

AUTUMN 2020

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce our first newsletter of the year. I hope that you and all your family members and friends are well at this very difficult time as we fight to reduce the infection rate amongst our communities.

It has been such a busy and challenging start to the term for learners and staff members, many of which have been affected by this devastating virus during lockdown. Having returned to school, I am pleased to state that at the time of writing we have only had 3 confirmed coronavirus in learners and none in staff members. I am sure that our rigid and extensive precautions are resulting in a suppression of the virus at our school. Please can you continue to remind your children of the importance of good hygiene practices at home in order to protect our wider community from a resurgence in the spread of the virus.

It has been such a joy to welcome back our staff and learners and I am pleased to say that everyone is working tirelessly in every lesson across the school. The energy is back within the school and it is impressive to see how learners are responding to the routines and challenges that are being presented to them.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us during this challenging time.

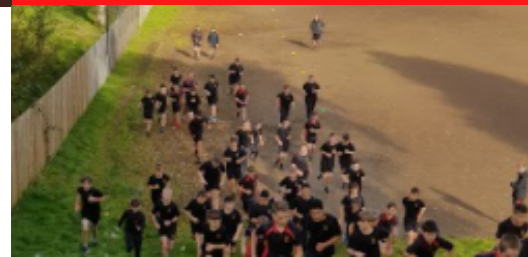
Mr. Jarvis
Headteacher



Hannah W (Year 13) was a successful applicant in the Nuffield Foundation Summer Programme. She was paired with Dr Chiara Gambi, a researcher at Cardiff University. Hannah worked alongside Dr Chiara Gambi in the research project 'Can curiosity help us learn a second language?' At the end of the project she was asked to submit a written report and research poster.

An excellent opportunity in the field of Psychology and thoroughly deserved by a hard-working St Martin's pupil. Congratulations Hannah!

Couch to 5k Students have been improving their cardiovascular fitness after lockdown with a challenge of Couch to 5km. The pupils all began the challenge at different levels. Some students had not run a distance before, others had completed some running during lockdown. The target was to improve each week by either increasing the distance or times. Well done to Year 7 - Mason, Year 8 - Ryley, Year 9 - Alex C





TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Teacher of the Year Award! Congratulations to Mrs Fran Shopland who was nominated for the secondary teacher of the year award by Pearson education.

An outstanding award for an outstanding teacher who does all she can to support, guide and educate all those in her care.



MARMALADE FOR SALE



Pupils have been busy making marmalade if you would like to purchase a jar. The cost is £5 large jar, small jar £3.50 or 2 for £6.

To reserve your jar please email shoplandf@stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk. Payment can be made via parent pay too.

LOCKDOWN BAKING



During lockdown we held 2 cooking competitions the first was 'The Great St Martin's Bake Off' and the second was 'Around the World in 49 days' 86 staff and students signed up to the challenges taking photographs of items that they made. Thanks to everyone for taking part, it certainly helped me get through lockdown! Congratulations to the following winners. 'Great St Martin's Bake off' winners were Mrs Manson and Isabel Rees Year 9. 'Around The World in 49 days' winners were Miss Hopkins, Nansi Wallis Year 9 & Team Davies

LIVE WEBINAR



Potential dentistry students in Year 12 and 13 had the opportunity to attend a live webinar led by Professor Mike Lewis from Cardiff School of Dentistry.

Professor Mike Lewis gave an outline of the course and offered advice on the application process which pupils found very beneficial. They picked up some great tips on how to write their personal statement.

Year 10 to Year 13 students who are interested in a career in Medicine or the Healthcare sector attended a webinar led by a past pupil, Abigail Lewis. Abigail is currently working as Doctor at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford where the COVID-19 vaccine is currently being developed. Abigail shared her journey on becoming a Doctor and there was a valuable question and answer session.



SCHOOL HONEY

There's a famous saying, "Never work with animals or children", so at some point it was almost inevitable that we may run across some issues with our much loved St. Martin's honey bees... but we never imagined that they would be like buses, and all the issues come at once!!

This year our bees have bravely fought off the clutches of storm Dennis; then they lost their Queen Bee; The first replacement did not appear to be strong enough - and sadly our assumptions were proven true, when we were just not seeing the stores of honey that we would have anticipated... and THEN it happened! Another fledgling queen bee was nurtured, and we soon started to see an active hive once more, and once again we were back in business! Our bees are as resilient as our pupils!

60 jars were obtained, and faster than a sell out Harry Styles' concert, within minutes they had all been sold and allocated!!! Please look out for all future jars being made available for sale and purchase within the Parent Pay shop. Jars are £3.50 each or the bargain buy of £10 for 3. Don't miss out next time, they really are delicious!

TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY CAREERS EVENT WITH CARDIFF MET

Many thanks to Gareth Jones from Cardiff Met for delivering an interesting Online Careers Event that focused on the Technology Industry. Year 9 and Year 12 learners watched two of the day's sessions during their lessons.

Year 9, who have just started studying the new Digital Technology qualification, heard Gareth speak about current technology trends and were inspired by the exciting new upcoming career roles within the industry.

Year 12 watched an introduction to the Cardiff School of Technologies, whilst getting an insight into the UK Technology Industry.



'MARTY'S TAILS' WINS AWARD

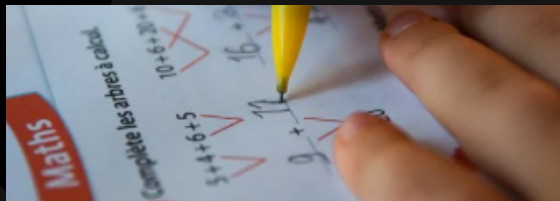
There was no doubt that this year's Young Enterprise Team, Marty's Tails, had big shoes to fill! Shoes that belonged to our triumphant group of Young Enterprise Entrepreneurs, BTC Sales, who became overall winners of the Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Area final last year. However, fill them they did! In what has become known as 'these unprecedented times', our group of Year 10 pupils, led by their Managing Director, Ella-Paige, pulled together when needed, and despite lockdown restrictions started to react to the conditions that were being faced by so many businesses... Information was shared online; presentations were conducted virtually and trade stands were set up in dining rooms! Their efforts were truly rewarded when they were amongst the 5 final teams in the virtual all Wales final; they appeared to be by far the youngest competitors; and they were commended with the Creativity Award for their actions that had been undertaken during these difficult times.

They may not have won the overall competition this time, but they are all winners to us! Well done to our new cohort of budding entrepreneurs who were resilient in times of adversity!





MATHEMATICS UPDATES



The mathematics department have been working hard this half term getting all students up to speed on their number work. Most pupils have settled in well this term and have been working hard in their lessons. Throughout the rest of the year pupils will cover a wide range of topics from the four main Mathematical Areas – Number, Algebra, Geometry and Data.

Pupils will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to real life situations. We have added mini projects into the Scheme of Work in line with the new Curriculum for Wales for example a Project on Plastic Pollution, Creating Paper Rockets and testing the distance they can travel. We look forward to keeping you updated throughout the year.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The European Day of Languages is a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken around the world, promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! In September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages at St Martin's School. This event happens every year on the 26th of September across Europe.

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible creativity and language learning skills shown and found it so hard to pick a top 3. However, after much deliberation, the winners are-

MONUMENT Challenge:

1st Place- Tia and Tayla

2nd Place- Eryn

3rd Place- Gwennan



POSTER Challenge:

1st Place- Charlotte

2nd Place- Alana

3rd Place- Mia

3rd Place- Mali



A massive congratulations everybody! All entries will get Class Charts points.



Do not miss the latest addition to St Martin's Radio: St Martin's Football Show. Our dedicated team of sport journalists have recorded a total of ten shows up to now.

The programs have been presented by Year 12 Leon H. and have featured fellow football pundits and students Lloyd B. And Max N. as well as Sr. Lopez. We have been joined by two guests so far with fans of Watford and Cardiff. If you have missed any episodes that you can catch up on the St. Martin's Podcast Spotify page. <https://anchor.fm/stmartinsschoolpodcast>



ART PACKS FOR SALE

If more pupils would like one then we can order more as they have nearly sold out. They're £16 each. This includes: 2B pencil, 4B pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener, fine liner, white gel pen, oil pastels, range of brushes, watercolour set and coloured pencils. See Miss Hopkins for more information.



DRAMA HAS MOVED



Our brand new Drama studio benefits from a much needed technical upgrade to include brand new blackout curtains, state of the art lighting, sound system and two new projectors. All year groups are enjoying the new facilities especially our budding technical candidates.



Virtual Creative club

Positive mindset

Well-being Creativity

Fun Visual expression

Being creative is the best therapy

Bullet journaling

Well-being Activities

Craft Art workshops

CODE: 4knnrha

Weekly activities and tasks to concentrate on being creative and having a positive mindset.

Its been a difficult year.

Miss Froude, the newest member of the Expressive Arts team has launched a virtual creative club with the intention of improving staff and pupil wellbeing and fostering positive mindsets. If you are interested in participating, further information can be found on the attached poster.