

1st March 2024

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 01/03/24

I hope this update finds you well. Students and staff returned to school refreshed after the February break and we are looking forward to a swift but purposeful half term ahead.

Positive School Environment

As part of our activities for monitoring the quality of education across our sites, we have identified that there has been an increase in the number of items being brought in from home that are causing a distraction to some of our young people. In some cases, these valued items are not being used appropriately in school and have become the cause of conflict between students, which impacts on the teaching, learning and development within our school environment. These include items such as; toys, balls, phones, games consoles and smart watches.

As you know, our school vision is to Shape Successful Futures, and in doing this, we are keen to maximise the potential for all of our students to develop their understanding of self-awareness in their journey through school, in preparation for adulthood.

We recognise that our young people have varying needs and may utilise these items for comfort or regulation, particularly on their journeys to and from school. We would like to ask families for your support in addressing this issue to help us maintain a positive learning environment throughout the school day.

- Where these items are not needed for the school day, please could we ask that they are kept at home.
- If your child does have a mobile phone or an item to support transport time, they will be asked to put these in a secure place during the school day.
- Where your child has a transitional or sensory item that they need for regulation purposes throughout the school day, they may be asked to keep these in their pastoral room for an individualised approach. This also supports health and safety, particularly in subject specific rooms such as Food Technology and Science.

We would also like to assure you that we understand that this will be an ongoing process, and individuals will develop their confidence and independence at their

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive Headteacher**

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT
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own pace. Therefore, there is no 'cut-off' for students being able to access these items where appropriate and necessary in school time.

If you feel your child will need additional support from school in the form of social stories and visual aids to support this transition, please contact your child's pastoral team. Please speak with myself or Toni if you need any other support or have any questions.

Dates for your diaries:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Details</u>
Tuesday 5 th – Wednesday 6 th March	KS4TB residential	
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	Letter has been sent home
Wednesday 13 th March	Holocaust Education Trust – Visit to Auschwitz in Poland for the day	Two Post-16 students are taking part.
Wednesday 27 th – Thursday 28 th March	KS3KW and KS3FC residential	
Thursday 28 th March	School breaks up for Easter Holiday	

Have a great weekend,



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Term Dates for Academic Year 2023/2024

Autumn Term

INSET Day – Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Wednesday 6th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 27th October

School Starts Back – Monday 6th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

School Starts Back – Monday 8th January 2024

School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 15th February

INSET Day – Friday 16th February

School Starts Back – Monday 26th February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 28th March

Summer Term

INSET Day – Monday 15th April

School Starts Back – Tuesday 16th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 24th May

School Starts Back – Monday 3rd June

INSET Day – Monday 1st July

School Breaks up for Summer – Tuesday 23rd July

St Martins follows Derby City Council's term dates. Dates for next year can be found on their website – please follow the link for these - <https://derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/term-holiday-dates/#>

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