



St Martin's News

Summer 2016



Our core Christian values of **SERVICE, COMPASSION, JUSTICE** and **PERSEVERANCE** are at the heart of all we do. They form the basis of who we are and shape the day-to-day life of our school.

Headteacher's Message

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:18-19

We have come to the end of the academic year, the time seems to have gone by so quickly. It is hard to believe I have been in post for a year already, but I can say that I have enjoyed every moment of leading St Martin's. Working with you, your daughters, staff, governors and everyone associated with the school has meant that we have been able to make strides on further improving the quality of education that we are delivering here at St Martin's.

You would have read in my recent letter to you that, as with many schools across the country, we are facing times of financial austerity. It will be no surprise to many of you who follow education news, that school budgets are incredibly tight and in real-terms we have to provide more with less funding. We, of course, have to 'tighten our belts' and find ways of attracting additional funding.

One particular announcement I am delighted to make is that we have secured funding to renew the majority of our old and damaged windows. Work is taking place at the moment and will continue throughout the summer and into the early part of the autumn term. This will make a significant difference not only to the appearance of the school, but will also keep the heat inside during the winter months.

Another piece of exciting news is our plan, from September, to collaborate with Dulwich College. They have had great success with their pioneering Wellbeing programme and it is now coming to St Martin's! We will be collaborating with the Head of the Programme to tailor the content to the needs of our students. We are really looking forward to developing a partnership of mutual collaboration with Dulwich College. You can find out more about the Wellbeing programme by visiting <http://www.dulwich.org.uk/>

This newsletter will be shorter than previous editions as our news is now being updated on our website. If you have not had a chance to visit our new website, please do so. Although it is still a work in progress, I hope that you will find it more accessible with up to date information. Any comments you have about how we

can continue to improve our website are most welcome.

A few notable events this term include our Shakespeare Festival and our involvement in a Glass Design project organised by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London.

This summer we say goodbye to some staff. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing those who are leaving St Martin's happiness and success in their future careers and

thank them for their hard work and commitment. We also say hello to new staff who will join us in September.

All staff at St Martin's always do their very best to ensure excellence for your daughter's academic, social, spiritual and emotional wellbeing and I am sure that you will want to thank them for their hard work this year.

It certainly has been a year of change, yet I am positive that, based on the comments and feedback from families, students, staff, governors

and the community, we are moving in the direction that you wish the school to move: excellence for all and in all that we do.

I thank you very much for your support this year. I hope you have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to our continuing partnership to enable our girls, your daughters, to strive to be the best they can be.

Enjoy the summer.

Beverley Stanislaus

On 9th July we celebrated 400 years of the great works of Shakespeare. It was a wonderful event, supported by many staff, families and students. In the run up to the Festival, the weather had been very wet, we thought we may have to use this Shakespeare's quote all day "For the rain it raineth every day". (Act V, Scene I). However, we were pleased that the day was dry and the sun was out! We had a showcase of Shakespearean drama performed by pupils from three primary schools that had worked with our drama department for six weeks. There were also some spectacular performances by our very own Year 7 and 8 students. Please go to our website for more information and pictures.



We were one of ten schools to be involved in a glass design project to mark the Great Fire of London. A group of Year 9 students worked with an artist who was a specialist glass artist. She transformed their designs into delicate pieces of painted glass forming a larger glass sculpture. All the work will be exhibited at the Church of St Stephen Walbrook in the city on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September (the First day of the Great Fire). One school will be chosen as the overall winner of the glass design project. We keep our fingers crossed for us! From the 3rd to 29th September all the glass work will be moved to Hatfield House where it will be exhibited to the public. We plan to take the students involved to the exhibition. More pictures can be seen on our website.

News from the OGA

(St Martin's Alumni)

On the 7th May, a small group of girls from Year 9 and Year 10 (pictured right) gathered together at school to provide tours for past students of St Martin-In-the-Fields High School (some of whom enrolled in our school just after the war in the 1950s when the school would have been very different). We were there to show them the changes and developments of our school: we're delighted to say that we were not the only ones who learnt and discovered a great deal about St Martins' school.

When some of us first heard about the tour we were not really sure of what to expect. When we walked into the hall where everyone had met, we saw dozens of women standing before us. We approached Ms Davies, wondering what we were going to do then we soon found out that all of the women were former attendants of our school. We, the tour guides all took a look around the room, chatting and looking at old photos of some of the girls who attended St Martin's school, which were arranged neatly on a narrow table. It was interesting especially when identifying the different rooms in the pictures which still remain in our school to this very day.

As a collective, before actually getting to school, we had expected to be simply showing a group of ladies around our school. However, it was so much more than that. There was such a warm atmosphere, allowing us all to witness a reunion as ladies laughed and greeted each other with an even greater level of excitement than the majority of present students of St Martins do now. The expression on their faces showed that they were indeed flabbergasted. Walking through the school brought back both pleasant and unpleasant memories, most of which they took



delight in telling us about. We were surprised at their tales, their stories making us look like saints compared to them. Some parts of the school they recognised, some they didn't. It was as if the little secondary school girl within had been unleashed that day. We felt and saw their excitement which made us think that "this would be us one day".

In conclusion, we have realised that those who once walked upon the green fields which we now know, should never be forgotten. Those who established the pathways of their lives within the walls in which we now stand should always be remembered for as we are makers of history so are we made by our history.

Britney and Rêhema both said: *"This was a great experience, which helped us to realise that the days are young so we should cherish them wisely as what we do today has an effect on how we live tomorrow".*

Another one of the tour guides, Salima, said that: *"I never knew so much could have changed. You would never have known that we once had a swimming pool. How cool is that!"*

The Brilliant Club

Mrs Ferguson, English Department

In May, 6 Year 9 students and 6 Year 10 visited SOAS university. They took part in several study workshops organised by The Brilliant Club. They also visited a Sari Exhibition at the university and took part in a Japanese lesson. At the end of the event, the group received graduation certificates for completing The Scholars Programme, which they have been participating in since January.



Year 10s Summer Term

Year 10s have taken centre stage on a number of events and activities, this term. They have supported the school community in various ways and shown what a truly creative and responsible year they are from BREXIT to Shakespeare as well as music, drama and sport.

Recently the Year 10s have completed their Work Experience and employers have commented on how mature and polite our students are. One employer commented: *"She was outstanding, she was always punctual, attendance was excellent and she just got on with the task. I am very impressed."*

Three students were lucky enough to attend a work experience placement at the National Theatre. We are forever grateful for these invaluable

placements that enable our students to bridge the gap between work and school so that they can discover what they want to do and achieve their potential.



Congratulations to all those students that have done well academically this year.

When you receive the end of year report, it is important you reflect on the results and think about your goals for next year. Whatever the grade or level you can always improve. Year 11 is an exciting year which is also full of academic and personal challenges so it is important the students come back refreshed, organized and prepared to work hard. If you have concerns or you would like to discuss your daughter's progress please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very relaxing, safe holiday.

With very best wishes,
Mrs. Greenlees
Progress Leader

Year 7 Trip to the Brecon Beacons

The Year 7s ventured out of Lambeth after the Easter Holidays and headed for the Sir John CASS Hampshire Mountain Centre in the Brecon Beacons. This trip was fully funded by the Sir John CASS Foundation and without whom this trip would not have been possible.

Windswept and happy the students benefitted from a week-long activity course where they also developed their team, communication, language and listening skills. The students partook in walking, waterfall walking, kayaking and rock climbing. They also learnt about the natural environment and the geography of the region.

With some funding still left over for next year, we are very much looking forward to returning to the Centre.



Congratulations to all our Jack Petchey Winners this year and we would like to thank Jack Petchey for all their support and enabling us to fund a range of different student activities from science to drama and ice-skating. The students were nominated by their peers for working hard to persevering in difficult circumstances. All of the winners will be invited to an Award Presentation Ceremony and receive a gold medallion: Leone Conteh (11SL); Ayisha Beaumont (11DP); Chelsea Thompson (10ROL); Ebony Dennis (8JOD); Shekinah Brown (9BEC); Tasharna Powell (7FOA); Daniella Opoku-Acheampong (11SL) – Special KS4 Award; Khaleda Islam (Yr 13); Oluwaseun Adewuyi (Yr 12).

Dutch Ambassdor visits the Sixth Form



In mid-June we welcomed the Netherlands' Ambassador to the UK, Simon Smits (pictured left with Mrs Stanislaus and above with Sixth Formers). We were still in the middle of the Brexit - Remain campaign and his perspective was most enlightening, whilst remaining very diplomatic at all times!

News from Music

Ms R Huggins
Head of Music

We have had a busy term as usual and are very pleased to share some exciting news with you!



AWARDS

At the start of this term we were honoured to have received a Bronze Award from the Incorporated Society of Musicians in recognition of the GCSE results in 2015. St Martins had more than 10% of the whole school Key Stage 4 cohort achieve an A*-C for GCSE Music – only 648 other schools (of 4,961 secondary schools in total) matched this achievement. We are very proud of all the hard work the students and staff put in and look forward to this year's results with hopes of getting another award!

COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to Destiny and Grace from 9 SLG and Josephine and Leyre in 9 SOR who entered a year 9 song writing competition to see A cappella group Pentatonix at the O2 Brixton Academy. They had a great time and it was a wonderful experience.



Destiny Girigari 11 HUG (pictured top right) also had success in a song writing competition curtesy of School Ground Sounds. Destiny was a finalist in the competition and won a recording session, video and performance opportunity held at Brixton East as part of her prize.

TRIPS

Our Year 10 and potential Year 9 GCSE students (pictured right) had a theatre visit to Hackney Empire to see a new opera about a brilliant young migrant girl who is single handily running the towering clock that is the beating heart of the East End. When she is discovered by a gentleman explorer they are forced to choose between the worlds they know or each other. Composed by Martin Ward (*Wind in the Willows* -West End - 2014 Olivier Award Winning show) Brolly's epic new opera tells a powerful story of love and survival. The production takes the audience on an extraordinary journey into the visually stunning animated world of the clock.

At the end of term students across KS3 got to go to Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance for 'A Taste of Jazz Workshop' (pictured bottom and right). They were able to experience a day of free jazz activities alongside Trinity Laban students and professional jazz artists. During the day they explored improvisation skills and had the chance to perform their own jazz compositions and ideas as an ensemble. Once again this was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience and witness examples of excellence in the music industry.



The Referendum Dilemma

Nicole Charles 9PRB



When I was asked by Mrs Stanislaus to participate in the debate questioning the United Kingdom's place in the EU, I was eager to begin researching and developing my knowledge on the subject before I could ask myself whether or not I believed the UK should leave the EU.

Over the days before the actual debate, the debating team supporting the Remain (consisting of a number of Year 10s) wore badges whilst at school declaring that they were 'voting in', while the debating team supporting Brexit (including myself) displayed badges that stated we were 'voting out'.

Throughout the period of time leading up to the debate, each team had the opportunity to persuade members of our school to vote IN or OUT of the EU (and to encourage them to find out more by being part of the audience at the upcoming debate).

Whether or not the UK withdraws from the EU affects every one of us and by doing this debate we were able to get ourselves thinking about the world around us.

When the event eventually arrived, many valid points were made on behalf of both sides, getting the audience thinking. While one team argued that Brexit would cause an economic shock and slower growth, the other argued that leaving the EU meant the UK would be able to negotiate trade deals with growing economies beyond the EU. The teams also discussed matters such as the cost of calls and texts abroad after leaving the EU. We also talked about the EU making up 60% of our laws. Finally, the Leave team argued for the possibility of the UK being more influential on the world's stage while the Remain team saw Britain's influence diminishing after detaching from the EU.

Again, this made both the teams and the audiences think hard as adults

were having to take these things into consideration when voting.

Although we are still young students, it was as if we were morphed into mature adults, having to make decisions and decide arguments based on what is happening in the wider society. Everything regarding this debate really helped me to understand the significance and importance of the decisions and events occurring around me and how the UK being in or out of the EU could affect my entire life.

In? Or out? What do you think?

