



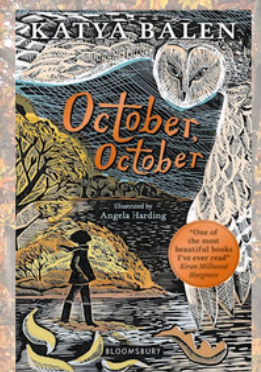
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AUTUMN 2021

HALLOWEEN STEM CLUB



STEM club started back this week with a Halloween special event. Young scientists learned how to make Halloween slime, a pumpkin frothing at the mouth and for the budding Hermione Grangers amongst us there was a session on spells and potions. The spell involving unicorn horn and phoenix tears being very spectacular! If you missed this session don't worry as STEM club will be running every week after half term with a different theme each week. The first session after half term is on Wednesday 3rd of November 2:30 pm and we will be looking at the chemistry of fireworks. This is a fun session not to be missed.



We recently entered an online competition run by the National Literacy Trust. We also tweeted about this competition, so you may have entered too?

We are pleased to report that we have won a book from their autumn-themed Words for Life book giveaway!

The book will be available to loan from the LRC soon!



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS



This year has seen lots of changes in St Martin's, none more so than the revitalisation of the Design and Technology with Mr Shergold. GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to not only feel confident but excel in an increasingly technological world. Covering practical elements, students in Y7 have already successfully finished an upcycled device while the Y8 cohort are making acrylic rings. As well as learning the how we will also be looking at the why; students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, and apply technical and practical expertise through a range of projects from traditional woodwork through to CAD and 3D printing.

One of the first additions to be brought in is the vocational Construction and the Built Environment course. The WJEC course is designed to support learners in developing an awareness of key considerations within the construction industry while learning some practical skills along the way. We are giving learners a broad introduction to the different trades involved in the sector and the types of career opportunities available to them; job roles such as plumbers, carpenters and bricklayers along with project planning and management skills. The course is mainly practical with elements of health and safety and project management supporting. Mr Shergold has already organised some site visits in conjunction with the CITB (construction industry training board) and is looking to expand working with local business to offer the perfect starting point to a career in any part of the construction industry.

Y9 Pupils will be able to choose in the upcoming options process, if they, or you, have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of design and technology or construction please email - shergoldj@stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



We hosted our annual Macmillan Coffee morning on 24th September. All of the cakes and biscuits were made and served by the GCSE Catering pupils. We made an amazing £130 for this very worthwhile charity. Thanks to all the staff and pupils who supported us.

OUR RESTAURANT IS RE-OPEN!

At long last we are able to host a function in our restaurant 'Class'. On Monday 13th we are hosting a Christmas themed event. 3 course meal, with coffee. £15 per head.

Tickets on sale after half term - more information to follow.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Behind the scenes photographs of our Christmas Concert rehearsals. It was great to see so many of you on the evening. Thank you, as always, for your support.



BEE UPDATES

The St. Martin's hive is thriving. In fact, the colony is ready to be split up into more hives!

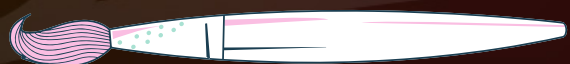
But prudence is necessary - we must wait until the spring comes and the first flowers are blooming so that the bees can forage for food. It would be unwise to weaken the hive before winter when there is no pollen. We have managed to extract a good amount of honey from the hive: 2.5 supers! Of course, honey is what the bees eat over winter so we will feed the bees with syrup to keep them going. Syrup is just as nutritious as honey but fairly cheap to make. This means we can take the valuable honey without harming or disadvantaging the bees in any way. Thanks to Sirhowy Bees, this delicious honey is on it's way to being jarred ready for sale - so watch this space - honey for sale soon!

Fun fact: Aberystwyth University have found super bug (MRSA) fighting properties in some Welsh honey. When bees feed from Sweet Woodruff - a fairly common plant - their honey can develop these anti-bacterial properties! So if you have any in your garden, please bring a cutting into Ms Henry at school so our bees can feed on it too!



BIO ART ATTACK

As part of Biology Week 2021, students got involved in a BioArtAttacks competition. The brief was to create a creative piece of artwork that was related to Science. Well done to Megan Lewis-Head who got first place with a flip clip explaining how we hear sound. In second place was AJ Seaward with his impressive model of our solar system and in third place, Millie Edwards with her plasticine model of a butterfly.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



MTB club with Mr. Shergold. This club will pause over the winter and resume again in Spring.



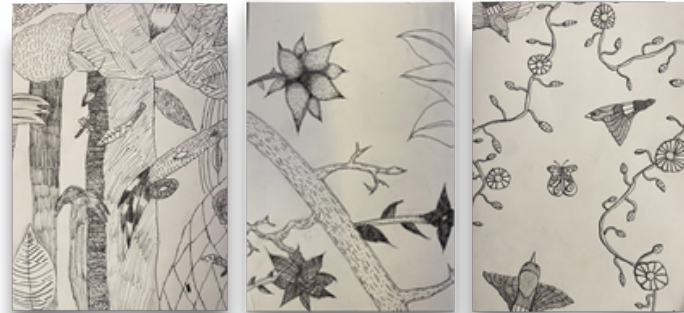
The learning resource centre is open after school every day for 30 minutes for learners to complete homework, read or play a range of board games.

Want to get involved with the school radio station? See Mr Lopez for more details. Don't forget you can now catch up on all radio shows on Spotify or via linktr.ee/stmartinsinfo



YEAR 7 EXPLORE TECHNIQUES

The following images have been completed by students in year 7 who have been covering a topic based on the book called 'The Explorer' across all subjects in year 7. They have been exploring images from the Amazon Jungle using different textures and techniques.



YEAR 10 IDENTITY ART



Pupils from year 10 have been completing a project based on their own identity and based their work on a well known artist.

MATCH REPORT: TREORCHY 1-1 ST MARTIN'S

Written by Leon Year 13

Josh W's wonder strike was enough to earn St Martin's a draw against Treorchy.

Webb's strike from just beyond the half way line in the first half proved to be enough to get the draw in a friendly that prepares both teams for the next round of the Welsh Cup.

After a start that saw St Martin's have chances ex Newport County academy product Josh had an outstanding effort hit the back of the net after the Treorchy goalkeeper was caught off his line meaning Webb could dink it over him.

Treorchy rarely threatened Adam M's goal in the first half with the few chances they had squandered.

The 2nd half saw Treorchy get their goal with a cross into the box that went over everyone before being tapped it at the back post.

Both teams had chances in the 2nd half but neither team could find the winner that saw a fair draw.

Both teams move on to the Welsh Cup with St Martin's hosting Cwm Rhymni In Round 2,

Treorchy play the winners of Rhydywaun / Aberdare / Tonyrefail In Round 3 after wins against St Cenydd (6-0) and Lewis (2-1)



Molly is now a double
European Champion. Congratulations!

WSFA CUP MATCHES

- Year 7 v Lewis Boys - Lost 6 - 1
- Year 10 v Garth Olwg - 5 - 5 full time, Won 3 - 2 (pens)
- Year 9 v Gwyndy - Won 2 - 1
- 6th Form v Y Pant - Won 7 - 0
- Year 8 v St Cenydd - Lost 10 - 5
- Year 9 v Lewis Boys - Won 5 - 2
- Year 7 v Heolddu - Lost 5 - 2 Friendly
- Year 8 v Heolddu - Won 6 - 0 Friendly



RUGBY RESULTS

- Year 9 v Cwm Gwyndy - Lost 33 - 19
- Year 11 v Cwm Gwyndy - Lost 28 - 17
- Year 10 v Lewis Boys - Lost 23 - 18
- Year 7 v Heolddu - lost 48 - 0

SPORTING SUCCESS

Well done to Saffron on your recent badminton achievements and to Cai for playing rugby league this summer. We are extremely proud of both of your successes!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH UPDATES

Another fantastic Bronze expedition has been completed by the Year 10 pupils during their first week back to school after the unfortunate need to reschedule last year's plans. The walking groups dug deep, and showed immense resilience and fantastic teamwork skills on both day 1 and 2 of their journey.

Besides a few blisters and sore shoulders from carrying equipment, all group members completed the expedition and were rewarded with their ice-creams when we reached Worm's Head!

Da lawn to all involved, look forward to welcoming you onto the silver expedition this year!

There are still spaces for candidates to enrol providing they meet the below age criteria:

- Bronze Award, Year 9 upwards.
- Silver Award, Year 10 upwards.
- Gold Award, Age 16+.

Please see Miss Williams for more information.



YEAR 8 DROP DOWN DAY

Year 8 completed a stand down day with the Health & Wellbeing Faculty with a focus on Resilience. We had a number of guest speakers and our very own 'Masterchef' Mrs Shopland. The pupils learnt about the importance of being resilient and how to overcome challenges they face in and outside of school. Mrs Shopland made the link with how food can affect your mood and gave the pupils some examples of how to start the day with a positive mind set with healthy breakfast options.

The faculty wishes to thank all the external speakers and providers of the day. Forces Fitness, CCBC Sport and Leisure, Willmott & Dixon, Gwent Health.



The LRC is open after school every day until 3pm for all learners to play games, complete homework or read.

TINY FOREST

Learners from Year 8 were thrilled to be part of Climate Action Caerphilly's initiative to plant a Tiny Forest in Morgan Jones Park. A Tiny Forest is a dense fast-growing native woodland, based on an established forest management method developed in the 1970s by Dr Akira Miyawaki. The unique aspect of the Tiny Forest is the way it's planted makes the trees grow very quickly, meaning that new habitats for local wildlife also develop quickly. Moreover, Tiny Forests can store carbon in trees and soak up water to reduce local flooding, reduce dust and improve air quality.

The learners completed three activities: planting a tree (and even naming some of them!); making a wish for the trees/Tiny Forest/world; and adding some natural materials to the large tree Land Art project. Why not visit Morgan Jones Park and see the Tiny Forest for yourselves?

It was so lovely to get some fresh air and be real 'friends of the environment' in our local area. Thank you to Marianne and Climate Action Caerphilly, Mrs Mitchell and our two Year 10 helpers: Jorja and Darcey.
Ms Banks

