



## DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



### Christmas Cluster Concert at St. Martin's Church

On 6<sup>th</sup> December, St Martin's School pupils were joined by pupils, parents and staff from St James, Twyn, Cwrt Rawlin and Plasyfelin for our annual Cluster Concert.

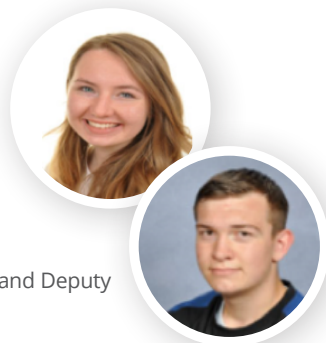
The concert, held at St Martin's Church, was a huge success and beautifully showcased the budding musical talents of all our children.

### Head Boy & Head Girl

Kirsty Harris, year 13, and Jack Yandle, Year 12, were voted Head Girl and Head Boy by their peers and teachers after delivering an impressive speech on why they should represent the Sixth Form at St Martins.

Elinor Bradley and Dylan Morgan were voted Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy.

They have already stepped into their positions by speaking at the recent year 11 Open Evening, heading council meetings with other year group representatives and speaking at the awards ceremony to name a few. They have already proven themselves to be fantastic role models and school ambassadors and we are very excited to see all of the leadership roles progress.

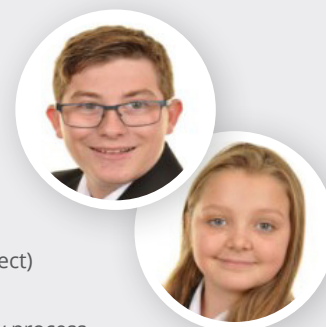


### Leadership Team in Year 11

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed our Leadership Team in Year 11. They are:

Matthew Davies (Head Boy), Saffron Leaves (Head Girl), Joe Rees (Deputy), Eve Davies (Deputy), Amy Gunter (Deputy), Hannah Thomas (Prefect), Jack Morris (Prefect), Abi Moore (Prefect)

All of the candidates were extremely strong during the interview process, each bringing different qualities to the team. Our first mission is to book the Prom, so watch this space for more details!



## Enterprise Day and Christmas Festival -10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Once again, our Enterprise Day and Christmas Festival was a big success. Our Key Stage 3 students took on the 'Enterprise' challenge of participating in team building activities, adopting key roles throughout the day, such as, leader and sub team leader and more importantly, creating faculty themed items to sell at our evening's festivities!

Once the roles, tasks and responsibilities were decided our enterprising students then began work creating the following items:

- Crackers (Mathematics)
- Treat bags and hand painted wooden Christmas trees (Science and Technology)
- Candles and chringles (Humanities)
- Hedgehogs made out of recycled books and artwork (Expressive Arts)
- Mulled spice flavoured bags (Health and wellbeing)
- Bilingual Christmas Cards in 5 different languages (Global Communications)

Each faculty then sold the items at our Christmas Festival along with 20 other professional stall holders and our 4 Year 13 Welsh Baccalaureate groups (which included an opportunity to 'splat the grinch').



A big thank you to staff, students, parents and our local community for supporting this event. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



## St Martin's Pupils take part in Anti-bullying Campaign Video

**St. Martin's School is proud to be part of Dan and Laura Curtis' #choosekindness Anti Bullying campaign. The Wales Online article can be seen by clicking the link below.**

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/showbiz/welsh-couple-courteney-cox-megan-17235699>

Courteney Cox, Megan Fox, Monica Lewinsky and Jodie Whittaker are just a few of the astonishing array of film and TV stars to feature in a Welsh couple's video. Laura and Dan Curtis, who are both composers, who write for musical theatre, live in Hengoed, near Caerphilly, and once a year put together a musical project to raise money for good causes.

This year they are raising money for Bullies Out charity and managed to also get the backing of the likes of Avengers star Josh Brolin, legendary talkshow host Larry King, Dawn French and Ray Romano to spread the message: "Choose kindness."

Alongside the celebs, pupils at Dan's former school, St Martin's Comprehensive, appeared in a touching interpretation of how it feels to be bullied and isolated. Laura told WalesOnline: "The pupils were absolutely amazing, they were from year eight and were so thoughtful. We only had a couple of hours to get it shot they all decided where they were going to stand and how, then we did two or three takes."

Laura added that many of the celebrities were happy to get on board with the charity project after the couple reached out to publishers and managers with whom they had worked before.

She added: "We had half who were Avengers fans so they were excited about Josh Brolin then the other half were excited by Courteney Cox."

**"The pupils were absolutely amazing"**

You can find out more about the anti-bullying campaign at [bulliesout.com](http://bulliesout.com)



## Mentorship Programme.

Over the past few months, groups of pupils in Year 8 have been visited by a languages student from Cardiff University. They have experienced a variety of activities to do with languages from across the world and learnt about culture, history and much more. They have enjoyed every minute and can now use greetings in many different languages. We are very lucky to have been visited by the mentoring programme for the past few years.

**We would like to say a big thank you to Sarah for mentoring us!**



## SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCES

On 10<sup>th</sup> December the school choir performed at Caerphilly Pensioners Hall and on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December we will be performing at Church View Care home.







## NEW CURRICULUM PROJECT

As a trial for the New Curriculum, this half-term, on a rotation, each Year 7 class has three days off timetable to research, plan and prepare an artifact for an exhibition. They were given the theme of recycling as a stimulus and then charged with creating groups, generating ideas and an action plan, then implementing that plan.

The aim of the project was for pupils to develop their leadership, organisation, resilience, innovation and communication skills alongside the four purposes of the New Curriculum: to be creative, ambitious, confident, capable, ethical and informed.

Pupils exhibited their work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Some of the ideas are fantastic, as I'm sure you can see from the accompanying pictures.

## Rachel Hayward & Alexandra Morris - WDC AL World Champions

Congratulations to Rachel Hayward and Alexandra Morris for their outstanding success at the World Championships in Dublin.

Rachel Hayward and Alexandra Morris dance for Loren James Dance School in Caerphilly. This weekend they had the honour of dancing at The World Championships and won - in their category for both under 16 and under 19 - they are double World Champions!

**An outstanding achievement, well done to Rachel and Alexandra!**

## Criminology Conference

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November Miss McCallion and Miss Hopkins took 30 Criminologists to the University of South Wales for the Criminology Conference. It was a fantastic day that allowed students to experience five mini lectures, meet experienced lecturers and other future criminologists as well as explore the University. We even had a very tasty free lunch!

All of the students were excellent ambassadors of St Martin's School and immersed themselves fully into the opportunity and came away feeling enthused about a pathway into Criminology at a higher level.

**Come and join in the fun! Every Friday 2:40 - 3:40 in room 32. Everyone is welcome!**



**Well done everyone!!**



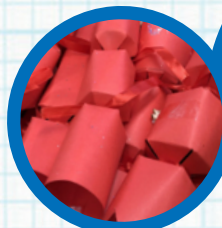
## Criminology Club

Criminology Club is off to a flying start! One of our A Level students has been busy planning fun and engaging activities for our mini criminologists. The number of students attending has now doubled and students have enjoyed activities such as a murder mystery, a mugshot exercise and a cludeo afternoon.



## Mathematics

This half term year 11 students who sat their exams in November have worked extremely hard along with the staff who teach them. In the week leading up to the examinations students had three maths lessons per day. All students worked conscientiously throughout the week. Staff are proud of their efforts and look forward to sharing their success when they get their results in January.



KS3 students made some amazing Christmas crackers which were sold in the year 12 Open Evening.

## Year 11 Maths Pop Quiz



A group of ten year 11 students took part in a Maths GCSE competition at the University of South Wales in December. We had two teams representing our school at the event. There were 21 teams taking part and one of our teams came joint first; scoring an amazing 15 out of 16 marks. All students who took part in the day worked incredibly hard and were a credit to the school.

The photo below is of the winning team:

Oliver Weaver - Joshua Price - Alex Houston-Jones - Matthew Davies - Joseph Goodwin



## Year 12 Maths Pop Quiz

On 20<sup>th</sup> of November, Five year 12 A level students made their way to the University of South Wales (Pontypridd) to take place in a Maths Pop Quiz. Eloise Beaumont, Mali Bounds, Abbie Bye, Katie Williams and Ram Larg took part in this gruelling quiz and made every effort for a top 3 finish. Unfortunately it wasn't to be this time. Each of these five individuals are an amazing credit to our school and sixth form centre. Hopefully we will have better luck when we return next year.

## Eco Warriors

We - Meghan Cotty, Daisy Jarvis, Shannon Rose Jones, Amelia Jenkins, Adam Davies, Ethan Shah-Clark, Ffion Edwards and Lucas Masters - are the Eco Warriors. We are based in Room 17. We come to Eco Club because we feel strongly about our environment and would love to change how our school uses paper and plastic and much more.

We have done a variety of different things in the past few months, some of these include writing an article on our new water machine, presenting to the Year 7's and emailing a variety of schools in the borough to see what they do to make their school more eco-friendly. We have also met with Mr Furtek, Business Manager, to ask how we can spend money to make St Martin's a more eco-friendly school. Ideas we have are: planting a wildflower garden, purchasing special recycling bins that help pupils know which rubbish to put in which bin. We also want to help reduce the schools electricity consumption.







## Techniquet Visit

Techniquet came into school to present an interactive show called 'Sensational Science' to Year 7 and 8 pupils. Pupils observed and participated in a number of exciting and thought provoking experiments. They put their strength to the test by competing in an 'Electromagnet Tug of war'. Unfortunately, no groups were able to overcome the force of the 'Hercules magnet' but we managed to get some fantastic action shots.

Pupils were invited to take a seat on the 'Seat of nails'. 782 nails to be exact... \*No children were harmed during this experiment\*. This experiment demonstrated how surface area affects pressure. The more surface a mass is spread across the lower the pressure exerted by your body on the nails and you can sit pain free on 782 nails. Even though the face in this photo says otherwise.

Pupils knowledge of static electricity was developed through the use of the Van De Graff generator. Saffron was brave enough to volunteer and test out the apparatus herself. When the Van de Graff generator started charging, it transferred the charge to the person who is touching it. Saffrons hair follicles were getting charged to the same potential and they start to repel each other. This is why her hair ended up like this!!!

The show ended with a demonstration that got pupils debating.. 'Can a vacuum cleaner pick up a bowling bowl?' Pupils were astonished as they watched the presenters pick up a real bowling ball using a Hoover... Science is amazing right?



## YEAR 8 PUPILS VISIT SOUTH WALES' PREMIER SEASIDE RESORT... IN NOVEMBER!

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, twenty pupils from 8T set off to Barry Island on a team-building trip. Thankfully, the weather was glorious. There were five groups in total, each with four pupils and one member of staff. In staged intervals, the groups set off on a murder mystery Treasure Trail with the quickest finishers in for a prize!

The trail took us two and a half miles along the promenade, over Friars Point, across the causeway, through Parade Gardens, around the Knap Lake and ended - fittingly - near the Friendship Tree. Along the way, pupils had questions to answer and challenges to complete that eventually led the name of a culprit. Although Miss Banks' team finished first, Mrs Lewis' team won as they actually had the correct answer. A lesson about 'less haste, more speed' was learnt there!

After completing our trail, the bus took us back to the Island where we had chips in Marco's (of Gavin and Stacey fame) and doughnuts as we walked along the promenade.

The pupils were delightful for the entire trip, even as we ran through Parade Gardens trying to beat each other to the next clue!

Thank you to Miss Harris, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Watt for coming with us.



## Expressive Arts news

### Shakespeare Schools and Choir

It's been a very busy term for the Expressive Arts Faculty, with the year 8 performance at the Shakespeare School Festival and the upcoming Christmas concert at St Martin's Church Caerphilly on December the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Shakespeare Schools Festival

A group of talented year 8 pupils performed a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Riverfront Theatre in Newport on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> November. They performed alongside 3 other schools to a sell-out crowd performing with costumes and props made by the Art department.

#### Choir

The choir started off this academic year performing at the opening of the school restaurant. A fun start to the year with some lovely words of encouragement by Chef Giovanni!! They have gone on to perform as part of Open Evening, the art exhibition and the turning on of the Christmas lights at the Twilight Festival in Caerphilly town centre. They are working hard towards the big performance of the Christmas showcase concert on December the 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as the cluster concert on the 5<sup>th</sup> December both held at St Martin's Church.

We also look forward to performing in the community in the lead up to Christmas at the nursing home on Caerphilly Road and Pensioners' Hall.



*It's been a lot of hard work but a lot of fun. Thanks for all the support and look forward to seeing you at future events.*

## PiXL University Conference

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, eleven pupils from Year 11 attended Cardiff City Hall for PiXL's 'Getting into Your Top University' conference. The afternoon comprised various presentations about Russell Group universities, what to put in your UCAS personal statement, tips about financing your studies and how to choose the right course.

There were lots of handy hints and pupils came away with a pack of materials that will come in really useful when the time comes to apply to university (it's closer than you think!). It was a useful afternoon for all who attended, so much so that Miss Banks is going to work with some more groups of pupils (including Year 12s) over the next few months to pass on the information gleaned. A special mention must go out to Lloyd Bounds who managed to eat five of the complimentary cupcakes. While this is quite a feat, I don't think it can go in your UCAS personal statement!







## PE News

### Year 11 & Seniors

Unfortunately the senior team lost in the second round of the WSFA cup to Treorchy. It was a slow start to the first half conceding 2 soft goals from defensive errors. It was difficult to come back from our own errors. In the second half we battled hard to reel in the deficit but we left late and lost 5-3.

### WSFA 5 a Side Comp

The Year 11 boys performed fantastically well at the national 5 a side competition. They won 3 out of 4 in the first league games qualifying for the cup competition. Unfortunately they lost 2 out of 3 in the cup league qualification and didn't qualify for the knockout stage.



### Latin World Championships – SH

A huge congratulations to Alex Morris and Rachel Hayward on their recent trip to Dublin. Alex and Rachel achieved 1st place, meaning that they are now World Champions for their age group in Latin Dance.

### Trampolining

Well done to Lacey Cotter representing St Martin's in the schools competition in Sophia Gardens on 1st December, finishing in 6th place. Lacey then went to the Welsh Nationals on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Dec and placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Well done Lacey.**



### Rugby

#### Year 7

Two very tight games against St Cenydd and Newbridge. Boys battled hard but unfortunately lost the games. Training has been very positive with good numbers every Monday. Had a few fixtures cancelled due to weather and water-logged pitches. More fixtures to be arranged in the new year.

#### Year 8

Fantastic result at Newbridge, beating them 29 - 0. Amazing performance by whole team, stand out performers Carter Pritchard and Sam McMahon. Great performance at home against Bedwas, beating them 55-0. Adam Sow stand out performer that night.

#### Year 9

Fantastic result at home to St Cenydd, beating them 55-0. Amazing performance by the whole team, stand out performers were Zak Williams and Adam Webb. Great performance at home against Bedwas, beating them 55-0. Adam Sow stand out performer that night.

### Yr8 Netball v St Cenydd (NWW)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Our year 9 and 10 netball teams competed in a tournament involving the surrounding Caerphilly schools. A huge well done to the year 10 team who qualified for the finals.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - The year 10s competed in the B&C finals, although we did not win, the girls showed great skill and motivation - they should be proud of themselves! Keep up the hard work.

### Dance and rugby stars team up – SH

As part of Loren James' dance group's fundraiser they teamed up with Bedwas Rugby Club to participate in a joint fundraiser. Pupils from Loren James (including Seren Moss, Alex Morris and Alicia Jones) were paired up with players from Bedwas rugby team. Each dancer taught their rugby student two dances (1 latin and 1 show dance), and performed in a competition in front of 348 guests. It was a very tough competition, and after lots of judge discussion, it was concluded that Mr Tristan Kugler and Miss Alex Morris were the winners! **Congratulations to all involved.**