



9th June 2023

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update – 09/06/23

I hope this update finds you well. We have had a great first week back – it is finally starting to feel like summer, and the next 6 weeks are going to fly by.

Earlier in the week, I attended an emotional celebration event for the Project SEARCH interns at the Royal Derby Hospital. The Project SEARCH supported internship programme is providing incredible opportunities for our students, with those on the programme obtaining paid employment as a result of their development. Next week's update will feature more about this event, as I want you all to know just how powerful and life changing supported internships can be.

Hub and Spoke

As you may be aware, the situation in the Special Needs sector is highly pressurised with the system struggling to meet the needs of all students with additional needs across the country. This has been caused by a culmination of different factors, and with the problem now widespread, the system needs a different strategy.

The leadership team at St Martins have been working with leaders from other schools and the Local Authority to find a local solution for children and young people in Derby City. We are in the early stages of creating an additional type of specialist provision that brings together the social environment and facilities of mainstream schools, and the expertise and focus of our special schools, into a brand-new merged provision, termed 'Hub and Spoke'.

This means we plan to work in partnership with selected mainstream secondary schools to open new St Martins (Hub) provisions in their environment (Spoke). This will create a new type of special school offer that will release more special school placements in the city.

There are no firm plans in place at the moment, but I will keep you updated as we learn more over the coming weeks and months.

Local SEND Updates

St Martins have been working with SENCOs from mainstream primary and secondary schools, as well as SEND Officers from the Local Authority, to showcase the provision and support at St Martins. This helps to improve understanding of our provision, and ensure that we are working collaboratively to meet the needs of all current and prospective students. Within these links, we have been hosting tours and coffee mornings to share ideas and best practice. We have also been working with the Local Authority to identify students at St Martins who could successfully transition into

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a mainstream setting with the right support. Accessing this support could develop their peer group and opportunities to access a wider curriculum. It is really important to raise the profile of SEND across the city to support our young people.

SENCO Update

Heather Woodward (SENCO) will be finishing for maternity leave in September. We have successfully appointed Samantha Gee as Deputy SENCO to support this role in Heather’s absence. She is currently working closely with Heather and will be taking over the role in September so will be an important point of contact. If you need any support from Heather or Sammy, please contact them at school.

Dates for your diaries:

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|---|---|
| Tuesday 13 th June | Year 11 and Year 13 Parent Carer Evening |
| Monday 26 th June | INSET Day – School closed to Students |
| Tuesday 27 th – Thursday 29 th June | Duke of Edinburgh Assessed Expeditions - Bronze – 27 th -28 th June, Silver 27 th -29 th June |
| Friday 30 th June | Last day for Year 11 and Year 13 – Assembly at 11am for Year 11 Leavers – Details to follow. |
| Friday 30 th June | Year 11 and Year 13 Prom |
| Tuesday 11 th July | Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Parent Carer Evening |
| Friday 14 th July | Summer Fair |
| Tuesday 18 th July | Sports Day |
| Wednesday 19 th July | Prize Day |
| Friday 21 st July | School finishes for Summer |

Wishing you a great weekend,



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Term Dates for Academic Year 2022/2023

Summer Term

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 26th May

School Starts Back – Monday 5th June

INSET Day – Monday 26th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 21st July

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

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