



FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

The **Big** Sleep Out

On Friday 31st January 2020, 19 students took on the challenge of 'sleeping rough' for the night at St Martin's School, Caerphilly. They did this as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate project in an attempt to raise money and awareness for the homeless.

As part of the challenge, students walked three miles in the dark and rain in order to try and experience the average ten miles a homeless person walks a day to find food and shelter. Students worked as teams to build their shelters for the night and watched two short documentaries regarding homelessness in the UK. They also had basic soup and roll rations in line with a typical soup kitchen meal. Students were asked to write a reflection following the experience and shared that 'the most difficult thing was how cold it was' and 'everyone deserves a home'. One student noted that their 'opinion on homeless people has changed entirely' and that they 'feel sorry for those people who have to do this every night'.

Students were a credit to themselves and the school and took on this challenge wholeheartedly with dignity, respect and care. **They raised an incredible £733.28** which has exceeded the initial target of £500. With that in mind we have now extended our target to £1000. If you would like to donate you can do so here:

justgiving.com/fundraising/stmartinscaerphilly



All monies raised will be donated to Llamau who are the leading homelessness charity in Wales, supporting the most vulnerable young people and women.

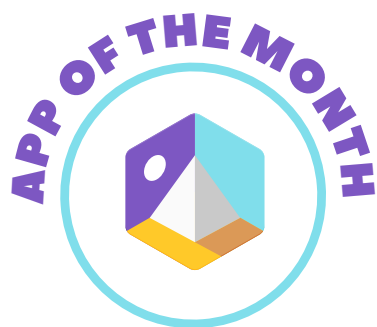


A delicious day out!

A mixture of year 9, 10 & 11 catering students attended a hospitality careers event in the Marriott St Pierre hotel & golf club. The event was organised by Coleg Gwent.

It gave the pupils an opportunity to look at different careers, taste fine dining food and watch professional chefs in action.





TOUR CREATOR

Tour Creator allows anyone to create their own VR tour using imagery from Google's Street View or their own 360-degree photos.

arvr.google.com/tourcreator/
Or search "google tour creator"



Examples include...

- Scenes from a novel
- Locations from a historical event
- Biomes from around the world
- Highlights of a city in a different country
- Biographical information from a person's life
- A student-written fictional story

YOUNG ENTERPRISE TAKE ON SOUTH WALES TRADE FAYRE, IKEA CARDIFF

January 30, four Year 10 Business girls, led by their Managing Director, Ella-Paige Hughes, were excited to attend the Young Enterprise South Wales Trade Fayre at Ikea, Cardiff. They had lots of information they were keen to share about their company programme "Marty's Tails" and lots of dog related products they were hoping to sell in order to raise additional revenue for their company. These included dog bandanas for the fashion conscious pooch; dog ear muffs for their walking companions and of course the ever important poo bags!

Their main product is a book, entitled "Marty's Tails" - aptly named after their company, outlining the benefits of therapy dogs, both for school purposes; and for other members of the community who may be suffering from issues such as anxiety. It bravely outlines some of the experiences of the girls, incorporates information about medicinal benefits and calming aromatherapy oils may complement such issues. Sadly, the finished book was still with the publishers, although with a prototype in hand we still secured several upfront orders, which was amazing!

Overall, despite a generally quiet afternoon at the store, the girls successfully secured revenue of £71.30, and also came away triumphant with 2 out of 3 awards on offer for "Best use of Social Media" and "Best Customer Service". Well done, girls! You did yourselves, and us, proud!

Marty's Tails - The Benefits of Therapy Dogs: Changing Lives, Winning Hearts and Making Friends!



The launch of

"Marty's Tails"



We are very excited to share with you the availability of our Young Enterprise Company Programme product - A book entitled "Marty's Tails - The Benefits of Therapy Dogs: Changing Lives, Winning Hearts and Making Friends!"

This book is our experience of having our own therapy dog, Marty, in order to help persuade other schools to invest in a similar concept reinforces to members of our community the multitude of benefits that having a dog can offer: It relays the rewards of having a dog if you are in need of companionship, exercise, or suffer from anxiety, stress and depression. There are stories to relate to, medicinal benefits to compliment the dog, and even a gallery of Marty to show the true impact that sharing your life with a therapy dog can truly have!

These handy little books are A5 size, so they are easy to be carried around in your bag or pocket, allowing you easy access when you are in need of comfort, or simply wish to share the wonderful content with others.

The product will be available for £6 each, although early enquiries received prior to 28 February will allow you to obtain the book for our early bird discount of £5!

Please kindly support your Young Enterprise company and email joycek@stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk to reserve your copy today! Thank you in advance.....

We are sure that you will not be disappointed!



SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD



St. Martin's School, was given the award for Secondary School of the Year at the South Wales Argus Schools and Education Awards 2020, on Thursday 16th January 2020. This award was for the secondary school which, in the opinion of the judges, had an outstanding academic year.

This was through improvements in attendance levels, parental engagement and examination results. The school has built upon partnerships in the local community and has achieved new green school status in the Welsh Government Categorisation.

The school has gone from strength to strength and received a good Estyn report and the best results in the school's history over the past year.



NEW CURRICULUM ESTYN VISIT



The visit was a highly positive one by Her Majesty's Inspector from Estyn. From the documentation the inspector reviewed, pupils she interviewed and staff that she spoke to, she concluded that vision for the school was strong. She believed that the school's provision for authentic learning was highly impactful upon pupils' learning experiences.

The work that has been done on providing facilities and opportunities for purposeful, authentic learning linked to a curriculum that supports pupils' development was seen as a strength. Thank you to our Business Manager, Mr Furtak, for transferring this vision into practical improvements to our facilities.

Furthermore, the experiences that Ms Joyce has provided as Authentic Learning Lead has strengthened our ability to deliver our vision and provide experiences that bridge social divides.

She was very impressed by the immersive experience of the restaurant and our plans to develop this as one of many school business opportunities. She could identify easily how this developed self-confidence, oracy skills, numeracy, problem solving, working under pressure, team working skills as well as the fundamentals of running a business and the skills of a chef through interacting with peers, teachers and the general public. Once again a special thank you to Mrs Shopland for putting on yet another impressive showcase event.

The inspector believes that St. Martin's School is advanced in its preparedness and that the adaptations we need to make will be minimal and in line with what we wish to pursue as a school as we near full implementation of the new curriculum.



WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CATEGORISATION

In addition to our good Estyn Inspection in May 2019, St. Martin's School has been categorised as a "Green" school by the Welsh Government following the latest round of national school categorisation. The National Categorisation has identified St. Martin's School as a group A school for its track record of 'capacity over time'; and a green school for the level of support required. This category recognises the immense commitment of staff, governors, pupils, parents and the local community in ensuring continued high standards.

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

- ✓ WELL RUN SCHOOL WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP
- ✓ CLEAR ABOUT PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT
- ✓ A TRACK RECORD IN RAISING STANDARDS
- ✓ HAS THE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT OTHER SCHOOLS



Oxford University Visit

On Wednesday 29th January, 45 year 11 and Sixth Form students were accompanied by Miss McCallion, Miss Hopkins, Mr Lloyd and Mrs Davies to Oxford University for the day.

This was to enhance students' understanding of University in general but also to raise the accessibility of Oxford University for some of our most able and talented academic students. Students were given the opportunity to take part in a student led Q&A before having lunch in one of the main dining halls and being given a tour of the city. Students took part in an ethics and psychology critical thinking tutorial where individual thinking was encouraged and explored.

Students were excellent ambassadors of the school, behaved perfectly throughout the day and developed some exceptional ideas.

Students noted how much they enjoyed the trip and 'felt more comfortable' with applying to the more prestigious universities as a result. It was a fantastic day!



Science Careers Fayre



On December 17th, St Martin's held its very first Science Careers Fayre for pupils in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Guest speakers were invited from all Science professions to present at the fayre. Some of the speakers included Aneurin Bevan UHB Midwifery Department, Cardiff School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Physics specialising in Quantum Technologies and past pupils who have pursued careers in Chemistry, Microbiology, Marine Biology and Chiropractic treatment, to name a few.

The aim of the afternoon was to offer our pupils some extra guidance and support to aid the decision making process in relation to degree or career choices and to promote careers in STEM. Feedback from pupils and visitors was very positive with some pupils stating that this opportunity has made them consider a career path that they had not previously considered.

Due to the success of the event, the careers fayre will run next year and guest speakers have already agreed to return. **Roll on the 2020 Science Careers Fayre!**



Feedback
from pupils and
visitors was very
positive





Operating Theatre Live at St Martin's



A real highlight of the day gave the pupils the opportunity to perform a real heart transplant correctly reconnecting the vessels to a new donor heart.

On Friday 7th February, 60 Year 8 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to experience the UK's leading dissection-based surgical workshop run by the award winning Operating Theatre Live. The company rose to success after securing an investment from Peter Jones and Deborah Meaden. The pupils participated in the 'Inspiring a doctor' programme which offers a curriculum linked learning experience based around the dissection of real anatomical specimens in an authentic operating theatre. The aim of the experience was to raise aspirations through inspiration and encourage pupils to consider a potential career in health, biosciences or any other discipline requiring a knowledge of anatomy and how the body works.

The workshop gave pupils an introduction to medicine and healthcare as a career. Pupils came to understand the vital importance of patient care while developing their communication skills through the replication of interview techniques. Pupils explored the differences in communicable and non-communicable diseases and how pathogens spread infection and gained important knowledge on infection control.

Pupils identified the CNS/PNS to understand how local and general anaesthetics function. Pupils used their numerical skills to prepare stock solutions of Propofol anaesthetic to provided concentrations before administering the correct dosage using the IV method. They focused on the practical execution of working in a lab when using the balances, volumetric flask and measuring cylinders.

Pupils explored human anatomy through the dissection of real anatomical specimens and developed their understanding of the main terminology used when navigating the human body. Pupils began by removing and dissecting the brain and spinal cord as well as isolating the eye to dissect the optic nerve and lens. Here they learnt to appreciate the role these parts play as a light receptor and sensory nerve. Pupils intubated the trachea, lungs and diaphragm using surgical equipment to observe the mechanism of inhalation and exhalation. A real highlight of the day gave the pupils the opportunity to perform a real heart transplant correctly reconnecting the vessels to a new donor heart.

It was fantastic to see pupils who previously thought that a career in health or medicine was something 'they were not good enough for', absolutely flourish during the experience. The workshop made learning authentic and raised aspirations in our pupils. Pupils closed the day with the mindset that a career in this sector is something that is possible for them and not impossible.

Skills Enrichment Project

We recently launched our Skills Enrichment Project with Key Stage 3. During session one, learners got to experience a range of technology.

The follow up sessions will see students discussing ways they can use technology to 'change the world', promoting that "moonshot thinking." They will then present their idea to a team of industry experts and reflect on the skills used throughout the 3 sessions.

Huge thanks to Have a Go Wales and to Holly Lidbury, Educualis, NDEC for supporting this initiative and inspiring lots of pupils to think differently about technology.





Health and Wellbeing News

Indoor Athletics

Wow what an achievement Darcey! Looking forward to seeing you in action in the Summer representing St Martin's in the outdoor season.



International Honours

This is a big shout out to Malakai Gough and Ruby Carter for their achievements outside of school.

Malakai turned World Champion in October 2019 in Austria and recently won another 2 Golds and a Silver medal in Kwon Grand Slam in Wolverhampton.



K.G.S 2020 No.1

Top 10 Individuals See All

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Laili Davies	4	0	0
Avan Mariani	3	0	0
Adele Ick	3	0	0
Ruby Carter	3	0	0
Stephen Hart	3	0	0
Chyan Davies	2	0	0
Malakai Gough	2	1	0
Chyan	2	1	0

UNBELIEVABLE!!!!



Ruby Carter

We are extremely proud of our year 9 pupil Ruby Carter who has been extremely successful in martial arts. Ruby came away with 3 first places from the Kwon Grand Slam in Wolverhampton. Gaining a gold in her first full contact fight!

Well Done Ruby!!!

Toby Harwood

A huge congratulations to Toby Harwood in his achievement so far this year in Table Tennis. He has current achievements are;

Rhondda Dragon U13 - 2nd Place
North Gwent TTC - 2nd Place

He is also acting as a mentor to his ex Primary school pupils Cwrt Rawlin. This shows the dedication and passion he has for the sport.



Well Done Toby!!!

Badminton

A huge congratulations to our year 8 pupil, Saffron Morris for competing in the Badminton nationals in Sophia Gardens last week, and achieving second place! A huge accomplishment for Saffron who was playing above her age range. Well done from all of the PE team Saff!



Dance

Da iawn to Alex Morris who was selected to compete in the senior team alongside her usual age category with Loren James Dance School. Alex is also due to competing in Blackpool this weekend. Pob lwc Alex!



Football



Year 7

A much better team performance from the Year 7 football team. A strong second half saw the boys narrowly losing 6-5 to Gwyndy MoM was Ryley Fussell with some excellent attacking play down the left wing.

Year 8

A good team performance from Year 8 football team. Unfortunately the boys narrowly lost 4-3 to Gwyndy

Year 9

Another close battle with the Gwyndy. The boys battled hard with some outstanding performances. Rhys Griffiths working tirelessly hard up front. Malakai Gough standing strong and winning the foot race with the Gwyndy strikers. Unfortunately losing 3-2.

Netball

Year 8

Both Year 8 Netball girls' teams have shown huge progress in their latest fixture against Gwyndy. A star centre performance from Saffron Morris who dominated the court resulted in the A team winning 8-2! Unfortunately the B's took a 7-1 loss, but Gwyndy's coach congratulated them for their resilience throughout a tough game; special mention to Seren Hale who made many great interceptions during the match and showed strong sportsmanship - Da lawn girls.

Year 9

Special recognition to Libby Scrivens, Ruby Carter and Jorja Loader who have shown great commitment and progress with netball this half term, the girls have shown great sportsmanship, teamwork and skills - thanks girls! Ellie Hann has recently joined the team who is showing a great work ethic and positively contributing to the team - keep it up Ellie! The year 9 team played and, unfortunately, lost against Bedwas this half-term but they showed great determination throughout.

Year 10

The whole year 10 team has shown great consistency this half term, however they missed out on competing in the Ann Smart tournament from losing in the qualifiers. The team also lost to Bedwas, although they played well on the day Bedwas were a very strong team - keep up the hard work!



Cross Country at Margam Park

Year 7

Ethan Hamer 1st Place
- **wow what a run!!!!**
Ryley Fussell - 15th
Jack Cordy- 29th

Year 8/9 Race

Seren Hale 24th
Isaac Williams - 33rd

Year 10-13 Race

Owen Cuddihy (Yr 10) - 27th
Ruby Mitchell (Yr 10) - 31st

Valentine's Dinner

10th February saw our very first St Martin's event in the Class restaurant. Well done to the year 9, 10 & 11 pupils who were involved in producing great food and a lovely evening.

Our next event will be a celebration of St David's Day in March. Tickets available through the school's finance department.

