

# St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY  
Service Compassion Justice Perseverance



## COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY AT ST MARTIN'S 2017-2018



The students at St Martin's are encouraged to explore and reflect upon the community and world in which they live and how they can become 'young advocates' supporting causes that will have a positive impact upon the well-being of others. As a school we actively promote and encourage the students to be a proactive advocate in supporting charities and organisations both in school and at home. Through our vision, the Gospel and our values associated with it, through worship and the development of the students knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their own circumstances, they are encouraged to complete acts of courageous advocacy both through school led initiatives as well as those inspired by themselves. As a school we connect with charitable activities through what we express as our St Martin's stewardship vision of "Everyone Can Help Others" (ECHO). We encourage everyone to engage in social action and develop their understanding of courageous advocacy and challenge.

## **COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY - OUR VALUES IN ACTION AT ST MARTIN'S**

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

'Courageous advocacy', which we instill in our students, enables our school community to develop a greater awareness of the challenges others face in life and the role that they can play as individual advocates to support causes and make a difference. Our values of Service Compassion, Justice and Perseverance are visible in our advocacy. Our stewardship vision through ECHO is alive and at work. Here are just a few examples of how we do it at St Martin's!

### **£300 for Sports Relief**

Students and staff joined in the range of activities to raise money for Sports Relief. Year 7 to 10 were in a friendly competition to see who could collect the most 'brown coins'. Sports Relief ended with a dodgeball competition, Students V Staff. The staff team won matches against every year group except



Year 10. You can imagine how pleased Year 10 were!

### **£43.80 for The British Heart Foundation**

Members of staff donated the prizes for our Mother's Day raffle. The raffle was well supported by staff and students and the grand total of £43.80 was raised for ECHO and the charity to receive this money is the British Heart Foundation.

### **£300 for Crisis at Christmas and Age Concern**

Two Year 10 students designed and made a range of festive crafts and sold them in aid of ECHO. As

well as having a stall at our carol service at Holy Trinity Church and a stall at school, the girls also spent a Sunday afternoon running a stall at St Luke's Church, West Norwood. Many Christmas shoppers gave donations as well as buying some of the lovely items that were on sale.



### Harvest

St Martin's celebrate Harvest Festival and the school community are very generous with their gifts. We have donated to the Gaii centre and also the the Norwood and Brixton Food bank. On both occasions, representatives have come to our Harvest Worship and have seen how we put our values of service and compassion into action.



### Seniors Christmas Lunch

we welcomed a group of Senior Citizens from our local community and Holy Trinity Church for Christmas lunch. This is our third Senior Citizen lunch and again, it was a truly joyous occasion. Our guests enjoyed Christmas lunch and a medley of Christmas songs, everyone's favourites! The lunch was hosted by a group of our students who also served our guests and distributed parting gifts. We very much look forward to doing it all again next Christmas!



### Shoe Box Appeal

Year 10 worked together to fill and wrap 30 shoe boxes as well as write a card for each box. They were happy that their gifts would give great joy to a young child. A quote from one of the girls. "I didn't truly appreciate how much I have until I put the small gifts into a shoe box". When I saw the video of children in Africa receiving their shoe box, the only gift that they will receive, it brought tears to my eyes". I thank God everyday for what I have and hope that I can continue giving to those who are less fortunate"



### Lent Lunch

Students from Years 10 and 11 hosted senior citizens from Holy Trinity Church for a Lent lunch. The Lent lunch coincided with our Prayer Space which they visited and prayed before enjoying lunch served by students.



### Toddlers Easter Egg Hunt

12 children and their parents from Holy Trinity Church joined us for an Easter Egg Hunt. Students from year 9 and 10 looked after the children and helped them to decorate and make an Easter basket. After the tea party, the children were led to the front lawns of the school to hunt for eggs.



### Half Term Student Leadership

A small group of students from year 9, 10 and 11 took part in the Holy Trinity Church 'Landlubbers' Half Term Holiday Club. They demonstrated their leadership skills by supporting activities, such as painting, drawing, games, and acting.



### £310 for CLIC Sargent

Students were actively fundraising for this children's cancer charity. The fundraising manager from CLIC Sargent came to school and was presented with a cheque.



### Community Carol Singing

Students from St Martin's sang carols around the Christmas tree outside the Co-op on Norwood Road. The students were pleased to draw a crowd who were delighted in their singing, some of them even joining in! Local shoppers also made special requests to hear their favourite carols.



## Share a Pencil Day

Students at St Martin's took part in the first ever national Share a Pencil Day on Wednesday 17 May 2017. The aim of this event was to raise awareness of the 124 million children in the world who are missing out on an education across the globe and are without access to basic materials to learn.

We raised £151.20 selling Hope pencils and the proceeds will go towards Hope's Bright Futures mission in partnership with Plan International UK. The funds will support the charity's education projects worldwide, which include transforming the lives of girls in Kamuli, Uganda; helping children in Pakistan get an education, and the training of 275 female teachers in Sierra Leone.



## Quotes from students who took part in Share a pencil Day

*"I really appreciated that I am very fortunate to have access to so much and Share a Pencil Day is a perfect way to reflect on this"*

*"It helped me to understand what life is like for others who are less fortunate than me"*

*"Share a pencil day helped me to develop my sense of global responsibility"*

*"I understand that I can make a difference, even if it is small, if everyone does something the help will be enormous"*

*"Taking part in share a pencil day demonstrated my commitment to our school values of service, compassion, justice and perseverance"*

## Impact

Students are aware of how to positively contribute to their community and the world around them and develop an understanding how they can become young advocates themselves and help to change the community and the world in which they live.

Students are able to reflect upon how they can 'give back' to those in need and develop a greater awareness and ability to articulate how they support those who are less fortunate than They know that God expects us to Love thy neighbour and our students demonstrate this with the deepest moral code. Our vision and values are alive and working in St Martin's and our students support local, national and global issues and enable through charitable donations to see the love of Jesus transform lives and communities worldwide.

Throughout the school year St Martin's supports a number of charities. Students design their own fundraising activities through their House System, their Tutor or Progress Leader.