

# St Martin's School

## Newsletter



Issue 33

### National Science Week Celebrations

By Mrs L Davis, Teacher of Science



National Science Week was held on 16-20 March and we celebrated by running a Science Fair in lab 1 at lunchtime on

16<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils and teachers joined in the fun. The science experiments included: rainbow fizz; custard bouncy balls; lava lamps and rocket balloons plus many more. KS3 pupils created science projects, which they presented in lab 1. A big thank you to all the pupils and teachers who took part.



Science lesson: Eclipse 20 March 2015



### Urdd 2015

What a fantastic result for pupils at Gwent Urdd Eisteddfod:

- Alex Brown: Year 12, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the musical theatre competition.
- Abigail Price: Year 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the girls solo.
- Senior Choir Year 9-13: 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- Year 7-9 choir: 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Through to the Nationals in Caerphilly!

Science Department

Music Department

### Defibrillator Presented in Memory of Jack



On 17<sup>th</sup> March, June Thomas and Sharon Owen, Director of Welsh Hearts, very kindly presented St Martin's with a heart defibrillator in memory of June Thomas' son, Jack, who died suddenly 3 years ago, aged 15. We would like to convey our gratitude to them.

### Travel Bloggers



By Mrs J Underwood, Head of English and Miss K Bilton, Literacy Co-ordinator

During February half term, myself and Miss Bilton had the pleasure of attending the St Martin's skiing trip to Killington, Vermont. We were lucky enough to spend the week with our fabulous pupils and amazing staff. We flew from London Heathrow to New York JFK on 14<sup>th</sup> February, all fresh faced and excited for an amazing week and what a truly unforgettable week it was! After travelling for 24 hours through treacherous snow and ice, we finally arrived at our hotel. With luxurious king-sized beds and pillows as soft as clouds, it didn't take anyone very long to drift off to the land of nod. When the alarm sounded 4 hours later, we all sprung out of bed and prepared ourselves for a day on the slopes. Wrapped up and with plenty of breakfast in our bellies, we set off for the stunning slopes of Killington. Sun cream was lathered on all pupils and all equipment was checked; pretty much a 'home from home' experience! When we arrived at the resort, we were met by the familiar breath-taking views; pupils were kitted up, put in to groups and excitedly led out on to the slopes with their instructors. The fun had begun!

The five days of skiing were immense. Our pupils were indestructible and showed their true strength when faced with -60 wind chill conditions. There were so many amazing memories that ranged from our awesome visit to the top of The Empire State Building in



fabulous New York, to the incredible comments we received, from everyone we met, about our amazing pupils. We are just so proud of them, they are all truly incredible young people and a real credit to all of us!

Some funny moments that will stick with us forever, include: Gapper's perfectly timed bowling error; Lloyd's amazing Frank Spencer impression when playing the 'cereal box' game; Mrs Underwood's gloved finger sticking to her nose, as the relentless winds blew on the highest peaks, just as she was about to exit a lift, (we'll leave the rest to your imagination); taking over the hotel reception to play the 'Head's Up' game with great spirit and enthusiasm; Miss Bilton's immense 'pendulum' bowling technique and her ability to clear out the Levi's, Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren stores in under half an hour; the Ponderosa and all of us in bright lights on the huge screen in Times Square, at night.

It was a trip of a lifetime and all made even more amazing by our pupils.



English Department



# Safer Internet Day Gone But Not Forgotten

By Mr M Lewis, Head of ICT



Safer Internet Day was a big day on the ICT calendar! We decided to complement the e-safety lessons students already receive in ICT. We decided to do this in a number of ways:

1. Parents' information evening
2. E-safety presentation and performance from Rich Cottell (The Wanted's support act) arranged by the Head of PSE.
3. Assemblies for Key Stage 4
4. E-safety themed 'Thought of the day' for each day that week during registration
5. Our e-safety display in reception

A massive thank you to PC Kerslake, our school liaison officer, for playing a key role in many of these events as well as talking to Year 9 in their lesson.

Sadly, parental controls no longer keep our young people safe online. As technology changes, so do our habits, and current trends. Many young people set their profiles to 'Friends Only' but accept all friend requests. Some may feel pressured into taking images they may later live to regret. These are the kinds of scenarios we urge young people to think about. Knowledge is most certainly power... or safety in this case. For those that would like further information please take a look at the Parent Checklist from CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) and may I recommend you follow/like CEOP's Twitter and/or Facebook page for tips, updates or advice.

## Technocamp



We are so pleased to report that the University of South Wales are back at St Martin's delivering computer science

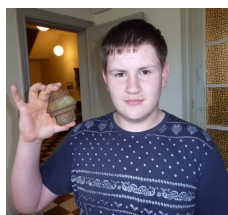
workshops for a limited time only! We are grateful to Technocamps for giving our students this fantastic opportunity using Python, Raspberry Pi & more! If you haven't joined us yet but would like to - they will be back for 3 weeks after half term too!



By Mr M Ferris, Head of History

36 Year 10 History students spent the February half Term visiting the battlefields of France and Belgium. The annual pilgrimage to Albert and Ypres saw the students visit the graves and memorials of a number of relatives who were killed in World War One. Ieuan Pugh paid his respects to his great grandfather who was killed in July 1916 while serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Mametz Wood. Ieuan laid a wreath in his honour at the Thiepval memorial to the Missing before visiting the wood itself, the scene of fierce fighting in the summer of 1916. The students managed to find a number of relics at Mametz with Aaron Attwood having the honour of a top find when he stumbled across a Shell Cap. The vast majority of students all managed to pick up a shrapnel ball or two before

travelling to the Belgian Town of Ypres. The In Flanders Field



museum was another attraction as well as the British cemetery at Tyne Cot where Harry Hiscox

managed to find his relatives name on the panels to the missing. It wasn't all serious though! Mr Richards managed to defeat Mr Ferris in the bowling and win the coveted bowling pin, while stops at McDonald's surprisingly proved very popular. Mr Ferris would like to pay tribute to all the students who went on the trip. "They were a credit to the school and to themselves and I was privileged to travel with them. Well Done Year 10."



## Numeracy Success

By Mrs S Legg, Numeracy Co-ordinator



Fourteen pupils from years 7-9 were rewarded for continual hard work and success during numeracy interventions in the Autumn

term. The group enjoyed an evening at the cinema with plenty of popcorn. We were even lucky enough to have the entire room to ourselves.

Well done to all of the pupils.

## Geography Club



By Mr J Richards, Teacher of Geography

St Martin's Geography Club members carried out an investigation into the litter issues at the school. They collected litter, analysed results and created a written project to contribute to the school's Eco School campaign. Pupils highlighted problem areas and made suggestions for how to improve the litter situation around St Martin's.

## Critical Thinking

By Mrs C Logue, Head of RE



The RE Critical thinking sessions have covered a range of topics this year for year 12. Sessions have included Meditation, Islamic State, New Religious Movements, Homophobia, Religion and the Media, Human Trafficking and FGM. These sessions

look at a range of current issues and explore their impact on young people and society in general. Sessions encourage discussion, analysis and evaluation. Many of our pupils have shared their opinions and views in a very open and thought provoking way and we have certainly enjoyed discussing them. Certificates of attendance have been issued and are a good addition to files of achievement.

History Department

Maths

Geography

RE Department



# Illustration and Animation Careers

Art Department



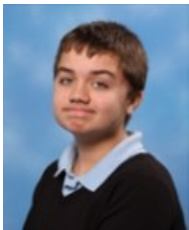
By Mr D Latham, Head of Art

Congratulations from the Art Department to Bethan Williams in Year 13 who has been accepted unconditionally onto her illustration degree course at the Atrium in Cardiff next September. Bethan has done so well that she can skip the usual route of foundation course and go straight to degree level. We are also very

proud of two ex pupils, brothers David and Sean Gregory who are now working as animators. Sean is working on the Laika (makers of Coraline/ Boxtrolls) Film studios production which is strictly hush hush and David is now a regular animator on the animated Mr Bean series on CITV. It always makes us proud at St Martin's to see our pupils' future careers develop!

# Law Students Rise to Fame

Business Studies & Law



Sean Lancaster



Tom Faulkner

By Mrs K Joyce, Head of Business Studies and Law

Two of last year's A Level Law students, Sean Lancaster and Thomas Faulkner have both achieved excellent success in their first two terms at University. Sean has excelled in all areas of Tort, Contract and EU Law and has achieved 2:1 equivalent in all modules sat. Thomas Faulkner, studying Law at Plymouth University, has just won a

national mooting competition – out-witting many other students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of study! This is highly acclaimed! For his efforts he is now in a position of responsibility for next year's competition and he has also received a pupillage session at a solicitor's practice. Well done to you both! Hard work and success most certainly go hand in hand!

# Young Musician of the Year

Music Department



Eiry Allender shown second from right

# Ukelele Fun

Year 7 were inspired by 'Recrock' to take up the ukulele and perform the classic 'Stand By Me' by Ben King. Even Mr Yeoman joined in!



Well done to all who competed at the Caerphilly Young Musician of the Year 2015 Competition on 7th March.

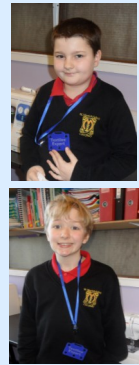
Jacob Dawson, Year 8, won his class in clarinet; Abigail Price; Year 10 won her class in solo voice and Eiry Allender; Year 10 won her class in brass and is through to the finals.

# Expert Badges

Technology Department

By Mrs F Shopland, Head of Technology

Here are 2 of our year 7 pupils who have had experience of being Technology Experts for a lesson. During the lesson, the class experts helped other class members over come problems and make progress.



# Dedication and Creativity

Drama Department



By Mrs L Weston, Curriculum Leader of Drama

Mrs Weston would like to congratulate all of her A2 Drama and Theatre Studies students for completing their final piece of practical coursework. Their dedication and creativity throughout the process was outstanding and the work was a pleasure to watch. Well done - you will be missed!



# Media Magazine Conference

Media Department

By Mrs R Jones, Curriculum Leader of Media

Mrs Jones and a mix of Year 12 and 13 Media Studies students enjoyed a very informative Media Magazine conference in London just before Christmas. There were sessions on producing independent films, editing music videos and we particularly enjoyed a session from Jon Snow on the future of News (NOT the 'Game of Thrones' Jon Snow...channel 5 news presenter Jon Snow, much to the disappointment of the girls). The highlight for many, however, was the keynote speaker, Owen Jones, who gave a passionate talk on media, class and identity.



# Welsh Schools' Cup Semi Finals!



By Rhys Condon, Year 13

After breezing through the initial stages of the competition, the

PE Department



St Martin's Senior football team was drawn against Fairwater in the national stages of the Welsh Schools' Cup. Ben Candy struck first from the penalty spot to put the saints ahead. Then Will Borja extended the lead to 2-0 before half time. The



opposition did not back down and pulled 2 goals back to send the game to extra time. Almost all hope was lost when Fairwater scored first in extra time to make the score line 3-2. However, the boys' efforts did not drop and seconds before the final whistle, a goal mouth scramble resulted in the ball nestling in the back of the net via a composed and game saving finish from Thomas Candy. Ultimately the 3-3 score line

led to a penalty shootout, which St Martin's won 6-5.

St Martin's faced Cardiff High School in the semi final of the Welsh Schools' Cup. Will Borja opened the scoring in the first half with a clinical finish from inside the box. The second half saw the Saints concede 2 goals in quick concession, making the score line 2-1. Connor Davies came on late in the game and equalised with his first touch to send the game to yet another penalty shootout. The St Martin's boys had 4 well struck penalties, of which the Cardiff goalkeeper saved one, resulting in a 5-3 defeat on penalties. Despite the players valiant efforts, we were knocked out of the competition. However, the fact that this is the best a senior team has done in over 35 years is not to be forgotten. To get this far is a tremendous achievement; we have exceeded all expectations and every member of the team is very proud to have been a part of it. From myself and all the year 13 boys, we wish the younger players good luck in the competition next year and hope the school sees similar success in the future.



## Well done!

Congratulations to Jack Cowley, Year 12, who has been selected for the Welsh School's Football Association Under 18 squad -

best of luck in your forthcoming game against Ireland!

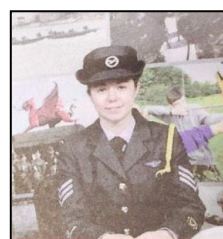


Vermont 2015



Mr S Barnett, Head of Learning: Year 11

Wow! What a great trip! We've been home now for a month and I still can't get it out of my head. The Killington and New York ski trip was amazing. Our pupils did us proud. Every one of them worked hard on the slopes to excel and partied even harder off the slopes! It was an incredible experience to share with so many of our wonderfully well behaved students and a privilege to tour with such dedicated and caring staff. Be ready to sign up soon for a new adventure in Europe in 2016. Thank you to all who attended.



## Congratulation

Congratulations to Eleanor Kingston, Year 13, who has been appointed one of the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets of Gwent for 2015. Eleanor will accompany the Lord-Lieutenant for Gwent Simon Boyle to a number of official engagements.

## Winner!

Congratulations to Courtney Evans, Year 10 for winning first place in the South Wales area heats Hair and Beauty Competition. Off to Blackpool now!



## Film Club

Organised by: Mrs L Donovan, Teacher of Spanish  
Film Club will begin the first Thursday after Easter, 16th of April. The first film to be shown will be The Book of Life. The Film Club is an opportunity for pupils to explore the world of film and develop their literacy skills with review writing.



Pool sessions are held every morning Monday to Friday. Every 2 weeks there's a pool tournament. First and Second place trophies are awarded.

