

Newsline

Autumn Term 2011



Saint Martin's
School
Solihull

Dear Parents and Friends of Saint Martin's

The end of the first term of this academic year has come around quickly and this Autumn Term issue of Newsline gives an overview of just some of the events. Many more articles can be found on the School website, on the Profile page under News.

At **Commemoration Prize Giving** in November we were joined by **Dr Kate Lancaster** as Guest Speaker. Kate is a Physicist and science communicator, and her area of research is laser-driven fusion energy. She gave an inspiring address and challenged us all to think about our need for sustainable energy. Girls from Year 3 upwards took part in the Service of Praise and Thanksgiving to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of Saint Martin's.



Congratulations to the five girls from Year 11 who won the **Transport Planning Team Challenge** in London, beating nine other teams from schools across the Midlands and London. The task was to produce a potential transport plan for the forthcoming redevelopment of the Earls Court area of London. The girls displayed creative thinking, teamwork, analytical powers and good communication skills to secure their win.

Senior School girls have once again won the title of **Overall Borough Champions** at the **Solihull Borough Swimming Championships, for the fifth consecutive year**. This is a fantastic achievement and congratulations go to all the girls who took part.

Work continues on our new **Performing Arts Building** and those of you who have been on site recently will have seen the progress made since the Summer. The building will include a 130-seater theatre, a dance studio and teaching areas. The double height foyer will be flooded with natural light provided by the large area of glazing. We are already planning for its use by all ages in the School for next September.



Our next **Open Morning** is on **Saturday 7 January**. Please put this date in your diary as your daughters are already offering to help. We are also holding **free Sport Taster Sessions in gymnastics, hockey and trampolining** on this date for **girls outside of the School** in Years 2 to 6. Please do let friends know if they have daughters who may be interested in taking part. Places can be booked by contacting the School Office and more details can be found on the website page Profile/News/Latest News.

You will find some publicity for Open Morning in this mailing and I would ask that you pass this on to friends who may be planning to send their daughters to Saint Martin's.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very good holiday, a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all the girls back with us for the **start of the Spring Term on Wednesday 4 January 2012**.

Jane Carwithen
Head

Alice House

Girls in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 took part in a day of **Forest School**, utilising the School grounds to make a camp circle and tree decorations. The girls also took part in mud painting, learning the names of trees and plants and playing on a rope swing during the day.



Girls in **Year 2** were delighted to welcome their parents and grandparents **in to School for lunch** in November. The girls and parents shared a delicious lunch in the School Dining Room and then joined Mrs Carwithen for coffee. Mr Brown, School Bursar, then showed the visitors the new Performing Arts Building, currently under construction. The afternoon finished with girls and parents enjoying a music lesson together.

Once again the Hall in Alice House rang out with Christmas cheer as the annual **Nativity Play** took place. The girls amazed the audience with their singing, dancing and acting as they performed a play called "Children of the World". Children from all around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus; America, Australia, China, Eire and Uganda were all represented as the girls shared Christmas customs and songs from these countries.

Junior School

A visitor called Professor McGinty time travelled to Junior School in November. From there he took the girls in Year 4 on a fascinating journey to Ancient Egypt. Two girls dressed up as pharaohs and everyone saw many interesting artefacts.

*"What a great way to learn about History!"
"I have never laughed so much in my life."*



Year 3 to Year 6 went on an amazing trip to see "**Sleeping Beauty**" at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. It was a wonderful production of the story we knew but with a twist as it had a human eating ogre and three princes; one got eaten, one got scared as it was the prince of nerds, and the last one was half ogre half human. There was one old little fairy called Goody who had lost her powers when she put a curse on Beauty.

The Marie Curie Hospice has been the charity chosen by Junior School for this academic year. As part of the fundraising effort, the girls of Year 5 have been very busy with their scissors, pens and needles making decorations, cards and gift tags to sell at the Christmas Fayre. Girls in Year 4 have also been busy making bookmarks and stockings.



Girls in Year 6 visited the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull to perform Christmas Carols. Both the patients and staff were delighted to hear the girls sing and everyone enjoyed the performance.

Senior School

Green Week took place in October and saw Year 11 girls hold a "Green Exchange". Unwanted items such as books, DVDs, CDs, electronic and board games were donated in return for a raffle ticket by girls in Years 4 to Sixth Form. The girls then were able to exchange their ticket for something new from the items which had been donated. A "**Green Uniform Day**" for the Whole **School** took place during Green Week and donations raised from the day will go to green initiatives at the School, in particular working towards gaining Green Flag status.

Fifty four girls from Years 9, 10 and Sixth Form accompanied members of the Art, Design and Technology and Textiles Department to visit the **Clothes Show Live** at the NEC. The girls were able to see first hand the work of Fashion Design Students in the University and College Forum where they looked at the students' portfolios and took photographs of the outcomes to inspire and inform their own work back at school. The main highlight was the Fashion Theatre Catwalk Show, based on a Night at the Department Store.



As part of their Art studies, Year 8 girls were asked to photograph the theme of **Butterflies**; either live specimens, from a display, jewellery, fashion or made from a set up scene. On the same theme the girls have made glasses or a theatrical mask inspired by butterflies. The girls had to be creative and research and design their ideas first, then make their final pieces.

Sixth Form

Term began with a morning of **team building activities**, which helped the new Lower Sixth and returning Upper Sixth to get to know one another and provided a really positive start to the term.



Sixth Form girls have been involved in a wide range of events this term helping out and practising their public speaking at, for example, the Teenage Issues evening and Year 10 and Year 6 Information Evenings. Some of the Lower Sixth have been **helping Junior School girls with their reading** either before school or at lunchtimes and a highlight of the Year 6 Taster Week was a visit to the Sixth Form for a treasure hunt organised by the Lower Sixth girls. They were astounded at how fast Year 6 girls can run!

The curriculum has been enriched by a number of **trips and lectures** including a trip to see Professor Iain Stewart, of TV fame, speak at Shrewsbury School on "The Green Planet". Students have also attended an introduction to

Optometry day at Aston University and undertaken work experience at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

Following a successful application for a Global Curriculum Project grant by Saint Martin's, 10 girls competed for 4 fully funded places to visit Nepal next Summer and to work with our partnership school there, as well as hosting a return visit from our Nepalese friends. They were put through interviews, presentations and "Apprentice" style challenges and all ten were outstanding applicants. Congratulations to **Abbey Rogers, Lucy Phillpotts, Esther Byrne and Emily Blake** who were worthy winners.

As always, **Commemoration week** was a highlight for the Sixth Form and this year saw an assembly that was generally thought to be the best ever, based around a homemade film that brought together the girls of Alice House and the Sixth Form. The smiles on the faces of the Alice House girls, as well as the rest of the school, gave everyone a clear reminder of what is so special about life here at Saint Martin's.

Finally, congratulations to all the Upper Sixth who managed (with the help of Mr Van Alderwegen) to **get their UCAS applications off in October**. They all now hold offers and four girls have already had offers from all five of their chosen universities. This is a great achievement when the closing date is not until January. They just have to work hard to get those grades now!

Sport Junior School

Netball



The Year 5 team have played 3 matches, beating Eversfield 7-0, St George and St Theresa 10-1 and drawing with Bablake.

The Year 6 team have beaten Ulverley 5-2 and Kineton 6-4 in the League.

Swimming

Several galas have been held this term and at the most recent the Year 3, 4 and 5 swimming teams all beat King Henry's, Balsall Common and Solihull. The Year 6 team were second to King Henry's. This was a brilliant result for everyone, rewarding all their hard work.

Biathlon

Twenty nine girls from Years 5 to 11 have qualified for the semi-finals of Schools' Biathlon competition which will take place in Macclesfield in January.

Senior School

Netball

The netball tour for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 at Conover Hall was a huge success and the Year 8 team won their age group, which was a great achievement. The Year 7 team have really improved throughout the term and the **Year 8 team have excelled, scoring 68 goals in 3 matches.**

The Year 9 team have had some challenging matches and participated in the Solihull Schools netball tournament.

The Year 10 and 11 teams have worked hard this term. **Congratulations go to Katrina Davey who has been selected to play for the Regional Squad.**

Hockey

The **Year 7 team** have played and won two 7-a-side matches and reached the **semi-finals of the Solihull Schools tournament.** The **Year 8 team** have won their four matches this term. The **Year 9 team** have won 3 matches and **finished 3rd** in the West Midlands tournament. The Year 10 team have played in the Year 11 Hockey League this term. **The Year 11 team have won all their matches in the League, won the West Midlands tournament and qualified for the Regional Finals.**

Swimming



The teams continue to do well, and all their efforts paid off in the **Borough Championships** when **7 girls became individual Borough champions**, the **Year 7 and Year 9 relay teams were Borough champions** and Saint Martin's were the **Overall Borough Champions** for the **fifth year** running.

Cross Country

This term has seen 3 cross-country league races. With one more race to go Saint Martin's are in a strong position being **2nd in Year 7**, **7th in Year 8/9**, **1st in Year 10/11** and **1st in the Sixth Form** races. Congratulations to **Megan Blake** in Year 11 who continues to win every race.

Charity Fundraising

Girls in Alice House welcomed members of the **Destiny Africa Children's Choir** into School in September and they performed a lively concert to girls and parents. The Choir is made up of children from the Kampala Children's Centre in Uganda; Alice House have been supporting the centre for the last five years. The girls have raised £300 for the children and this will be used to buy Christmas gifts for them.

Senior School Girls have chosen to support the **NSPCC** this year and various fund raising events have already taken place. One memorable theme has been a pie throwing fundraiser organised by 9H, where brave members of staff volunteered to act as targets!

The Sixth Form have been very active in terms of Charity. Events have included a MacMillan Coffee morning and a charity bag packing session at Sainsbury's which raised £465.51 for the school charity. Thirteen girls also braved the cold in early December to take part in the St. Basil's sleep out to raise money for young homeless people in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

