

Newsline

Summer 2011



Saint Martin's
School
Solihull

Dear Parents and Friends of Saint Martin's

As we come to the end of another academic year our Summer newsletter highlights just some of the events from this term. You will find many more news items from this term on our website on the Profile page, News section, www.saintmartins-school.com/profile_news.html.

We have been delighted to welcome visitors from our partner school in Nepal into School this term. The founder of the Annal Jyoti Boarding School near Kathmandu, **Jyoti Miss**, was a guest at our Key Stage 3 Prize Giving celebrations. **Niroj Maharjan**, Vice-Principal from Annal Jyoti School, spent a week with us and enjoyed many activities with the girls and staff, including a visit with Year 9 to the Centre of Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Wales as part of their GCSE Science studies.



Saint Martin's had a very busy and successful day at the **Borough Athletics Championships** last Friday. The team dominated the Championships from the start with almost every girl finishing in the top 8 for each event and with 2 entries per event. This resulted in both the **Under 14 and Under 16 teams winning their sections and becoming the Overall Girls Champions.**

Girls in Year 7 have scored a hat trick of successes, becoming **Borough Champions in Netball, Hockey and Rounders** this season. Please see the website for more details on this story.

We are very pleased to be hosting a concert for **Destiny Africa Children's Choir** in the Main School Hall on Tuesday 13th September at 5.30 p.m. Destiny Africa will spend time in Alice House during the day running workshops for all the girls on drumming, dancing and singing. The choir will then present 'Rhythms of Life' as part of their Autumn 2011 Tour in the early evening. Tickets are very reasonably priced at £5 for adults, £3 for children and under 2's free. All the money raised will go to support the work of Kampala Children's Centre in Uganda, the charity that Alice House is supporting for the fifth year running. Please contact the School Office to purchase your tickets.

Rock Choir, the people's choir recently featured on ITV1 and founded by Old Girl Caroline Redman Lusher, will be launched at Saint Martin's in September. The choir offers weekly rehearsals singing rock, pop and soul chart hits. For more details and to book your taster session, please see the website www.rockchoir.com

Examination Results will be available for collection this year on **Thursday 18 August for A-Levels** with **GCSE** results on **Thursday 25 August.**

Malvern Hall will feature as part of **Heritage Open Day on Saturday 10 September** and will be open to the general public from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Diane James, consultant for Warwickshire for the Historic Gardens and Landscapes of England research project, will speak at 11 am and 2 pm. Please contact the School Office if you would like to attend one of her talks.

I look forward to welcoming girls for the new academic year on **Monday 5 September** for those in Alice House, Junior School, Year 7 and Sixth Form, with the rest of the School returning on **Tuesday 6 September.**

With best wishes to you all for an excellent Summer holiday.
Jane Carwithen
Head

STOP PRESS: At the final assembly it was announced that EMILY BLAKE will be Head Girl for 2011/2012. Congratulations to Emily.

Alice House & Junior School

The Summer period is traditionally a time of celebration and fun so it is fitting that the term commenced with 'Royal Picnics and Games' to mark the marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton.



Girls in **Alice House** made the End of Term Celebration a musical spectacle. Each year group participated by singing and playing a range of musical instruments, it was a delight to see their personalities shine through each performance.

All year groups experienced a 'Hand Hygiene' lesson, delivered by Sally Ellis from Nuffield Health Warwickshire Hospital; the girls learned how to wash their hands thoroughly and that germs hide in a multitude of places on hands. A range of cross curricular events have occurred, ranging from 'Space' at Thinktank to Art and Architecture at Cropredy.

The **Junior School** enjoyed an Arts Week during June. Years 4, 5 and 6 divided themselves into design/working groups to create a Lowry Wall Display which can be seen outside Mrs Inglis' room. Each group created either the buildings, the children or the adults. The end result is an excellent Lowry type picture of a street scene in Salford.



The girls also experienced a range of visits to support Art week. Year 6 travelled to the Walsall Gallery and Year 4 to Knowle Hall to learn the art of stain glass window designing and production.

Year 5 rehearsed and then performed an exciting, colourful and amusing play, 'Planet Breetheezy' as well as visiting the Senior School to experience Food Technology lessons and Malvern Hall Mystery investigations.



Sixth Form volunteers working in Shirley

Katharine Tarn,
Year 5 winner of
the best Mystery
of Malvern Hall
report, working
with **Katherine
Ryan,** Year 10



Year 9 Go4SET Finalists at ICE Headquarters, London



Alice House Swimming Gala



Senior School

The Senior School hosted an **Art Exhibition** this term to showcase the outstanding work across the School. Girls displayed a vast array of work in many forms, from painting, drawing, and photography to textiles, design and technology.



The Exhibition was staged by Mrs Terry, Head of Art, to illustrate the range of artistic flair amongst the School's students. Parents, pupils and friends of the School attended the Exhibition and were amazed and thrilled to see the variety of work on show. One particular talking point was a piece based on the painting "Ophelia" by Sir John Everett Millais. Alice Mottram created her version using a full-sized bath tub, complete with an image of a girl submerged under water and surrounded by floral arrangements; a very eye-catching piece.

Girls from Year 9 have had yet more success in the **Go4SET Science Competition**. They were invited to take part in "Create Sport" and came a close second in the National Finals of this engineering competition, held at the Institution of Civil Engineers' (ICE) London headquarters in June. The competition saw the girls create an innovative and practical idea for a new or existing sports facility, with the team choosing to focus on the energy required to heat the School's swimming pool and addressing how this could be improved.

The girls achieved second place in the final mock "public inquiry" part of the competition, where they were tasked with defending their project to the "community" who were represented by various high profile athletes, engineers and representatives from the Olympic Delivery Authority. The runners-up prize won by the girls is an exclusive visit to the Olympic Velodrome, one of the most exciting civil engineering projects of our time.

Judge Kate Hall, Director at Arup, said: *"The students from Saint Martin's School had built an impressive team dynamic and enthusiasm which came through in their inspirational design and ideas for delivery. The team had worked incredibly hard on all the detailed issues and in particular the energy saving aspects maximising the sustainability of the project. The judges were really impressed at the team's research and model building skills and maturity in handling numerous difficult issues and questions. The students had clearly enjoyed the challenge and showed some great potential for a future in the profession."*



Year 7 Goodrich Castle Visit



Year 9 with Niroj Maharjan in Machynlleth

Year 8
Maths
Statistics
Workshop



Sixth Form

As usual the Summer Term began with elections for the Deputy Head Girl Team and the Senior Prefect Team. Congratulations to **Emily Blake, Hannah Sawrey and Tasnia Zaman** who were elected as Deputy Head Girls. The Head Girl will be chosen from one of these three. Together with the Senior Prefect Team of **Amy Dixon, Stephanie Hines, Ellie Shakes and Emily Sumnall** they have been busy in their new roles.

With fond memories the School said goodbye to the Upper Sixth who left on May 27. During their time at Saint Martin's they have all developed as individuals each with their own unique talents. They have made the most of what the School has offered them, risen to challenges and worked and played hard! In the Sixth Form Centre, Staff have found them good company and always fun to be around. The Staff look forward to hearing their **examination results on 18 August**.

The Summer Examination Session saw the girls working hard, the Upper Sixth aiming to achieve their University offers and the Lower Sixth determine to achieve good AS points.

The Lower Sixth returned from study leave in early June and have begun A2 courses. The final weeks of term have been packed with activities, including fieldtrips and New Girls' Day. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed 'parachute' activities with the Sixth Form during the lunch break.

Sixth Form Enrichment focused on applying to university. The girls spent a day volunteering in our local community. Protected in 'fetching' white overalls the girls worked hard to cover graffiti, paint fences and generally tidied up an area to the rear of Brownley Road in Shirley. To the delight of both local residents and businesses, the area was transformed and the girls left with a sense of real achievement.

A visit to MOD Stafford allowed the girls to develop their teamwork, problem-solving and leadership skills. The girls dug deep to overcome the physical challenge of the army assault course and despite all 'getting blown up' several times during the problem-solving exercise, all returned exhausted but exhilarated.

Girls faced a further challenge of "Feeding your Flatmates for a Fiver". A number of imaginative menus emerged but thank heavens for pasta!

Charity

The year began with the news that Young Enterprise Company SMART had raised £952.50 for last year's nominated charity, MacMillan. This was on top of the £1488 presented in September's charity assembly.

Year 11 also heard of how their water project from last academic year had raised enough money to buy a sanitary block for Saint Martin's partner school in Ethiopia.

Over the year, the School has sent £700 to our partner school in Nepal to help manage the Global Curriculum Project that has so enhanced our curriculum. Girls get the opportunity to go out and work with the project as part of their Sixth Form experience thus everyone benefits from this partnership.

Several girls have used their own initiative to raise money for specific causes. £142 was raised in order to support victims of the Pakistan floods. Add to this the girls' efforts for the Poppy Appeal, Harvest Festival, Red Nose Day and the St Basil's Sleepout, it is clear that the girls do a lot for others as they go about their school life.

This year's chosen charity was Troop Aid; the presentations given in assembly by the girls were stunning and everyone was delighted when a representative of the charity came in to speak to the girls and accept a cheque for £322.42 from the Carols and Commemoration services collections.

But over the year there were many other stand-out events. 7H's sponsored swim alone raised over £700. Brits Night gave staff and girls alike the chance to show-off their singing, dancing and musical ability and brought in over £800. A special mention should also go to Mrs Dance who raised and donated £1076.53 to Troop Aid through her London Marathon run. Add to that Bags 2 School, an Easter Fayre and countless form events, it has been yet another busy year for charity at Saint Martin's.

The totals left after various presentations are calculated up to Wednesday 6th July and therefore do not include non-uniform day, Staff versus Girls rounders or cake sales but up to that date the School has £2761.09 to donate to Troop Aid next term. Bearing in mind that the final cheque to MacMillan last year was £1488.74, it is easy to see why the girls have every right to be proud of their efforts this year. Well done everyone!