

9<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

### **Weekly Update: 09/10/26**

I hope this update finds you well. The half term has flown by, and there are just two weeks left before a well-deserved week off for students and staff. As we are all starting to feel tired and the seasonal bugs start going around, we encourage families to maintain their health by being prepared, eating well and having enough vitamins, getting a decent amount of sleep, and having vaccinations where possible. This will hopefully make the difference, as nobody enjoys being poorly.

I am pleased to share that Toni is continuing to recover well and is planning to start a phased return to school from next week. We are looking forward to having Toni back in school!

### **Attendance Update**

As communicated in July, we remain committed to supporting all our young people to attend school as regularly as possible. Our school attendance target is **95% or above**, and we recognise the important role that regular attendance plays in supporting learning, progress and wellbeing.

You can check your child's attendance at any time through the Arbor App. We will also be sending home your child's attendance certificate before half term so that you can see how their attendance is progressing this year.

**If your child's attendance is below 90%**, a member of our Family Support Team will be in touch to discuss their attendance and explore whether any additional support may be needed. Our aim is to work in partnership with families to understand any barriers to attendance and identify ways we can help. Students with absence below 90% are classed as 'Persistently Absent' by the Department for Education as they are missing at least 10% of their time in school.

**If your child's attendance is below 95% but above 90%**, we encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns or feel that support would be helpful. Although attendance at this level is above the persistent absence threshold, it remains below our school target, and we want to work with you to help improve it wherever possible.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our young people whose attendance is currently meeting or exceeding our 95% target, with a special mention for those achieving **100% attendance**. We appreciate the commitment shown by these students and their families.

**Toni Beardmore Headteacher**

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

At the same time, we recognise that regular attendance is not always straightforward for some of our young people, and that there can be circumstances that make attending school more challenging.

We encourage families to keep in regular communication with school and our Family Support Team so that we are able to keep working together in supporting students to get the most out of their valuable time at St Martins School.

### **Absence Reporting**

Continuing on the theme of attendance, we are looking to improve student absence reporting. If your child/young person is absent from school, please either call the school office on 01332 571151 or email the school on [admin@stmartins.set.org](mailto:admin@stmartins.set.org) to let us know. Communicating directly with the school office supports us with ensuring that the right people know about the absence. If emailing the school, you are still welcome to copy your child's pastoral team into the message.

### **Thank you**

This week we said goodbye to our Marketing Assistant, Sophie Crane. Sophie joined us last year as an Apprentice and split her time between St Martins and the other two Shaw Education Trust schools in Derby – Ivy House and St Andrew's. After passing her apprenticeship, Sophie is moving on to work in a marketing role in the private sector in a role nearer her home. We are proud of all that Sophie achieved during her time here and thank her for the positive contribution that she has made.

With best wishes,



**Rachel Cooper**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

---

**Toni Beardmore Headteacher**

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

### **Dates for your Diaries:**

| <b>Date</b>                        | <b>Event</b>                                            | <b>Information</b>         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October | Bingo Night from 6:15pm-8:30pm                          | Poster has been shared.    |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October  | Tempest Photography in school to take student portraits | Letter will be sent home.  |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October | Mini Monster Marathon                                   | Letter has been sent home. |

## **Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027**

### **Autumn Term 2026**

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
 INSET Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
 School Starts Back – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
 INSET Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
 School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2027**

School Starts Back – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027  
 School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
 School Starts Back – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
 School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term 2027**

School Starts Back – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
 Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
 INSET Day – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
 School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
 School Starts Back – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### **School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

INSET Day – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

**Toni Beardmore Headteacher**

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

---

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

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

The Shaw Education Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 09067175) Registered address: Shaw Education Trust, Kidsgrove Secondary School, Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DL. The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at [www.shaweducation.org.uk](http://www.shaweducation.org.uk).