



NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Christmas Festival Local Business Stalls

We will be hosting this year's Christmas Festival on Tuesday 10th December and would like to invite local businesses to this very special community event.

If you would like to secure a stall for **just £10**, please send an email to enterprise@stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk at your earliest convenience and we will add you to our list.

If you know of any other businesses that maybe interested, please feel free to forward this email on to them and ask them to get in touch with us.



Staff celebrate Rachel Winstone's 20th year in her post as St Martin's School Receptionist. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating Ms Winstone.

Giovanni Helps School open new Restaurant. Class!



St Martin's School has opened its new, pupil led restaurant. 'Class' was opened on 19th September 2019. As part of the grand opening the school had the pleasure of welcoming Giovanni of 'Giovanni's Restaurants Cardiff'. Giovanni, along with his head chef, worked with some of the GCSE hospitality and catering students to create a 4 course meal which was then served to 20 invited guests.

It was a fantastic experience for all involved and the pupils learnt so much from the chefs. The refurbishment of the catering classroom and the creation of the restaurant from an adjoining classroom was part funded from a Savoy Trust Grant. This has created a fantastic learning environment which will provide true authentic learning opportunities for pupils.

The training kitchen and restaurant are part of the schools vision to bring learning to life and train the very best future chefs of Wales.



Giovanni's
**RESTAURANTS
& COOKERY SCHOOLS**
REAL ITALIAN FOOD





STEM VISIT TO BRITISH AIRWAYS 3 SITES

On Wednesday 11th September, 7 girls across Year 10 and 12 set out on a full day's visit to all 3 of the British Airways sites, located across Wales.

First stop was BA Avionics, Llantrisant. Here the girls were greeted by 142,000 sq ft of floor space - which incidentally from a birds eye view has been configured to resemble the wing of an aircraft! Here, new diagnostics continue to support product development enhancing future aircraft capabilities. Here, the girls experienced a facility that continues to review the reliability of the products it handles, from the coffee machines to the toilet facilities right through to the electronics on the flight deck and our in-flight entertainment system - so many things we take for granted with using airlines, but all so important to both our safety and comfort.

Suitably impressed, we moved on to BA Maintenance Cardiff. BAMC is a major aircraft maintenance facility located near Cardiff Airport, and carries out maintenance on all British Airways Boeing Longhaul aircraft. Here, we were lucky enough to go inside a stripped down aircraft in the hangar; sit inside the cockpit, and actually stand inside an engine!!!! We all fitted!!!! While at BAMC the girls also had the opportunity to undertake engineering tasks in their own version of 'escape rooms' - and in true St. Martin's fashion, they all completed in record time!

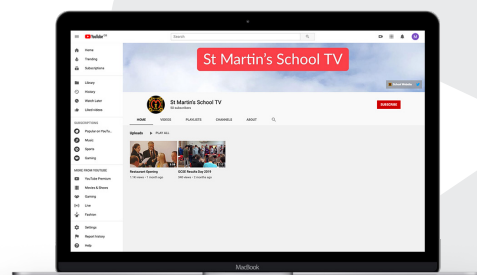
Now they were all pumped, and realising that there were plenty of opportunities out there for their taking, should they continue to have a passion in this area. Last stop, BA Interiors. Here, they 'road tested' life jackets; deployed escape slides; and dreamed of destinations far away in first class seats....a perfect end to a perfect day!

Thank you
British Airways!
The opportunities that
you offered us on the day, and
the prospects discussed for the
future, were both well received and
hugely appreciated. I am sure that it
will not be too long before you will
see many of these girls return as
successful engineers within
your company!

**BRITISH
AIRWAYS**



We're now on
 YouTube



Check out our channel here:
bit.ly/stmartinsschooltv



SCHOOL SHOP



Our Year 8 students are currently running the School Shop as part of the Enterprise Faculty.

The shop is aptly titled 'Enter-buys'. Our students will be on hand to sell any stationary items during break, Key Stage 3 lunch or core skills.

Well done boys for time and commitment building up this idea that you originally came up with after studying PiXL Edge.





OUR NEW WATER MACHINE IS SO COOL!

Hydrachill's website defines the hydrachill as "A fully customisable combined water and bottle refilling system. It separately delivers a branded reusable drinking bottle. It provides chilled and filtered water from the same unit, providing helpful revenue to support free water availability".

We asked one of our classmates how the Hydrachill is different to our old water source, and they said:

"It's cold, it's fresh and it's more convenient and hygienic to use than the tap on the side of the building".

Have you
used the new
Hydrachill water
machine near the
Bistro yet?

The Hydrachill is good for the environment as:

- It eliminates the use for single use plastic bottles
- If you don't have a reusable bottle you can buy one.
- All water is fresh, therefore it's good for the staff/pupils.

We love the way it has our school logo on colours on so it's a part of our school. In fact, we love it so much, we've asked our Mr Jarvis for another one as so many people use the one we've got.

European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages is celebrated every year on the 26th of September. It is a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken around the world, promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! Pupils had the opportunity to celebrate throughout the week at St Martin's. We had a variety of activities offered including:

- Language lessons from our pupils- Telugu (Vivek S), Lithuanian (Ula A), Polish (Leah C), Russian (Alekey C) and Portuguese (Joana L).
- Logo Competition- Design a logo for the St Martin's Global Communications Faculty.
- European Music Masterclass
- Interactive Games
- A mini French lesson with the English teachers
- The Launch of the Italian Club
- Our VERY popular Teacher Treasure Hunt where pupils had to find teachers wearing badges with hello in different languages.

Also, pupils had the opportunity to complete Triple Literacy activities in their Global Communications lessons.



Congratulations
to all winners and
we hope you all
enjoyed!



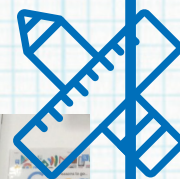
JEHU VISIT



Friday 12th July some of our wonderful year 10 students went across the road to the new development by Jehu. Jehu have had funding to build a passive house meaning that it is air tight and will require no central heating.

Our students helped to plant shrubs outside the building site to help its aesthetics. They had great fun and took pride in their work. They also had a talk with the site manager to find out what was involved in the building process.

Mathematics



Well done girls.

UKMT challenge entry for 2019. Maths in sport.

Year 9 were given a group task to research maths in sport. The strongest group were entered into the UKMT challenge, a national competition. Pictured above is Katie Morris Pheobe Avery and Mia Edgeworth this year's St Martin's entry receiving their certificates for reaching the long list.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



On Friday, 27th September the school's catering department took part in the Macmillan Coffee morning. It was a fabulous morning where we were joined by the choir and staff enjoyed tea and cakes in our new restaurant.

The preparation, serving and clearing away involved all year 9, 10 and 11 catering students and they really worked very hard!

Thanks to staff and pupils who helped us raise £210 for such a great cause.



Year 12 Medical Science Student visit to the Heath Hospital

Year 12 Medical Science students had the opportunity to visit Heath hospital. The day included a seminar delivered by a respiratory nurse and a visit to the B7 Respiratory Ward. The students learnt about the different physiological measurement tests performed on patients such as an ECG, peak flow test and monitoring blood pressure.

The students stimulated real life scenarios of how these tests are performed by conducting the tests on each other and recording their observations. Following on, students were lucky enough to visit the Respiratory Ward where they met some patients who were happy to explain their conditions with the students.

They also got to observe some of the routines involved in typical shift as a respiratory nurse. The trip was very valuable for the students who are completing their controlled assessment based on the measurement techniques they learnt about. It was also a fantastic experience for these students considering a career in medicine or the healthcare industry.





Year 5/6 Open Evening

Our Year 9 ICT students did a fantastic job showcasing their new technology inventions and presenting them to almost 150 parents and students who voted for their favourite.

The votes were counted and the results are as follows. The best pitch went to 'The Technicals' for their music player, App-etisers and Tech Wizard's who created the Love Meter were voted best team and the best invention went to the Love Meter and the Mover's Bot.

It was a brand new experience for many of students, pitching to so many new faces and collaborating with students from a new class setting. It was a challenge but they did extremely well.



Year 11 Young Enterprise trip to Senedd

On Tuesday 24th September, a small group of 8 Year 11 boys headed off to Caerphilly station, en route to Cardiff Bay. As a result of winning the area final last summer for Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, they had the privilege of accepting from Dr. Hefin Wyn David, (Welsh Labour Assembly member for Caerphilly), an invite to a tour of the Senedd and a seat in the public viewing gallery of 'First Minister's question time'.

After an obligatory photo call on the steps, we took our seats high in the public gallery, waved to Dr. David, and awaited the questions to start! First topic of the day, a highly controversial discussion on the ruling of the Supreme Court "Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks was unlawful" - tensions mounted, heated arguments commenced... Labour believe that he cannot be trusted and therefore should hand in his resignation... Indignant opposition supported him in his belief that this was just a ploy to 'frustrate Brexit' and 'stop this country coming out of the EU'.. cries of "Here, Here" and banging of the tables followed, while our boys looked on in amusement at the reactions that were unfolding! Over the next hour, topics changed quickly between an increase in the availability of skilled jobs in Bridgend and Ogmores areas; improving infrastructure of freight; the non approval of a new relief road around Newport; the potential removal of Ofsted in England and the possible implications of this with Estyn; and my personal favourite, the overworking of teachers and a possible vision to reduce the working week to 4 days to be more in line with other European counterparts who have successfully addressed this work life balance, while still showing increases in productivity and results. When the boys realised that this would also mean a three day weekend for them, it too, quickly became their favourite topic as well!

It was definitely a worthy experience, and one that I think the boys will remember for a very long time! It has also instilled further passion into our own Josh Cox, who, one day, I am told will be the next big name in politics! You heard it here first!!!



APP OF THE MONTH



Flipgrid



Flipgrid is a social learning platform that allows teachers to ask a question, then the students respond in a video. Flipgrid is sometimes thought as a 'video equivalent' to google classroom.

- Student voice
- oracy task
- speeches
- group pitches
- applications
- Responding to teacher questions

Educator's guide: bit.ly/flipgridbook!



Sixth Form House Official Opening 16th September

The new Sixth Form facility at St Martin's School officially opened on Monday 16th September following extensive investment to refurbish the former care takers house into purpose built accommodation. This follows the growing popularity of St Martin's Sixth Form Centre as the number one choice for A level and post 16 studies in Caerphilly.

Accommodation comprises:

- A common room with flexible and comfortable furniture
- A fully equipped kitchen area with an integrated fridge.
- A purpose built work room with access to chrome books
- A fully renovated secure outside seating area
- A private car park for 6th form students only
- Safe and secure entry with a pass-code and fob access

These facilities compliment the delivery of over 16 subjects delivered at this centre where examination results have soared in recent years. Sophie Bunney said she chose the sixth form as she knew she would receive the very best teaching with small class sizes and personalised support. The teachers know every student, they treat you maturely and really want the best for you.

William Oates chose St Martin's Sixth Form as he had heard of the success of so many others and knew that being a student at the centre would give him the best chance of getting into the university of his choice. He added, the support you get for university applications is immense.

St Martin's Sixth Form centre will hold their annual open evening on December 10th 2019 from 5pm - 7pm giving the next generation of student and their parents the opportunity to find out more about the courses and provision on offer.

Old Boys Association



Earlier this year the committee of the Old Boys' Association decided to give an annual Bursary of £300 to a student entering secondary education. The criteria of the individual needed to show skills such as independence, resilience and determination. After much deliberation Miss Hopkins and Miss McCallion decided to nominate Jodie Graham to award her for all her hard work over the last two years.

The old boys' association awarded the bursary to Jodie during the opening of the sixth form house. Jodie said how grateful she was for the money and that she will put the money towards art resources and equipment ready to study her Art and Design Foundation year this September.

Miss Hopkins and Miss McMallion thanked the Old Boy's Association for their support and said that this sort of recognition helps pupils to become confident, determined and independent learners who are ready to take on the next challenge after life at St Martin's sixth form. The Bursary is intended to be given annually to a different student who matches the criteria.



Science



Biology Week

To kick start the celebrations for Biology week in the Science faculty, Year 7 & 8 pupils took part in a Biology Bake Off competition. The competition involved pupils creating a "biological bake" relating to a part of the human body - we were blown away by the levels of creativity and effort from all pupils! After a long and hard deliberation, over some cake and tea, the Science faculty decided on the top three places:



1st place
Maddison Jones
'Three Layers of the Skin Cake'



2nd place
Lexi Mitchell
'The Spine Cake'

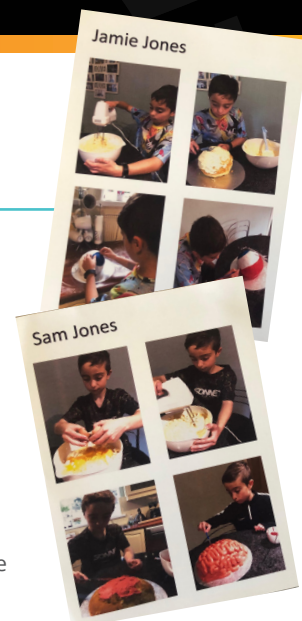


3rd place
Daniel Davies
'The Brain Cake'

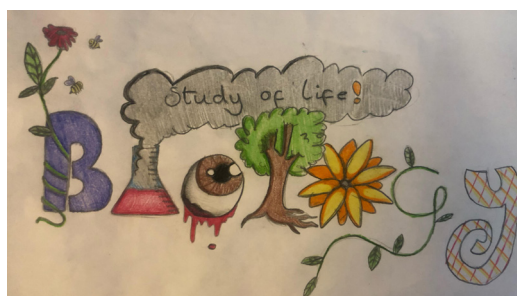
Brothers bake off for BioBakes

The Science faculty were particularly impressed by the effort shown by twin brothers, Sam and Jamie Jones, who created "The Brain Cake" and "The Eyeball Cake".

A huge thank you to their parents for putting in the time and effort to bake two cakes!!



Josie Bayley was the winner of the logo competition and her final design will be used to promote Biology week 2020.



Well done to all pupils involved, you were brilliant!



Pupils continued the Biology week celebrations by participating in 'Surprise experiments' after school which involved the dissection of hearts, extraction of DNA from kiwi fruit and analysis of chlorophyll from plants.



Tassomai

Tassomai is an intelligent learning programme that helps GCSE students to achieve outstanding exam results. Tassomai has been introduced to all pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 in Science. Pupils are expected to complete 4 out of 7 daily goals on a weekly basis by answering a series of multiple choice questions. After half term there will be prizes awarded for weekly class winners, top quizzing classes and individuals in the Year groups - get quizzing!