

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

Church of England Academy
Founded 1699
Co-ed Sixth Form
www.stmartins.academy



Our aim is to provide an exceptional education for girls of all abilities to enable them to achieve to their full potential. It was the aim of our founders in 1699 and is still our aim today.

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.

**WITH LOVE
AND LEARNING**



St Martin's News *Christmas 2015*

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our 'new look' newsletter; I do hope you enjoy this December edition. As I approach the end of my first term as Headteacher, I want to thank everyone for warmly welcoming me into the school community. It has been an incredibly busy term here at St Martin's and, as you will read in the following pages, the students have been involved in a myriad of exciting activities inside and outside the classroom. The vast array of opportunities available for the students would not be possible without the hard work of the school's staff. You can see that whether it is entrepreneurial, theatrical, musical, artistic, historic, or sporting, the events detailed within this newsletter have created a superb opportunity to develop students' knowledge, skills and cultural capital.

A St Martin's girl would say that she is inspired by our Christian ethos, inspired to learn, inspired to succeed, inspired through enrichment and ambitious for the future. It has been our drive this term to ensure that all of our girls have the opportunities to aspire to be the best that they can be and take a full and active part in their

learning and in additional curriculum activities and leadership.

It was a pleasure to see so many families at our Winter Gospel Praise and Winter Music concerts, they were fabulous evenings that illustrated the immense talent of our girls.

On Saturday 4th December we held our first master class for students to learn Mandarin. This was a taster lesson in preparation for the start of regular classes in January. It was also great to have teachers and a parent at this first session. The offer of Mandarin is part of the provision I have introduced for our most able learners in Years 7 and 8 and we have been fortunate to appoint a very experienced teacher to deliver this course. The class will run every Saturday morning and will lead to a GCSE in Mandarin. We are looking forward to the course in January. In the meantime, Sheng dan kuai le - Merry Christmas.

As a Christian community we pride ourselves on the values we hold and our moral purpose to support others and also reach out to those who may not be as fortunate as ourselves. To this end, students

worked with me to draw together our charitable initiatives under our new umbrella title of St Martin's ECHO. The word ECHO for us means Everyone Can Help Others. We are appointing students to be leaders of various groups and we have already launched our ECHO Designer Notebook and Cup Cake Enterprise groups. All existing and new charitable projects will sit under St Martin's ECHO. We are in the process of creating an area for this on our website, so please look out for more information, coming soon.

As Christmas and the New Year approach, we can all too easily get wrapped up in the commercial spin of the events but it is hopefully a time of the year for reflection and thanks for what we have, what we have achieved, and what we can do for others. Our Christian value of Service has been our focus this term and as a school, we have certainly demonstrated this in so many ways.

On Thursday 3rd December, seven Year 11 students hosted Christmas lunch for sixteen senior citizens who are members of, or associated with

Holy Trinity Church. This was followed by the matinee performance of the Winter Praise Gospel Concert. It was a fabulous success, and we had fantastic feedback from our guests. The Year 11 girls said "We really enjoyed making a group of elderly people feel special; it was such a rewarding experience." Jacky Sutcliffe (Imagine Family Community Worker), who arranged for the group to come into school and joined us for this event said, "Today was amazing, so much more than I hoped or imagined. The girls were exceptional; fully engaging with all their guests. The concert was a perfect ending to the afternoon. I was also impressed by the students we met as we walked through the school, every one of them acknowledged us with warmth and courtesy".

Thank you to Abigail Z, Zaki, Danielle, Benedict, Chloe, Abigail, and Lydia for being great hosts. Thank you to Bola who also helped with the planning. You can see more photographs on our website.



As a school we are not complacent and challenge ourselves to ensure that we continuously strive to improve the quality of teaching and the outcomes for your daughters. More Government initiatives are being announced in relation to curriculum and changes to assessment and, I am sure you will be aware, further funding cuts to education will be something we have to bear. Having to 'do more on less' will present even tougher times and challenges ahead. To ensure that we can address the needs of the school, I have implemented a three year strategic plan for improvement under three headings which we call our **3Rs: Recruitment; Results; Reputation**. Staff and Governors are working together to ensure that our priorities are robust and focus on the areas that need improvement.

It has been a whirlwind of a term and I am mindful that I have not yet met with you. Please put Thursday 14th January into your diary. I invite you to meet with me informally and then formally for your input into our school improvement plan and driving forward our **3Rs**:

- 5.00pm to 6.00pm informal
- 6.00pm to 7.00pm formal

I hope you can join me for some or all of the evening.

One area I would like to draw your attention to is our focus on the quality of the marking of your daughters' books. We have reviewed the way we do this and will launch the revised feedback and marking strategy in January.

At the end of this term we will see some staff changes and saying goodbye and hello. Mr Andrew Warner, Deputy Headteacher, is

retiring after 17 years of service to our school. You can imagine the rich history of events and stories which he can tell from over the years! We thank him for his successful contribution to the school and we wish him well for his retirement. We also say goodbye to Mr Mansilla, Mr Joseph, who retired at half term and Mrs Francis. We thank them all for their dedicated service to St Martin's.

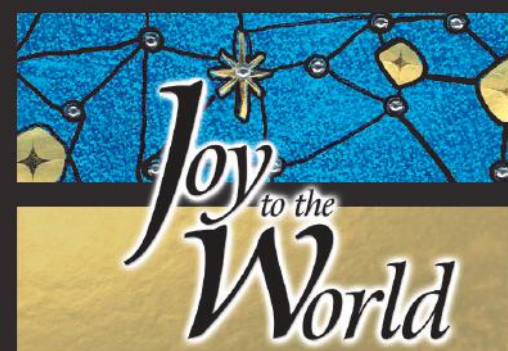
In January, we will welcome Dr Mubeezi. He will be joining the school as Associate Assistant Headteacher / Head of Maths. We also welcome Mr Grabowski, a Science teacher, who will join us as Student Data Manager. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff who are leaving for their hard work during their time at St Martin's and also a big thank you to all staff who have worked very hard this term under new leadership.

At the end of this newsletter you will find a section that is very important to share with your daughter. It is a reminder about our expectations so that, with your help, we can have a smooth start to the new term in January.

It just leaves me to say thank you very much for your continued support. I value our home school partnership and it is this that enables us to support your daughters to work hard to aspire and to achieve the very best.

I wish you a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I ring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.

Luke 2:10

**CARITATE ET
DISCIPLINA**

Commissioning Service

On the 5th of October 2015, the whole school community came together in the Main Hall to attend the Commissioning Service for our new Headteacher, Mrs Beverley Stanislaus, led by Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston.



Thank you speech by the Headteacher, Mrs Stanislaus, in response to the Commissioning Service on 5th October 2015.

Thank you to Bishop Richard. It is a great honour to stand before you as Headteacher and to have been officially commissioned into the role with the entire school community as witnesses and in support. St Martin's is an incredibly special place and every day I feel so privileged and proud to be working with you all and leading this wonderful school. To have this extraordinary opportunity and responsibility to be able to shape the education and experiences of all of our students is quite something and to also know that I am now part of an amazing history and you are too, is extremely humbling. I say to all the girls, we

are a caring community and have an ethos of belonging and a shared aspiration for success. Our priority is to ensure that the education we provide is transformative and that learning prepares you well for later life. Learning changes what you are, and what you can become. We want you to grow in faith and to be inspired to achieve to your full potential as you learn and work together within a solid moral and spiritual framework. I look forward to leading you on this journey. Thank you again to Bishop Richard, our Governors, representatives from the Diocese, and staff and most of all, thank you to the St Martin's Girls.

News from Work Related Learning

Young Enterprise Law Masterclass

On a wintry Wednesday in October, a group of Year 10s accompanied by Mlle Bajer set off to take part in a Young Enterprise Law Masterclass at the international law firm White & Case LLP. There we met with a group of Year 12 students from Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre. We were all greeted by a lawyer and had an introduction to the law firm itself. Many of us couldn't wait to get started.

We were split into groups and came up with common, transferrable skills needed to be a lawyer such as debating, presenting, knowing the client and their market and commitment to excellent service. We also met two project finance lawyers who explained what project finance is all about. We were also given the wonderful opportunity to have a guided tour of the new Royal Courts of Justice Annexe where we were shown ancient law books and charts dating back to 1869.

We then moved on to an actual civil court room, learnt where the judge, barristers and lawyers sit and got to sit in on a live civil case. It truly gave an insight into the world of law.

During lunchtime, we networked with a wide-range of lawyers and asked them about their own experiences.

One of the most memorable activities of the master class was the negotiation skills workshop, presented by guests from Deutsche Bank. The two groups were given a scenario: a negotiation between lawyers representing SNZ (Sports Management Limited) on behalf of a professional tennis player and lawyers representing "Abibas", a fictional sports brand interested in sponsoring the tennis player. It really made me even more interested in the world of law and the skills needed for negotiation: valid and concise arguments, knowing who and what you are representing and the ability to think on your feet.

Following a sparkling negotiation, we had a short presentation about how to get into law and the routes to become a barrister or a solicitor. I noted, amongst other tips, the need to build up your skills, keep a record of everything you do, put yourself out there and go for it.

Everyone agreed that the master class was a valuable experience which truly gave us an opportunity to build up key skills and gain a broader knowledge of the world of law and how to get into it.

I personally believe I have benefited from this master class very much as it has given me the opportunity to know what I want and what I need to do to get there.

I am grateful to Mlle Bajer for giving us such a valuable opportunity. A big thank you to the Young Enterprise workers, lawyers at White&Case and the Royal Courts of Justice Annexe.

Amy Charles 10JAC

City Link trip to UBS

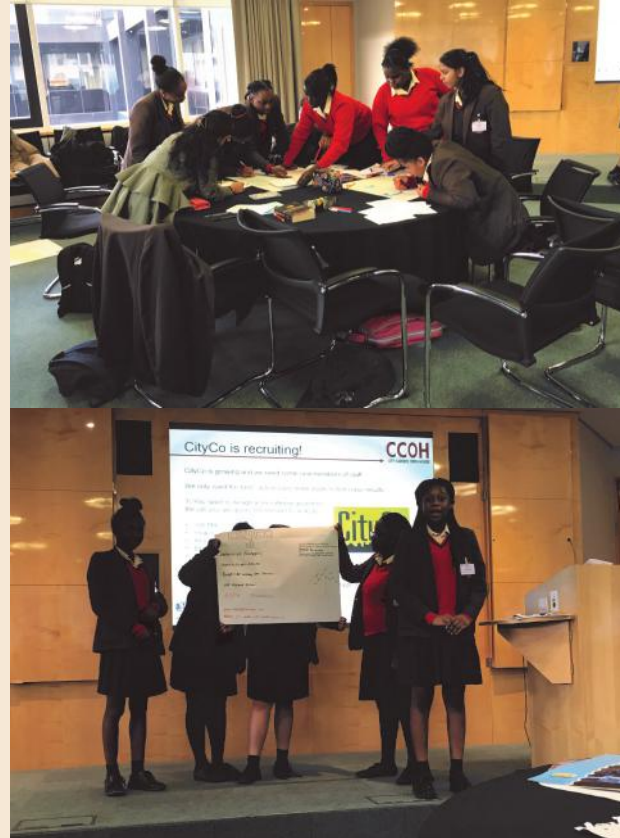
In October a group of St Martin's students, including myself, were invited on a city link trip organised by the Brokerage to UBS. UBS is a global firm that provides financial services in over 50 countries.

We went on a train journey to Bank with Ms. Bajer and Mr. Sauvajon, after which we were able to see first hand the beautiful sites the City had to offer. The journey was informative as many of us were looking to work in the City in the future and we were able to experience the trip we may one day be making when we venture into the world of work. During this workshop we were informed about the various job opportunities open to us in the City and were surprised at the vast majority. As well as that we were able to talk to people working

in different departments at UBS, giving us an insight into the variety of jobs available there, many of which did not only involve finance. They also aided us in doing the task of the day. We were put into teams to create a presentation about employment. This helped me to increase my teamwork and public speaking skills as we all had to contribute in the final presentation. I was also able to expand on my knowledge of employment skills.

Overall, the day was very exciting as well as useful and gave an insight into the working centre of London that none of us will ever forget.

Nancy Festus 10JAC



UBS (United Bank of Switzerland)

On Tuesday 13th of October, we went to UBS in the City to be educated about the world of employment. We learnt about how to write a formal C.V. for the job we desire.

Then we tested our knowledge on the subject of jobs and were given some tips on how to be a successful employee. We had to create an advert for a particular City job. A few groups were able to work with interns experienced enough to help us with some ideas for our poster. We then got a chance to present our adverts while members of staff from UBS and the interns judged them.

We enjoyed this trip as it gave us a lot of tips and information which we can use when we apply for jobs.

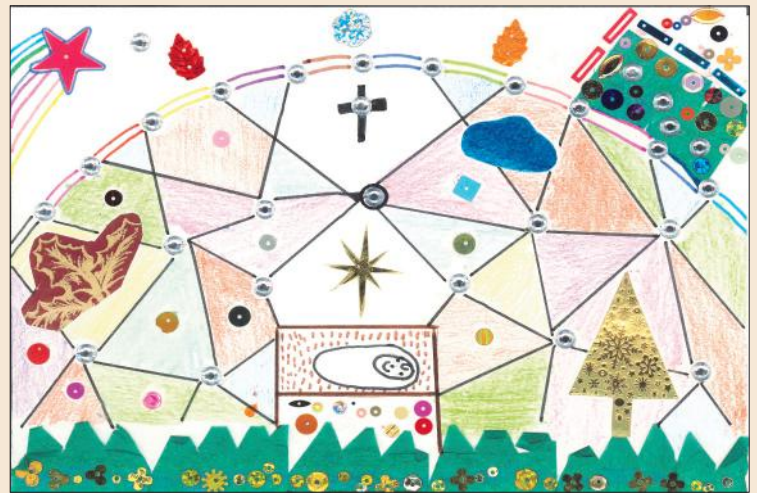
Paige (Yr.10), Imani (Yr.7) and Renata (Yr.7)





7ALO Masterclass

Our Christmas card competition was in association with a master-class held at the school by Emma Blount, artist in stained glass. Miss Blount most recently created a window commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill for St Martin's Church, Bladon, Oxfordshire, where he is buried. Congratulations to Armela Ajozi for the winning entry 'Joy to the World'. The runner-up was Alisson Castillo. You can see their designs on the right. Well done 7ALO; Miss Blount was most impressed with your work!



Y10 at the Tate Modern

It was a fantastic day looking at modern art, in particular Abstract Expressionist works, which the class is now researching. Both Mr Pauro and Ms Tang agreed the girls worked hard throughout the day and were great ambassadors for the school. Well done!



International Day of the Girl

On the 9th of October, six of our Year 9 students were invited to International Day of the Girl at the Southbank Centre. The annual event highlights the amazing achievements of women and girls across the world and calls for gender equality.

Our day was filled with unique opportunities. We began early with speed mentoring on the London Eye. Our students gained a huge amount from talking to the inspiring and experienced mentors as our pod soared over the Thames. We then participated in creative workshops and a Fearless Futures session. In the afternoon, we listened to lively talks and performances and there was a chance to meet Jude Kelly, the

Creative Director of the Southbank and driving force behind WoW festival - Women of the World.

We left feeling empowered and motivated and ready to prepare for WoW 2016.

The global festival celebrates the achievement of women and girls, but also examines the obstacles that can prevent them from achieving their full potential and contributing to the world. It is bold and broad-based in its approach and we want our students to be fully involved in next year's exciting programme.

Mrs Ferguson
#WOWLDN
@WOWtweetUK



A Visit by Author Millie Murray

This term, a Year 8 class has been reading 'Lady A, A Teenage DJ' a book by Millie Murray and we were very excited when our school Librarian informed us that Millie was going to visit our school.

Millie delivered two sessions one with Year 8 and the other with Year 9. The Year 8 students were privileged to listen to Millie Murray read from her book 'Lois'. The girls asked lots of questions and found out that the model used for the illustration on the cover of 'Lady A, A Teenage DJ' was spotted locally in Tesco!

Millie Murray is a truly inspirational writer and speaker. I hope that Millie Murray's new book 'Nava' is published soon because, as you can see from Shasy's comments, the girls are really looking forward to it!

Mrs James



"When Millie Murray came into my school it was awesome. It was very interesting especially hearing about her new book Nava. I am most definitely going to read it. I was very interested when Millie was talking about it and look forward to it being published.

The plot of the book is very engaging, I would love to play the lead character if the book is ever made into a play.

Millie Murray really inspired me."

Shasy Williams 9SOR

News from Modern Foreign Languages Department



This year we marked European Day of Languages with a poetry competition. Congratulations to Kerry Escobar 8WIK, who won in the Spanish category, while Madalena and Marieke, also from 8WIK, won with their poem in French. You can read their winning entries on the right.

Well done also to all the students who took part in this competition; you won lots of points for your House!

Mr Sauvajon

Poema de Rocío de Terán (los Mifenses)

Soy feliz,
soy feliz,
y no me deajo
afligir.
Soy feliz
voy a cantar
y mis penas
pasarán.
"¡ Soy feliz !" repetiré,
y mi enfado
olvidaré.
"¡ Soy feliz !" digo a la gente,
saludando
alegremente.

Le cancre Jacques Prévert, *Paroles*, 1946

Il dit non avec la tête
Mais il dit oui avec le cœur
Il dit oui à ce qu'il aime
Il dit non au professeur
Il est debout
On le questionne
Et tous les problèmes sont posés
Soudain le fou rire le prend
Et il efface tout
Les chiffres et les mots
Les dates et les noms
Les phrases et les pièges
Et malgré les menaces du maître
Sous les huées des enfants prodiges
Avec des craies de toutes les couleurs
Sur le tableau noir du malheur
Il dessine le visage du bonheur.

KS4 Celebrate in style

A group of KS4 students went ice-skating recently to celebrate their commitment and hard work at school. These students were selected based on their performance, attitude and commitment to learning. This trip was funded by Jack Petchey, for which the school is very grateful.

Mrs Greenlees



Music Notes

As ever the Music Department have been very busy right from the start of term! It is with pleasure that I can share some of these moments with you.

On the 8th September, we were pleased to welcome a string quartet who were invited by Mr McInnis. They spent the morning with our Year 10 GCSE after performing during Year 8 assembly. Our students were able to watch a live performance of Pachelbel's Canon and an excerpt of Mozart's Symphony no.40 in G minor.

On Saturday 19th September, Anna Gates and Kindness Adezior from 10 JAC made their debut at the 4ALL Community Autumn Fair at All Saints Church – Lovelace Road. They represented St Martin's very well amongst the other schools performing and were invited to do an encore performance.



In October we were invited to perform at Henry Cavendish Primary School – (Balham and Streatham sights) as part of their Black History Month celebrations. Our Year 8&9 Gospel Choir performed two numbers including 'Something Inside So Strong' led by Peace Jolayemi 9PRB. Both performances went really well with calls for encores. Both schools joined in for a rendition of 'This little light of mine' which was great fun.

On the 3rd November, we had the

opportunity to take a selection of students from our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music groups, to the Royal Festival Hall for a special GCSE Music concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. This was a valuable experience for all who attended.

A month later it was time for our annual Gospel Concert, this year entitled 'Winter Praise'. This was a very special occasion as we were able to add new elements to the concert including a performance by a former student Suzanne Chay and we were happy to welcome back Holy Trinity Primary school who sang at the start of the concert. Congratulations to all the choirs who performed but a particular highlight was when the orchestra, directed by Mr McInnis, performed Total Praise with special guest Mr Nathan Holder on saxophone. This was followed by Renee Fuller-McLean 11NIC, who gave an excellent solo performance of 'Order my Steps'.

A week later it was time for the Winter Music Concert. This was a delightful event which featured students from every Year group up to Sixth Form. Well done to all the performers and in particular to Gabriella Rose-Edwards and Huila Lopez who performed original compositions. The event was concluded by us receiving a musical donation by XLP Arts Showcase. They were given guitars from Channel 4 and asked to distribute them to schools who may need them and we were given an electro acoustic and an acoustic guitar of great quality (pictured right).

Finally, our Year 7 choir was invited to perform at the Worshipful Company of Farriers Carol Service on 14th December which was a great success and brought a wonderful term of music making to a close.

Congratulations to the following students who passed a graded music exam:

- Grade 1 Theory: Huila Lopez; Ashauna Edie, Imani Brown, Aziza Brown, Reagan Patrick-Asuman and Rebecca Joseph – with Merit
- Grade 1 Drum kit – Melody Wilson-Smith – with Merit
- Grade 2 Bass – Anna Gates – with Merit
- Grade 4 Voice Nana Oppong – with Merit
- Grade 6 Trombone – Reagan Patrick-Asuman
- Grade 5 Voice – Harlem Nguyen with Distinction



String Quartet at St Martin's



Choir at Henry Cavendish Primary School



Trip to the Royal Festival Hall





Golden Ticket

I have been seen doing good.

Redeem this ticket on Friday in the Dining Hall

Thank you and well done to the majority of the girls who consistently adhere to our expectations. We do notice your contributions to our school community and have acknowledged this with the launch of our Golden Ticket Initiative. Your daughter will tell you all about it! Thank you to parents and carers for supporting your daughter and our school.

A St Martin's Girl is articulate, charismatic and confident and will say that she is:

- Inspired by our Christian ethos
- Inspired to learn
- Inspired to succeed
- Inspired through enrichment
- Ambitious for the future



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AND LEARNING**

St Martin's Expectations

I recently wrote to you through parent mail to remind you about our expectations in relation to the uniform and dress code. Thank you for your help in supporting us with this. We have seen a noticeable improvement. Unfortunately, we continue to have a small number of students who choose not to follow our very simple instructions and our code of conduct. This takes up a disproportionate amount of time which could be better spent on teaching and learning. Below is a bullet point reminder for students. Please support us with this.

DOs

- Wear the correct uniform, including a blazer at all times
- Wear an outdoor coat that is suitable for school and allows you to wear your blazer underneath. Short tight fitting jackets are not an alternative to a blazer
- Wear the correct footwear to school
- Have all your equipment, books, kit and specialist material as directed
- Be punctual to school at all times
- **Stick to our school expectations and code of conduct**

DON'Ts

- Wear or bring hoodies into school (or any other non-uniform items)
- Wear make-up and have painted fingernails
- Wear false eyelashes/ nails, body piercings, tattoos, more than one small earring in each ear
- Wear sashes and bring in lots of birthday accessories (this is unnecessary and distracting)
- Dye or have hair extensions of any colour other than your natural hair colour

Punctuality

Registration in the morning is at 8.30am sharp. Students should be in school by 8.25am. Unfortunately, a number of girls are arriving at 8.30am or even later which means they are late for school. To add to this, a number of girls do not attend the late detention or try to avoid the late detention. Please ensure that your daughter leaves home in plenty of time to start the day properly. Taking a bus that arrives at school at 8.30am is too late!

Birthday Cakes

It has been a tradition at St Martin's for students to wear a badge and bring a cake to share when it is their birthday. Please support your daughter and the school by making sure that she does not go over-board and wear numerous badges or sashes, loudly sing happy birthday or bang on the tables. I am happy to continue to allow cakes to be brought in to celebrate a birthday at lunchtime if it is done with respect and decorum. We will even provide a birthday tablecloth!

Learning Behaviour

Occasionally lessons are sometimes disrupted because of behaviour that does not meet our expectations. We are a learning community striving to ensure your daughters will achieve to their full potential and expect that girls follow the code of conduct in the classroom and around the school. We are in the process of reviewing our learning behaviour policy. In the meantime, we expect all girls to adhere to our expectations as this helps promote their learning and personal development. Please support us with our drive to ensure our learning community is calm and purposeful at all times.