



Martin High School

NEWSLETTER 4

THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2017

Message from the Head Teacher

As we are now at the Easter break, our year 11 are well into their exams countdown. As a year group we are really proud of how they have matured this year; and are working hard to ensure they realise the success they deserve. They have all received a revision timetable and over 99% have accessed the additional intervention available. The Hub has been busier than ever; working with Year 11 until 5.00 pm most evenings and offering a huge variety of stress busting activities during the day.

Science week was a huge success and Miss Hobson has included a detailed report in this newsletter. The success of the week really highlights how much our STEM club has grown and become an integral part of our school life.

I hope many of you enjoyed both our jazz concert and woodwind events. Both new ventures as part of our commitment despite our current funding restraints, to provide enriching opportunities for pupils in all of the creative arts areas. We are very lucky to have state of the art music facilities and want to encourage all our learners to immerse themselves in our musical opportunities.

The proposed changes to the timings of the school day have now been approved by our Governors and a letter will go out to all existing parents at the end of the academic year. A reminder of the new timings:

New School Day Timings	
8.40 am	Staff arrive
8.50 am	Pupils arrive/registration
9.05 am	Lesson one
10.05 am	Lesson two
11.05 am	Break time
11.25 am	Lesson three
12.25 pm	Lesson four
1.25 pm	Lunch time
2.05 pm	Lesson five
3.05 pm	Pupils leave

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter break.

Mrs L Sanchez
Head Teacher

Pupil Premium

A range of initiatives to support pupil progress and enrichment experiences have happened this term.

Staff and Year 11s are working hard in preparation for the GCSE exams in the Summer Term. They are attending lunch time and after school intervention sessions with their subject teachers to supplement their normal lessons.

The Maths department put on a highly successful 'Immersion Day' just before half term for Years 10 and 11 which enabled pupils to come off their normal time table and concentrate on perfecting their mathematical skills.

A targeted homework club for all Years has been operating successfully at lunchtime providing opportunities for some pupils to receive support completing their homework.

Pupil feedback regarding this is showing that it is valued and of benefit to them. Since half term, either on a Tuesday or a Thursday afternoon, a selection of Year 11 pupils have been working in the Hub preparing for their English and Maths exams. This is being supported by members of the Maths and English departments.

All these after school activities have been supported by the provision of an extra intervention bus enabling pupils to get home quickly afterwards.

As part of the Science curriculum the RAF were in recently to present to Year 8 and 9 pupils. This was an opportunity for pupils to see Science at work and to present potential career opportunities.

The Music department has signed up for a national initiative called the Jazz Club Project which sees the school showcasing music talent across the county. Year 8 pupils made up the audience for this experience. The performers will then be playing at the De Montfort University that same night. Up and coming enrichment activities for April include a poetry workshop for Years 7-10 and from the Music department, the 'Wind Blowers' project for Year 7 pupils.

GCSE Drama Students send out a pertinent message to peers

The year 11 GCSE Drama students at the Martin High School have just completed their final GCSE performances and all successfully achieved A*-C grades. The students created devised pieces from a stimulus based on 'loss of innocence' and took influence from Antonin Artaud's 'Theatre of Cruelty' to re-enforce the themes and messages they want to get across to their audience. The students applied a range of acting skills and performed sensitively about modern day issues including terrorism, drink driving, mental health and one group took influence from Kayleigh's story and created a moving piece based on grooming.

The performance on grooming (Starring Ella Evans-Puttick, Molly Boughey, Ella Dunn and Robbie Harlow) moved their year 9 audience to tears on their exam day as Kayleigh's story had been shown to them recently by

the Leicestershire Police. The performers had been impacted by Kayleigh's 'love' story also, and thought they could use their drama to continue to spread messages about grooming to audiences at the Martin High School. They did extensive research by using media reports, statistics and made contact with the police to make sure their piece would be as impacting as possible.

The school are now looking at ways this performance and other performances in the future like this can be embedded into the PHSE curriculum as a way of spreading important messages about the moral and social world we live in. The message seems all the more impacting when delivered by their own peers.



Year 9 Girls Football Tournament - March 2017

The Year 9 Girls Football team have been in action recently. They took part in a tournament and competed against various other Leicestershire schools.

The girls started quickly and kept the tempo high throughout all of their matches. The team played some excellent football with fantastic passing and lots of creativity. This paid off and they scored some great goals that were a real team effort. One stand-out example was where the goalkeeper Courtney Holt (9A) rolled the ball out and the ball was passed to every single player on the team before Libby Cheadle (9N) left nothing to chance and struck the ball intelligently straight in to the bottom corner. An amazing example of Team Martin at its best.

The link-up play between defence and attack was another example of excellence with Georgia Paterson-Sylt (9I) and Erin Tattersall (9I) commanding the midfield area well; they were communicating with each other effectively and went from defence to

attack almost effortlessly. This caught out their opponents unaware a few times allowing goals to fly in from all angles. The girls also showed incredible work rate and resilience. Their defensive play was just as good as their attacking play with lots of great tackles and blocks. The team were difficult to break down and didn't give their opponents many opportunities to threaten.

Their opponents did manage some long-range shots from midfield but goalkeeper Courtney Holt (9A) was rarely troubled and had everything in hand. Courtney kept the defenders alert and used opportunities to demand the ball and regain control of the game. Caitlin Peet (9T) gave a stand-out performance at centre-back. Caitlin was a rock in central defence and challenged for the ball at all times, showing that nobody was getting through Team Martin's defence without working hard for it. She showed courage and determination throughout and challenged for the ball in the air without hesitation.

The team came second overall, they only conceded one goal all tournament and didn't lose any of their games. They lost out to first place only on goal difference. Overall an incredible display of talent, skill and determination.

"Inspiring all to dream more, learn more, do more and become more."

Team Sheet:

Courtney Holt (9A), Georgia Paterson-Sylt (9I), Erin Tattersall (9I), Caitlin Peet (9T), Lexi Carlos (9T), Libby Cheadle (9N), Freya Murray (9M), Emilie Parry-Joy (9M), Libby Robinson (9N), Abbie Marshall (9A), Lucy Powell (9N)



GCSE Drama Performance Exam

Our Year 11 GCSE Drama students have just completed their final performance of the year. The students created a devised piece from a stimulus based on 'loss of innocence' and took influence from Antonin Artaud's 'Theatre of Cruelty' to re-enforce the themes and messages they want to get across to their audience. The students applied a range of acting skills and performed sensitively about modern day issues including terrorism, drink driving, mental health and one group took influence from Kayleigh's story and created a moving piece based on grooming.

The external moderator complimented the work and all students successfully received A*-C grades, as they managed to show an extensive range of skills that were picked up and developed through the drama course. I am very proud of them all and wish them all the best for their final exams and next steps.

Miss Milner

RAF Roadshow 2017 @ MHS STEM Science

MHS STEM Science were proud to host the RAF Roadshow - Physics of Flight on Monday 20th March! It was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 8 and Year 9 students to experience first-hand how drones, jet engines and the forces of physics are used by the RAF and what exciting physics career opportunities there are. A brilliant performance by the RAF team which really enthused our students!

Miss Hobson and STEM Science

Thurcaston Handbell & Towerbell Ringers

Thurcaston Handbell and Towerbell Ringers are holding an Open morning on **Saturday 8th April from 9.30 am** at All Saints' Church, Thurcaston.

If your son/daughter is interested to learn about ringing, they are welcome to come along and have a go!

Qualified, DBS certified teachers are happy to welcome new recruits to this exciting and rewarding hobby.

Poetry Workshop

On Monday 3rd April, some lucky year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students were invited to attend a poetry workshop in the library with Andy Craven-Griffiths. Students really enjoyed the workshops and produced some excellent poems.

Andy wrote the following about his visit:

“I had a really enjoyable day running workshops at the Martin High School. During free-writing exercises, the students wrote some very mature and sophisticated responses to the prompts and we ended with some brilliant poems. We had unusual voice poems about the world’s being fed up of being stuck in a loop, about how its skin is different all over and it has warts that sometimes burst angrily. Humans were a virus and the plants and animals were good bacteria.

We had similes and metaphors-based poems about how roses seem all sweetness and beauty but have thorns like cats’ claws and can start wars. It is especially nice to visit a school where the library is so clearly a social hub that students want to visit. Thanks for a lovely day.” Andy



School closes to pupils on
Thursday 6th April 2017

School opens on
Monday 24th April 2017



