



JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

On the 26th, 27th and 28th June St Martin's School opened its doors to parents and members of the public for a Summer show! This year we proudly presented High School Musical. Pupils worked tirelessly, rehearsing and creating items of set for the show.



We hope you were able to come along and enjoyed the show!



Successful arrival of bees

June has proved a highly exciting month for St. Martin's as our long awaited bees finally made their arrival to site on 10th June. Like all new pupils to the school, they needed time to adjust and adapt to their surroundings - the only difference was, that these new arrivals were a 15,000 strong colony! Two weeks later, and we were checking them for the first time... and the results were fabulous! The Queen was presented and seen (marked in red); 6 hoffman boards were showing signs of brood (baby bees!); they had successfully eaten all the feed that we had given them and were deemed 10/10 in good health by our supporting Beekeeper and bee-guru, Lorne East! I almost felt motherly pride about how well they were actually doing!

The journey to get to this point has been 16 months.. We have made connections with Julian from Pollen8 Cymru who has attended the school to deliver two sessions on the importance of bees; our Year 11 business class has attended a honey bee education learning experience with Lorne at Ynysddu; there has also been a basic beekeeping training session for a number of pupils and caretakers; we have been gifted a project hive by Kev Eadon-Davies of Caerphilly Council; and have also been lucky enough to receive a community chest funding from Admiral which has allowed us to purchase our much needed bee suits.

After being granted a bill of health, we have set up our first 'honey super' onto the hive to see if we can produce any honey this season... apparently blackberry is a very popular nectar of choice at this time of year, so just let your tongue salivate for a moment.

The educational opportunities for this project are extensive... but more importantly, St. Martin's are doing their bit to help the sustainability of the bees in our community, for which we are all duly proud.

Ms K Joyce, Faculty of Enterprise



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

Albert Einstein





Year 7 Brilliant Club Graduates Jump for Joy!

This term a group of our more able and talented year 7 students have had the opportunity to engage with an academic enrichment programme working alongside PHD students on English literary criticism. As a part of this project they have each conducted academic research, undertaken wider reading and produced high quality 1500 word essays.

The programme has included a combination of university trips, in-school tutorials, access to online resources and virtual learning platforms and has culminated in a wonderful graduation style event. It is hoped that through engagement with this programme students will develop the knowledge, skills and ambition needed to progress to highly-selective universities.

Well done to everyone involved. It has been a pleasure working with you - Mrs Manson

Farewell and welcome

We would like to say thank you and farewell to the following staff

- Mr S Brookman - Head of Sixth Form / Teacher of Electronics - retiring after nearly 30 years at St Martin's
- Miss H Porter - Teacher of English
- Mrs A Withers - Teacher of English
- Miss S Rance - Teacher of Science
- Mr D Morris - Teacher of Physics
- Miss B Cooksley - Teacher of History

And welcome the following teaching staff in September 2019

- Miss K Gibbard - Teacher of English and History
- Miss K Walters - Teacher of English
- Miss A Hill - Teacher of English
- Mr N Saunders - Teacher of Science
- Miss E Whitcombe - Deputy Leader of Science & Technology
- Mr D Cole - Teacher of Electronics
- Miss L Cole - Teacher of PE
- Miss V Persaud - Teacher of English
- Miss N Williams-Wadley - PE Teacher

Congratulations to the following staff who have secured promotions starting in September 2019

- Miss L Banks - Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs L Weston - Assistant Headteacher
- Miss H McCallion - Head of Sixth Form, part time
- Miss L Hopkins - Head of Sixth Form, part time
- Miss S Harris - Head of Learning, part time
- Mrs K Gibson - responsibility for Initial Teacher Training
- Mrs L Avery - responsibility for New Curriculum Innovation
- Mrs R Griffiths - responsibility for New Curriculum Innovation



Thank you to EAS for giving us this exciting opportunity!

Code Club

This term, our students have enjoyed teaching themselves how to use spheros and lego mindstorms as part of the #crackingthecode initiative from Welsh Government and EAS. Our feeder primary schools have also been involved and together we have explored Code Club enrichment activities and benefitted from Technocamps challenge days. We hope to collaborate on a joint cluster project in the next academic year!



Year 7 Making tracks Lego challenge

The World Wide Aid distributes food and medical supplies to areas hit by natural disasters. Year 7 were asked by Techniquest to create the best model they could with a limited time and budget. Their prototypes all passed the WWA's criteria and survived testing.

Well done Year 7!



Bullies Out

On the 1st July 2019, 10 of our students from Years 7-12 undertook a one day training course to become our first peer to peer "bullies out" mentors.



These students are a credit to St Martin's. Well done all! This will be rolled out in September so watch this space!

Bullies Out say:

Peer support is well-liked by young people. It is a positive resource that creates a culture of listening, empathy and support. Mentors provide valuable support and are able to help with low level school-based issues and personal matters. Mentors are trained to listen well, provide support and encouragement, be non-judgemental and reflective and are excellent role models.

They are a dynamic team of 10 students volunteering their breaks and lunchtimes, working together to help deal with the issue of bullying amongst other things. They will be based in a room that students can access if there are any issues they would like to discuss with our peer mentors. Forms will be accessible from your form tutor who will then pass them to the peer to peer mentors.

Young Enterprise Regional Winners for Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent



Tuesday 30th April saw our formidable young entrepreneurs - known as BTC Sales - (Bees to Consumer) - arrive at Crosskeys College to participate in the Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent Young Enterprise finals. Hours of hard work, hours of staying after school to formulate and bring their idea to life, and hours of attending trade and craft fayres to raise awareness of their plight and make revenue, were all aiming towards this day. This one competition. This one chance to become overall winners of our region and be the representative at the Welsh final. The boys were hungry and ready! The trade stand interview went extremely well. Judges were both engaged and impressed at their professionalism and their breadth of knowledge. So far so good! Presentations next... nailed! Mingling with the VIP guests, saw many of them come to life, and through this they also learned that their Company Report was both detailed and informative.

Had they done enough??? Eventually it was the awards ceremony... a variety of awards were given out to several other schools... then we were called to receive the Chris Jarvis Marketing Award...fab!... could we get the big one??

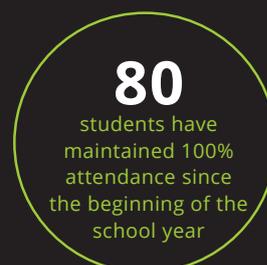
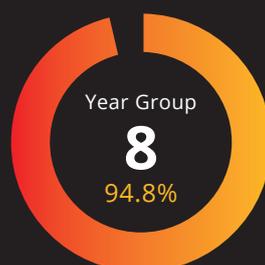
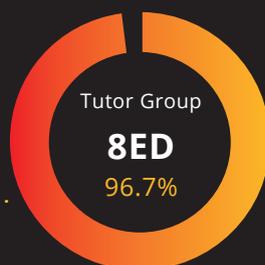
"Tonight's overall winner; and the company that is going to represent this area at the Wales Final in June is... BTC Sales!" They had done it!! They were the regional winners and were ecstatic, and I could not have been more proud! They are pure testament to the fact that with hard work and determination, anything is possible!

Ms K Joyce - Faculty of Enterprise

Attendance to date

04/09/18 - 05/07/19

Highest Attendance





Homelessness

Year 9 students have been busy this term learning about homelessness in their local community and raising awareness.

Recently they have completed a sponsored walk and took part in a soup kitchen event to help raise money for a local charity, Llamau, who help support young people in the community who have found themselves without a stable home. Year 9 have been respectful and engaged throughout the project and have raised £178.78 already with more donations to come in!

A particular well done needs to be extended to Oliver Perry for his excellent contributions during lesson, Bobby Park who raised a huge £40 in donations and to Lucy Watkins and Amelia Roberts for the work they put into creating a rap song / video to help raise awareness. Well Done Year 9!

I look forward to seeing how much money we are able to raise by the end of the term!

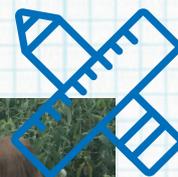
PiXL Edge



"Well done to all of Year 7 and 8 students who completed the PiXL Edge programme this year and have received certificates recognising their efforts to develop their wider skills - we are so very proud of each and every one of you! Our learners have completed a variety of tasks that will give them 'the edge'. Those skills are - leadership, organisation, resilience, innovation and communication (otherwise known as LORIC).

As a school, we were set a very difficult task to shortlist just 14 students from Year 8 - these students were invited to attend the 2nd Annual PiXL Edge Awards in City Hall, Cardiff to celebrate their achievements. Our students received their certificates on stage in front of conference delegates from across Wales and later on were attendees at a small intimate ceremony with just two other schools in attendance."

Mathematics



EAS MAT Maths Challenge.

Congratulations to Harrison Shepherd, Danni Reed, Ffion Edwards, Seren Fletcher, Jack Darby, Evan More and Jay Lintern who represented St. Martin's in the EAS MAT Maths Challenge. These pupils took part in a More Able and Talented Maths competition at Lewis Girls School. They were given 4 challenges to complete during the day which helped to develop their problem solving skills and team work. We are extremely proud of these pupils! They should be very happy with the effort they put into the tasks.

Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge



On April 30th 2019 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 Charlotte Carr from Yr 8

Other students who achieved highly by achieving either the silver or bronze award and deserve recognition are as follows:

Year 8 - Silver	Year 8 - Bronze	Year 7 - Bronze
Toby Davis	Jake Carter	Jacob Jenkins
Charlotte Carr	Kai Jackson	Ethan Shah clark
Sawyer Hill	Neve Leggett	Amelia Jenkins
	Ellie Hann	Daniel Ford
Year 7 - Silver	Chloe Bevan	Daisy Jarvis
Jacob Jenkins	Harry Chapman	Solomon Constantinou
	Daisy Middleton	Roisin Okeefe
	Hudson Mathias	Adam Davies
	Jessica Hughes	Milo Crompton

This was the second 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 years' 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!



Stoke Dance Finals

On Tuesday 25th June, 15 pupils from years 7 and 9 travelled up to Stoke to compete in the UDO finals. (Prior to this, the team had achieved 1st place in the Welsh Heats, winning their category, so the stakes were high!) We stayed overnight near the location, so that the girls were able to arrive at the competition fully energised and ready for the day.

The girls were competing in the BIGGEST category of the day, 'Junior Street'. The category had 12 teams from all over the UK. St. Martin's dancers were second to perform in their category. Their dance was a street remix and featured music from Timbaland, Missy Elliot, Fergie, Jessie J and Christina Aguilera. The choreography was based on Street, but had a surprise snapshot of some latin to showcase the girls' wide ranging talents! All 15 dancers gave it their best shot! We received the 1st to 5th results at the end of the day, and unfortunately didn't achieve a 'placing'.

The next day the score sheets were sent out to each member of staff from the school, and it turns out we had achieved 6th place (minimal point difference between 5th and 6th). The judges had marked the routines on: variety, creativity, choreography, presentation and judges opinion.



We received our best marks in the 'variety' and 'creativity' sections. A big thanks goes to Mrs Jolliffe for giving up her time, and helping out in Stoke. Miss Harris would also like to thank the following girls for all of their commitment regarding attending rehearsals week in week out, and for being the politest, most well mannered pupils at the event: Jess Anderson, Annie Bruten, Seren Martin, Caitlyn Williams, Mair Stiling, Ella Henderson, Mia Edgeworth, Rachel Hayward, Dannii Reed, Emily Morgan, Molly Bulmer, Sophie Bye, Chloe Henderson, Rubie Mitchell and Megan Goodwin.



We cannot wait to get stuck into next year's competition! UDO 2020 here we come!

Criminology Club

Criminology club is becoming more and more popular amongst students and is growing in numbers every week. Students can expect to complete fun criminology based activities as planned and run by other members of the student body. **The timetable of activities can be found below.**



Why not come and join??
Tuesday, 2:40 - 3:40
Room 53

Date	Activity
30 th April (Week 1)	Fingerprinting
7 th May (Week 2)	Documentary
14 th May (Week 3)	Cluedo
21 th May (Week 4)	Murder scene
4 th June (Week 5)	Personality test
11 th June (Week 6)	Profiling
18 th June (Week 7)	Cluedo
25 th June (Week 8)	Trip (Courtroom visit, Prison Visit)

Year 9 - Homelessness

As part of their year 9 Welsh Baccalaureate course, students are currently investigating, researching and evaluating statistics in homelessness, the causes, problems and charities that work to reduce homelessness and support those who have found themselves homeless.

Students have also had the opportunity to work within pairs/ groups to develop a way to increase awareness surrounding the issue. It has been great to see students being so creative and working cohesively to raise awareness in a fun and interesting way.

We can't wait to see what other groups come up with for their campaigns! Well done year 9!

Below are some screenshots and the link to a rap video that one group created in order to raise awareness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mCBKHvPFFA>





Year 10 & 11 Athletics Competition

Years 10 and 11 recently competed in an athletics competition at Aberdare Sobell Sports Stadium, and despite the unfortunate weather came out with some very impressive results!

Aimee Marston, Darcy John Cook, Alana Lea, Evan Miles and Joe Allen reached the finals for their sprinting events. Alana Lea won the 300m sprint final, and Darcy John Cook achieved 1st place in the 80m Hurdles final. Becky Holley threw 27.85m in the javelin, and Harry Owen jumped 5.40m in the long jump, both achieving 1st place! In addition to the above, Anya Lennon came away with an incredible 2nd place in the 800m race.

A huge well done to the other athletes who participated in the day, and also achieved excellent results (Dom Hunt, Callum Lintern, Adam Moore, Josh Morkot, Garan Bergelin, Max Keenan, Owen Quartley, Owen Wilcox, Scott Jacobs, Alicia Jones, Nicole O'Leary, Darci Herbert and Amy Gunter.)

NASUWT Athletics Team Competition

A very wet and windy day in Aberdare on 25th June. This did not affect the performance of our athletes producing some outstanding results.

Year 7&8

Chris Jones winning 800m with a time of 2.23 mins. Charlie Undery placed 1st in Shot Putt with a throw of 11.38m.

Year 9&10

Rebecca Holley winning the javelin with a throw of 30.24m. Alana Lea winning the 300m 44.27secs. Darcy John Cook placing second in the hurdles.

Year 8 & 9 Athletics Comp

There were some fantastic results from the Year 8 & 9 competition in Aberdare on the 4th June. Well done to all the participants. Some outstanding results from Rebecca Holley 1st place in the Javelin 29.72m, Huw Anderson 2nd place in the 1500m with 2.25 mins. Maddie Lea 2nd in the 300m with 46 secs, Josh INSley 3rd in the hurdles with 14.12 secs.

Sports Day

Another great year regarding Sports Day. Well done to all of the students who participated on the day. Athletes of the Year were

Year 7 -Darcy Holdcroft , Jermaine Cisse.
Year 8 - Amberina Larg, Harry Chapman
Year 9 - Rebbeca Holley, Jalen Linnard and Huw Anderson
Year 10 - Nicole O'Leary, Scott Pritchard

Winning Forms

Year 7 - HP
Year 8 - DM
Year 9 - KG
Year 10 - HM



Sports Leaders



I want to say a big thank you to all of our sports and tennis leaders. They have done a fantastic job all year helping out with Cluster events, Primary School Sports Days, Tennis Day at CTC and also helping to run the lunchtime and after school clubs. Without you this wouldn't happen. A big thank you from all of the PE dept. The future of sport is looking bright in Wales with these volunteers you know who you are!!!!

Year 7 Athletics Competition

What an amazing performance from the Year 7's at their first ever schools athletics event. Some amazing results from individuals: Seren Hale 1st place in the 100m Finals; Adam Sow reaching the 100m finals; Adam Davies reaching the 75m hurdles final. A big mention to the girl's team finishing 2nd place out of 39 schools. What a fantastic achievement! We are all super proud of all the participants.



Science Year 9 Dissection

This summer term my Year 9 pupils have been taking part in a series of practical lessons and this week they have been looking at the topic Accident and Emergency. During Tuesday's lesson they looked at the role of the surgeon and were extremely excited about the dissection of a chicken leg. Pupils were encouraged to use their observational skills to identify different types of tissue and I think you can see from the photos that they really enjoyed the lesson.

Mrs K Gibson (Science Teacher)

STEM



On Wednesday the 19th of June Year 9 Set 1 Science gathered in Mr Castles room ready for their STEM day. The Small Piece Trust got the students in mixed groups to design automatic watering systems with a filter, working motor and water sensor.

The students working on a variety of skills including problem solving, team work, soldering, presentations and numeracy. Every member of the group had a clear role which the students took very seriously as they costed their materials, created models and made marketing posters.

At the end of the day the students pitched their product where they explained the design features, material costs and tested the products. Product testing had mixed results from leaking to practically water tight. The overall winners of the day were Aquadynamic.



English Faculty News



As we reflect on the year, the English Faculty feels very proud of the pupils' achievements. There has been lots of fantastic work produced across all year groups. Although we are coming to the end of the school year, the pace has not slackened! KS3 pupils have been reading challenging novels, such as Animal Farm, Private Peaceful, Treasure Island and A Monster Calls. Year 9 have been completing their study of their GCSE English Literature text, Of Mice and Men by writing examination-style essays.

They also have plenty of revision techniques to try out over the summer holidays! Year 10 have been completing their GCSE English Literature controlled assessments on Macbeth. Once again, this year group has risen to the challenge and impressed us all with their work ethic and maturity.

Year 12 have started the A2 English literature course already, studying The Tempest, The Great Gatsby and the poetry of Christina Rossetti. We wish our pupils and their families an adventure-filled summer and look forward to September, knowing that our pupils will have another successful year.

The Pre 16 Seren Network Launch Event

At the beginning of each academic year our brightest and most applied sixth form students are invited to attend their region's seren hub, based on their fantastic GCSE results. This network seeks to develop strong partnerships between secondary schools and colleges and is supported by local government, Welsh Government and leading universities. Partner institutes work together closely to develop a support programme for the brightest young minds and this work helps students to visit universities, take part in summer schools and key regional network events.

This year the Welsh government has extended the funding for the seren project so that we can begin to involve our younger students and begin to raise their aspirations much earlier. As a part of the work we do as a lead network school for MAT, this term we were invited to attend a launch event at Cardiff bay.



This event allowed our students to attend workshops led by Oxbridge graduates and listen to inspirational speakers. This included an excellent presentation by one of seren's ambassadors, Guto Harri. Guto is a writer, broadcaster and strategic communications consultant. A former BBC chief political correspondent, and former communications director for Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

It was a great event that have started to open minds and possibilities for the future, we very much look forward to further work on this area next year!