

2nd October 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 02/10/26

I hope this update finds you well. I am pleased to share that Toni is continuing her recovery from home, and is hoping to be back in school once she is well enough. Rachel and the team remain available should families have any queries or concerns.

We have had a busy start to the new academic year with students standing as class representatives on our Student Council and our Year 11 students campaigning to become Head Student for the upcoming year. More about them below...!

Head Students

Following a thorough election process, we are delighted to announce our new Head Student, Joel, and Deputy Head Student, Sonny. In the image, Joel is shown on the right, and Sonny on the left.

Both students have demonstrated excellent leadership qualities, a positive attitude, and a strong commitment to our school. As head students, they will play an important role in representing the views of their peers, supporting school events, and helping to create a positive and inclusive environment for everyone. We are confident that Joel and Sonny will be outstanding role models and wish them every success in their new positions. Well, done Joel and Sonny!



Attendance Rewards

We were excited to launch some of our new attendance rewards for students this week!

Starting on Monday, students in Years 7-11, who have achieved 100% attendance during the previous week will have the chance to win a £15 One4All Teen voucher. Additionally, we are looking at suitable and age-appropriate ways to celebrate the attendance of our students in Post-16.

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT
Tel: 01332 571151 **Email:** admin@stmartins.set.org **Online:** www.stmartinsschoolderby.co.uk

The lucky winners will be able to spend their vouchers at a wide range of shops, including Waterstones, TG Jones, Primark and JD Sports.

We appreciate that for some of our young people, attending school all day, every day can be challenging. This is one of the reasons we have decided to introduce regular attendance rewards alongside our longer-term reward strategy. We want to recognise and celebrate the effort our students make to attend and engage with school consistently.

We also believe that the vouchers can provide our students with opportunities to develop wider life skills, including making choices, managing money and experiencing the benefits of working towards a goal.

Further attendance rewards and opportunities will be shared with students over the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for what's coming next!

School Letter Pack

At the start of the year, a letter pack was sent home to provide information to Parent Carers on various areas of school including; Wellbeing support, Martin the school dog, and Speech and Language interventions. It has come to our attention that the wording of some of the letters may have been confusing and caused Parent Carers to believe that a response was required to provide consent for all of these. However, letters only required a response if consent was not given. We apologise for this confusion and are looking at a more straightforward and efficient system of providing this information and requesting a response in future. Please get in touch with the school if you would like to amend or check any of your responses.

Ahead of students receiving Wellbeing and School Dog interventions, a member of the Wellbeing team will get in touch to share information about planned sessions.

Derby SEND Voice events

Please see the posters further in the update for two upcoming events hosted by Derby SEND Voice.

With best wishes,



Rachel Cooper
Assistant Headteacher

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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DERBY SEND VOICE

Parent Carer Forum

Everyone Welcome

No diagnosis needed

Free Drink For Members

Cuppa & Chat



Wednesday 7th October
10:00 - 12:00



Glow & Grow Cafe
Friar Gate Studios



Join others who understand



Meet other
parent carers
in a friendly,
non judgemental
environment



Chat, share
experiences
and gain
support



Access
information
and advice
from local
services

Derby SEND Voice offer parent carers the opportunity to speak in a non judgemental environment with others that understand the journey. The session also allows you to access services such as SENDIASS and Derby SAL (SEND Advice Line).



SENDIASS

Information
Advice & Support



Derby SAL

SEND Advice Line



www.derbysendvoice.com



derbysendvoice@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

*A relaxed drop in
for parent carers*



Everyone
Welcome



DERBY SEND VOICE

Wellbeing Session

Finding Mindfulness in the Everyday

Please scan
the QR
code for
tickets



**Join us for a relaxed session
to discover
what mindfulness is,
how it can help a stressed
nervous system,
and where mindful moments
could already exist in your day**



**Tuesday 13th October
18.30 - 19.30**

**Via Zoom - either scan QR code
or email for the link**

**derbysendvoice@gmail.com
www.derbysendvoice.com**



Dates for your Diaries:

Date	Event	Information
Thursday 8 th October	Next Steps Event at Noel Baker	Letter has been sent home.
Wednesday 14 th October	Bingo Night from 6:15pm-8:30pm	Poster has been shared.
Thursday 15 th October	Tempest Photography in school to take student portraits	Letter will be sent home.
Wednesday 21 st October	Mini Monster Marathon	Letter has been sent home.

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day – Friday 4th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Monday 7th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23rd October

INSET Day – Monday 2nd November

School Starts Back – Tuesday 3rd November

INSET Day – Friday 27th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 4th January 2027

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 12th February

School Starts Back – Monday 22nd February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 25th March

Summer Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

INSET Day – Tuesday 4th May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 28th May

School Starts Back – Monday 7th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 23rd July

INSET Day – Monday 26th 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/#>

Social Media Links

Facebook - [St. Martins School Facebook](#) Instagram - [St. Martins School Instagram](#)

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