

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

Easter 2016

Headteacher's Message

As you will see from within this newsletter it has been a very busy term, filled with great opportunities and achievements for the girls of St Martin's. This is, however, just a snippet! You can keep up to date with more of what we have done on our website. Our new look website is coming soon!

Our Christian ethos is always precious to us and underpins who we are and how we work together as a community. We have, as a whole school, been focusing on the 40Acts Lent Challenges. We have a challenge for each day which students and staff have been respectfully considering and reflecting on the messages around Lent.

We have just completed a piece of work on developing our Christian Values. We invited students and staff to choose a bible verse and a hymn to represent each value. We will be announcing the winners of our 'Write a Values Prayer Competition' at the end of this term. The winning entries will also be published on our website.

On Sunday 7th February, we were invited to take part in the Parish Communion Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square. Representatives from St Martin's and Archbishop Tenison's made musical and reading contributions to the service which was to affirm our 300+ year relationship with the church. It was also an opportunity to celebrate and showcase our achievements in the public arena.



SERVICE . COMPASSION . JUSTICE . PERSEVERANCE



It was also a delight to take part in the Mayor of Lambeth's Civic Church Service on Sunday 13th March. A small group of girls sung beautifully at this commissioning service and it was a joy to be part of this community event at St John's Church, Angell Town. The girls were thrilled to have their photograph taken with the newly commissioned Mayor (above).

A celebration of the Commonwealth took place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 14th March, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry also attended the annual

event, and we were there too! We were successful in a ballot and received 10 tickets to be part of this prestigious occasion. You will see our girls in a photograph on the BBC website (and below) as well as on the video as the seats we had were very close to one of the BBC cameras.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0745hs1/the-queens-90th-birthday-a-service-of-celebration-for-commonwealth-day>

Our girls have also been busy with St Martin's ECHO (Everyone Can Help Others). Recent fundraising has supported Haydn's Wish and our Easter fundraising will go towards Help the Homeless. Thank

you to all the girls who have led, are leading or supporting the fundraising activities and showing service, kindness and compassion for others.

The public examination period is now a matter of weeks away and we have emphasised to our senior students that they should be engaged in intensive study at this point. I am sure they have found the additional classes on offer very helpful. I would encourage students to take every opportunity to attend the extensive programme of revision being held at the school during the Easter holiday. I know it is difficult at this time, but the girls need purposeful practice and lots of revision to ensure they secure the grades they are hoping for; they will have the entire summer to take a rest! All the staff at St Martin's wish Year 11 and Year 12 and 13 students every success in the upcoming examinations.

As a school we are constantly reviewing our practice to ensure that all of our students receive the best possible learning experience. Our revised learning behaviour policy is having a positive impact on establishing a zero tolerance to



behaviours that distract and disrupt learning. Thank you to all our families for supporting us in our strive for excellence in behaviour and attitude to learning.

At the end of January, we said goodbye to Mrs Hans and Mrs Marsland, our school Librarians. We thank them for all the work they did to develop the library and resource base. At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Miss Jackson, teacher of English and also to Rev. Susikaran James, our Chaplain and Governor (pictured below). He leaves us to start his new post as Parish Priest at St Simon's in Portsmouth. Rev. James has been a real strength to the school over the past two years. He has supported and provided moral and spiritual guidance for our students and staff and has planned our services at Holy Trinity Church. His wisdom, knowledge and contribution as a Governor, particularly at the Faith committee, will be missed. Rev. James will preside over his final service for us on 24th March and what a special service this will be; our Maundy Thursday Service.

I wish to extend a personal thank

you to Rev James for the support he has given me in my first months as Head of St Martin's. The entire community of St Martin's also say thank you to him and wish him well as he takes on the leadership of his own parish.

After Easter, we welcome Suganthy Wilson and Suzanne Poole who join our school community as Deputy Headteachers. Mrs Davies will be reducing her time to one day a week in the Summer Term.

We look forward to welcoming students back on 11th April.

It leaves me to say thank you to parents and carers for your continued support of St Martin's and all that we strive for. My thanks to every member of staff for your sustained commitment to our wonderful students; and to our students, thank you, keep focused and build on your successes.

To everyone, I wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher



He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Romans 4:25

Chaplain's Farewell

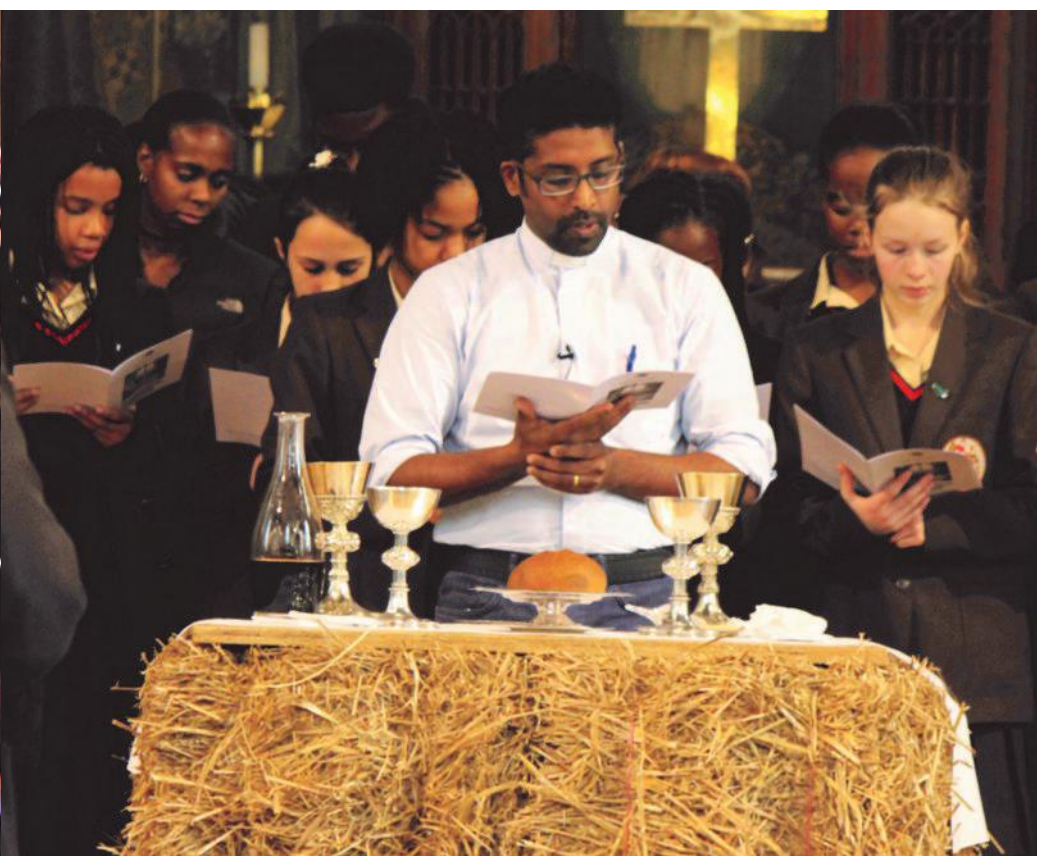
I can hardly believe it is nearly 2 years since I took on the role of the Chaplain. I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Chaplain as well as a Governor.

Working with the Senior Leadership Team has been really great. Being a Curate, Chaplain and a Governor has been a challenge at times, but I must insist I received all the possible support and help both from staff and the students.

At St Martin's I enjoyed three things above everything: **leading** assembly, **talking** with students who are waiting outside Mrs. Davies's office (probably because they were in trouble) and **praying** and providing **pastoral care** to individuals, especially when something sad is going on in their lives.

God willing, my family and I are moving to Portsmouth where, by God's grace, I will take charge of a church as a vicar; being at St Martin's has prepared me well for this future ministry. I have really enjoyed playing a tiny part in drawing you close to Jesus and will continue to pray for St Martin's as long as I live. God bless you all and stay close to Jesus.

Rev. James



Great Expectations

On Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January St Martin's presented our production of Charles Dicken's Great Expectations. The students did extremely well to interpret the dense text and produced some star performances. The drama department would like to say thank you to the cast for their commitment, time and enthusiasm, to staff who helped us to facilitate the production, and also to the families, friends and members of the school community who attended.



GCSE Drama

Our Year 10 GCSE Drama students have been very busy this Spring. They have continued to extend their theatrical knowledge through the Old Vic New Voices Schools' Club programme. The Drama department have worked with the Old Vic education team to ensure that our girls can explore a range of classic and contemporary plays in workshops and as spectators in the Old Vic theatre. On 2nd March pupils went to see an interpretation of Henrik Ibsen's The Master Builder at the Old Vic theatre which featured award-winning actor Ralph Fiennes. The girls were particularly enthused by the very dramatic ending. This trip to the theatre were preceded by a workshop

that helped to develop the girls' theatrical knowledge and put the play in context.

In February, the students participated in a performance evening where they performed a range of selected monologues and duologues to an invited audience. It was clear that pupils had worked hard to embody the characters and that the girls have the potential to achieve excellently in their practical examinations.

At the end of April, Year 11 students will perform in their final practical examination, sharing a piece of drama that explores 'consequences'. The girls have been rehearsing outside of lessons and will give a sneak preview of their work in March in front of an invited audience.



Year 10 Master Builder workshop

Sixth Form

In January, our Year 12 students attended a production of Les Liaisons Dangereuses at the Donmar Warehouse theatre in Covent Garden. It was a production of exceptional quality which was loved and appreciated by the girls. Students also had the privilege of meeting some of the cast (below). Prior the show, students experienced a workshop exploring the text that helped them to understand the key themes and complexity of the main characters.



Y12 students with Morfydd Clark

Summer Term

In May, eighteen Year 9 students will perform in a production of 'Stay Another Song' at the Young Vic theatre alongside London Nautical school students. A performance inspired by another Young Vic show: If You Kiss Me, Kiss Me. They have been developing material and rehearsing since January with the Young Vic team and will perform over four nights at the Young Vic theatre. We eagerly await their first performance and know that they will make us proud!

Much to be Proud of!

Congratulations to all the students who have been representing the school on different occasions over the last few months.

We were invited to an annual Service with our founding church St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square (pictured right) where a small choral group performed Jesus is Real by Isaac Simpson and our GCSE Music student Rebecca Joseph gave an excellent rendition of Duo Sentimental by Joaquin Tourin.

A few weeks later another choral group were invited to sing at an annual Civic Service in attendance by the Mayor of Lambeth at St John the Evangelist – Angell Town (pictured below). They performed beautifully and were all very proud of the vocal harmonies they were able to achieve.

We are also pleased to have started new extra-curricular activities this term, including a Ukulele Club. Students from Year 8 (pictured right) made their debut at our spring concert with Jason Mraz' – I'm Yours. Other highlights included performances by Destinie Girigari 11 HUG (an original composition), a stunning solo by Ana Neves 8HLA (violin), and a lovely hymn by Amy (cello) and Imani (voice) in 7FER and Sofia (voice) in 7ALO.

Miss Huggins
Head of Music



Please be reminded of our ongoing music activities below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Before School				GCSE Theory
Lunch	Year 7 Choir	Ukulele club	Recorder club Choir 8-10	Pop choir Djembe Club
After school	Keyboard Club			GCSE coursework

KS3 English Update

Key Stage 3 English has had a busy term with World Book Day, Academic Language Challenges and visits from authors Alex Wheatle and Sufiya Ahmed (pictured right).

Year 8 girls were left dumbstruck by the rapping abilities of Mr Wheatle and his lively tales of life in Brixton in the 1980s, which inspired his many novels. Year 9 spent an enlightening hour with Sufiya Ahmed, learning about her indefatigable drive to become a children's author and about the plight of women forced into child marriages.

We have had an array of successful Academic Language Challenge participants this term who have won stationary, stickers and poetry books. Students who took part in the challenge have been progressing in leaps and bounds in their writing.

We were also entertained by members of staff dressing up for World Book Day, including Miss Baker (Head of English) who dressed as the infamous 'Miss Trunchable' from 'Matilda' and Miss Koroma who fashioned a charming head-dress for her role of 'Mama' in 'Purple Hibiscus'.

We look forward to more stimulating and colourful events in the English Department next term!

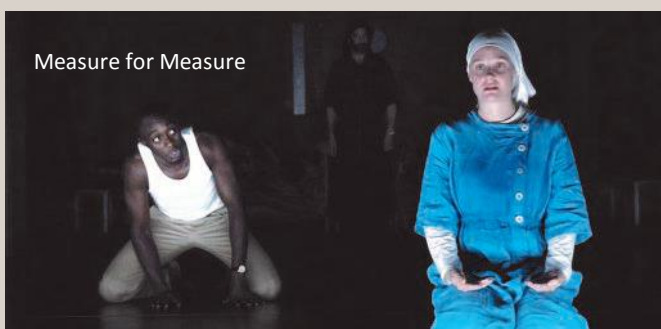
Ms Baker, Head of English



Upper School and Sixth Form Theatre Trips

Students in Year 10 and Year 12 are studying new exam texts in preparation for the new style GCSE and A Level examinations. Living in London has provided them with a golden opportunity to see acclaimed theatre productions of some of these. There is nothing like moving a text from page to stage to make it more memorable. Year 12 students

went to the Young Vic to see an exciting vibrant and modern take on Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" and Year 10 students saw an excellent production of "Jane Eyre" at the National Theatre. Hopefully, they'll all be able to remember their quotations more easily now!



Sprint to the Finish

It has been a busy term indeed. Sixth Formers had a second set of Pre Public Examinations at the end of February. The results are very promising for the vast majority of our students, many of whom have now secured offers with the elite Russell group universities, including two for Medicine. They do have to remember that these are only offers and that real places still depend on final results. This last **'Sprint to the finish'** will be 'make or break' for both the year 12 and 13. It is vital that they spend much of the Easter break revising hard. AS exams start on 16th May. A Level exams start on 6th June.

We recommend that students spend a minimum of 15 hours a week on each subject over the Easter break. One of the most effective revision techniques at this stage is the completion of past papers in timed conditions. Parents and Guardians could help by setting up a space and time for these to be done.

For the past two years we have been running a very successful Sixth Form Work Experience programme. Last year we had students placed in a wide range of industries including Law firms, Medical Practises, Retail, Dentists and Financial Services. Noreen Heese, one of our Russell Group students who spent a week with the Commercial Law firm Nabarro said of her experience "I have learnt invaluable life lessons that will aid me in my academic/non academic pursuits and I had a great time doing it! This experience has confirmed that law is for me." This year work experience runs from the 4th to the 15th July.

In January, the Mark Evison foundation visited the Sixth Form www.markevisonfoundation.org. Established in 2009 to promote the personal, social and physical development of young people they offer one off grants of up to £500 for students who can put together a bid to engage in an activity that will lead to transformational change; "a change that will make a real and lasting change to who they are". Last year two of our students, sisters Adaobi and Onyekachi Akabuike were awarded a grant and used the money to fund a cycling challenge which saw them ride from London to Newcastle. This year two groups have been awarded grants. One is planning a hiking adventure in the Scottish Highlands whilst the other is organising a local talent event. We will of course keep you informed of their progress and report on their adventures in the Autumn newsletter.

As you can see we have been busy, but once again I want to reiterate that we are now beginning the **'Sprint to the Finish'** and all our students need to keep clearly focused on the main goal which is to achieve their full potential in their summer exams. All other distractions should now go on hold. Where possible Students with part time jobs should reduce hours or stop completely and Social Lives should also take a back seat if any at all. Our students have been working incredibly hard and I wish them all the very best in their examinations. I look forward to seeing many very happy faces on results day in August.

Mr Doyle
Director of Sixth

SPRINT
TO THE
FINISH



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Stop Press



At the beginning of this half-term, Zainab Gill in 10ADJ entered a creative writing competition organised by Rewrite, a grassroots participatory arts charity which aims to provide creative opportunities for young people from different cultural, social and economic backgrounds (including young migrants and refugees) through the mediums of creative writing and drama.

Zainab had to submit an entry in response to the 2015 Refugee Crisis exploring the theme 'Welcome'. This competition was judged by writers Inua Ellams and Ireosen Okojie, Patrick Spottiswoode (director of Globe Education) and Rebecca Simor (Programme Manager for Shakespeare at the British Council). Zainab won her 15-18 age category

for her creative writing piece titled 'The Search for a Place Called Home'.

The judges were "impressed with the complex layers of meaning and maturity of the piece." She received £25 worth of book vouchers and also had the opportunity to read part of her entry before an audience at the Annual Rewrite Celebration at Ovalhouse on Saturday, 19th March 2016.

Well done Zainab. Your creativity, empathy and compassion shone through your writing. We are very proud of you!

Miss A Huggins



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

Term Dates 2016-17

TERM 1	2/9/16 (Y7 & Y12) 5/9/16 (all years)	21/10/16
TERM 2	31/10/16	16/12/16
TERM 3	3/1/17	10/2/17
TERM 4	20/2/17	31/3/17
TERM 5	18/4/17	26/5/17
TERM 6	5/6/17	21/7/17



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