

9th January 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update – 09/01/26

Happy New Year! We hope that this update finds you well and refreshed after the break. As always, it's great to welcome our students and staff back into school and catch-up with them. We are looking forward to the half term ahead, and the return of lighter mornings and longer days!

Project SEARCH – Supported Internship Programme

This week's update has a large focus on our very successful Supported Internship programme at the Royal Derby Hospital. We have opened up applications for the next cohort of students starting in September 2026 – please take a look and feel free to share with any other families who could be interested.

Message for Year 11 Parents and Carers

As we move through the phase transfer process, we would like to remind Parents and Carers to carefully read and check any draft Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) you may have received from the local authority. If you require any support or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Family Support Team or Heather. Additionally, for students who have applied for external placements such as Derby College, YMCA or Leesbrook, we ask that you regularly check your email accounts for updates regarding interviews, offers or decisions. If you experience any difficulties, the pastoral team are available to support and can liaise with Hayley and Heather as needed. This is a busy but important time, and we are here to support you and your child throughout the process.

Maternity Leave

Today we say a temporary goodbye to Kobi Thompson as she goes on Maternity Leave. I hope you will join the school in wishing Kobi and her family well. We look forward to hearing some very special news from Kobi soon!

Welcome to New Staff

To cover Kobi's pastoral group during her maternity leave, we have appointed a new Teacher, Ashley Purser. Ashley is an experienced Teacher who also has experience of working as a SENCO in a Trust.

This week, we have also welcomed Amanda Sandland to our Business and Administration Team as a Receptionist.

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT
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We are excited for Ashley and Amanda to join us and hope that you will all welcome them to St Martins!

After School Clubs

After School Clubs are starting again on Monday 12th January – please get in touch with David Brooks at the school if you haven't received information about which club your child/young person is due to attend.

With best wishes,

Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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Project SEARCH

Royal Derby Hospital

NEWS FLASH

Our applications are now open!

In December, we officially opened applications for learners looking for a place on our year 14 course in September 2026.

In order to apply, an 'Expression of Interest' form will need to be completed - use the QR code below.

To find out more about the process, please refer to our 'How to Apply' guide and feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.



DON'T FORGET TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME AND MEET THE TEAM, SEE THE PROJECT IN 'REAL-TIME' AND UNDERSTAND THE COURSE BETTER, BEFORE APPLYING.



07907574922



SUPPORTEDINTERNSHIPS@STMARTINS.SET.ORG

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

An exciting start to 2026 over here.

We have six interns beginning their second placements at the hospital.

Our second placement roles this year are:

- Pharmacy porter
- Radiography Department Assistant
- CT Porter
- Theatre Porter
- Cleaner
- Library Assistant

It has been great to see the determination our interns have had to take on new challenges, meet new teams and learn new job roles in their second placements.

Two of our interns are excitingly completing paperwork to start their employment THIS MONTH within the ISS Porter team. They have been completing work trials, getting all the documents in place and even planning what they'll do with their first pay packet!



Between all the hard work, we managed to squeeze in a Christmas do at the end of a busy term! I'll let you guess who won...



St Martins Supported Internship

WHAT IS IT?



The Criteria

Year 14 only (this means if you are a current year 13, you'd be applying now)

You must have an EHCP

You travel independently (travel is not funded)

The Offer

A one year, year 14 transitional course designed to build individuals' transferable skills and prepare them for the world of work.

Our goal is for each individual to gain sustainable and meaningful employment.

We are driven to improve the rates of employment for adults with additional needs and in turn, better futures.

The Details

The one year course is split into the following sections:

Induction (September)

Onsite set-up, complete induction courses, orienteering sessions and key skills classes.

Placement 1 (October–December)

Placement 2 (January–March)

Placement 3 (April–June)

During placements, the days are set out like this:

9am–10am : Employability skills

10am–3pm ; Placement

3pm–4pm : Reflection session

Parents Carers attend three Employment Planning Meetings throughout the year.

Commitment

Interns must be committed to a full time course, set in a real-life hospital. The environment can be challenging, but it is very rewarding.

The course is designed to be the last year in education. A dedicated Tutor and Job Coach are on site to support placements, employability skill development, CV writing and job applications.

As an on-site team, we arrange placement areas on an individualised basis, there is no pre-set pathway and employment can be gained at any time.

Contact Info

Jo Lambourne, Project Lead

 supportedinternship@stmartins.set.org

 07907574922

Want to apply? Complete this form



HOW TO APPLY TO OUR SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP:

26-27 cohort



GET IN TOUCH

Get in touch and find out more. Use the details below to contact us and see whether the course is right for you!

07907574922

supportedinternships@stmartins.set.org



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Now you have the info and think the course is right for you, complete an 'Expression of Interest' form.



ASSESSMENT DAY

After completing your Expression of Interest form, you will be sent a letter to invite you to an Assessment Day - this is an event at the Royal Derby Hospital, where candidates complete a range of activities designed to look at whether the course is suitable for you.

Royal Derby Hospital, DE22 3NE

9:30am - 3pm



PLACEMENT OFFER

After your Assessment Day, we may be in touch to ask further questions, should we have any. If successful, you will receive a letter to officially offer you a place on the course for September 2026-July 2027. We will then contact you to arrange transition visits before the summer. Please note we will begin to process DBS checks during this period, so we'll ask you for forms of ID.



Dates for your diaries:

Date	Event	Details
Tuesday 3 rd February from 3pm-6pm	Parent Carer Evening	Letter to be sent home on Monday 12 th January.
Wednesday 4 th February from 3pm-4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 3 – Pastoral • Key Stage 4 – Pastoral and Subject Teachers • Key Stage 5 - Pastoral 	

Term Dates 2025/2026

Spring Term 2026

INSET Day – Monday 5th January 2026
 School Starts Back – Tuesday 6th January
 School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 13th February
 School Starts Back – Monday 23rd February
 School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2026

School Starts Back – Monday 13th April
 INSET Day – Friday 1st May
 Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May
 School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 22nd May
 School Starts Back – Monday 1st June
School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 22nd July
 INSET Day – Thursday 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/#>

Social Media Links

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

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