out for the future Judo stars from St Martin's.

Attendance to date - 04/09/18 - 29/03/19

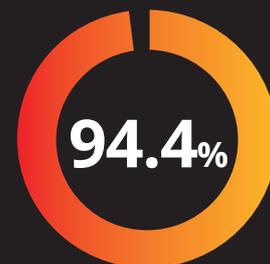
Highest Attendance



Showing Most Improvement



Whole School Attendance





High School Musical rehearsals

After completing very successful auditions last term the rehearsals for High School Musical are well underway.

Pupils have been extremely dedicated attending rehearsal after school and during lunch times.

In addition to this, we are also fortunate to have pupils working on all aspects of the show by creating props, fund raising and promoting the show.

Thank you to everyone involved.



Maths

This term, your child will be sitting the National Numeracy Test (NNT) and National Reasoning Test (NRT). These are annual tests that look to monitor and assess numeracy levels. All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will complete these tests during the week of 29th April to 3rd May.

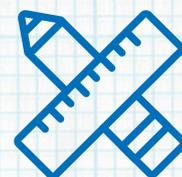
It is extremely important that **ALL pupils** should sit these tests and results will be reported to parents and pupils by the end of the summer term. We ask that you encourage your child to work through the practise questions to enhance their procedural and reasoning skills.

Revision resources can be found on the Learning Wales website; these include sample questions and markschemes. Pupils can also use Mathswatch to revise different topics.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Maths department if there are any concerns.

<https://learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/numeracy-sample-materials/>

<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

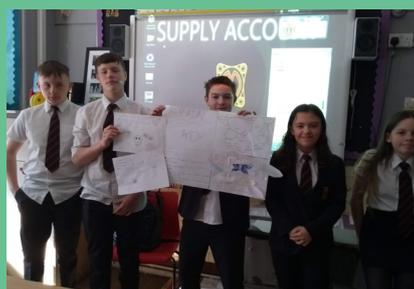


MFL Mentoring Sessions

Many pupils from Year 8 have been enjoying the Language Ambassador workshop with a student from Cardiff University. This is the second group of pupils to take part.

They are thoroughly enjoying learning about languages as you can see from the pictures.

Thank you to Firial Benamer for all your hard work.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to the pupils and staff of St. Martin's School for all your help raising money for the Poppy Appeal.



£45.08 was raised!



Caerphilly Craft & Food Market

On Saturday 30th March, two young entrepreneurs from Year 10, Oliver "Sugar" Weaver and Joseph "Branson" Goodwin, set off with a bounce in their step, and a money-making desire in their pockets, to Caerphilly Craft and Food Market.

Acting on behalf of their Young Enterprise company, BTC Sales, they were tasked with manning their stall to not only raise awareness of bees and their importance in our eco-systems, in anticipation for our upcoming hives to the school grounds, but to also sell products specifically made by themselves, along with an array of honey and honey related products kindly provided by our local beekeeper Lorne East.

The day was a huge success! The sun brought out lots of passing footfall; lots of sales were made; and just as importantly, a huge interest was shown in their venture. The boys were complete troopers, and worked the stall tirelessly for 8 hours! Their commitment and enthusiasm was contagious and they are definitely businessmen of the future to look out for!

Well done both!



ICELAND

St. Martin's pupils returned to Iceland during the February half term holidays for the first time in three years. Pupils were able to enjoy an action packed few days including visits to the Blue Lagoon, Pingvellir National Park, the Black Sand beaches near Vik, Skogafoss and Gullfoss waterfalls and a glacier walk on the Solheimajokull glacier.

Pupils also faced the perils of the Icelandic weather with wind speeds exceeding 120mph!!!

**Thank you for an enjoyable trip from Mr. Richards,
Mr. Jowett and Miss. Morgan!**



The Global Communications Faculty

The Global Communications Faculty has been very busy conducting Welsh orals with both Years 10 and 11 over the past two weeks.

These speaking and listening exams form part of the GCSE Welsh qualification. We have been thrilled by the commitment and effort shown by pupils leading up to the exams and during them. This process involves the whole year groups and requires an awful lot of organisation, so diolch to Miss Rookes, Mrs Davies and Miss Jackson for all their hard work preparing and assessing the pupils.

Here's to the Spanish A Level orals next!

