

11th October 2024

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 11/10/24

We hope this update finds you well. Heather Woodward, our Assistant Headteacher and SENCO has put together a great update for you all – Heather is passionate about supporting our students to get the most out of their time in school and recognises how helpful Annual Reviews are to support this. We appreciate Parent Carers being part of this process as we know what a difference it can make to your child/young person. Please keep reading to find out more!

SENCO Update – Heather Woodward

The start of a new academic year means our whole-school Annual Review process begins again. Ahead of the October half term, we have been completing our Year 11 Phase Transfer Annual Reviews. This has involved lots of discussions surrounding next steps and how to support our young people with transitioning to new environments and more independence. Thank you to all of the families that have already been involved with the Year 11 Annual Reviews.

Our other Annual Reviews will be scheduled throughout the year, and ahead of the review we gather student and Parent Carer voice. It would be great if you could spend some time completing the survey that our office staff share with you. Completing this survey provides direct feedback to myself, and means I can share strengths, areas of development and tailor support to your child with the Pastoral Team, Family Support and Wellbeing Team.

The Annual Review process is an opportunity to reflect on your child's strengths and areas of need, over the course of the year we are going to be creating Personal Learning Goals (PLGs). These PLGs will gather photos, videos and examples of the students' work and how they are achieving their 12 month targets. It will be a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase the wider opportunities our students' access alongside empowering our young people so they are aware of their needs and targets. Alongside this, I am keen to host some Parent Carer events that address our students' different needs and discuss strategies that can be used effectively at home and school. More information will be shared about this next half term.

Within my role, I also lead on the Wellbeing Team and work with our Speech and Language Team. This half term has been busy with whole staff training on Zones of Regulation, Mental Health Day and welcoming our new Year 7 students. The Learning Mentors have been completing some great wellbeing sessions focussing on relationships, life skills and emotional support. Our Speech and Language therapists

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive Headteacher**

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have also been completing assessments and offering whole class and small group activities. If you feel that your child would benefit from Learning Mentor or Speech and Language support, please feel free to contact me.

The role of the SENCO relies a lot upon communication with professionals and families. It has been great to return from maternity leave and speak with so many of you already. Thank you for your continued support with your child and their journey at St Martins.

Harvest Festival Food Bank Donations – Thank you!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity for the food donations that we have already received in school. The last day for food collections will be Wednesday 16th October.

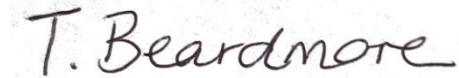
School Photograph Reminder

Tempest Photography are in school on Thursday 17th October to take individual student portraits. Students will receive a paper proof to take home, and you will be able to order photographs online.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabrina Hobbs'.

Sabrina Hobbs
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Beardmore'.

Toni Beardmore
Head of School

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive Headteacher**

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

INSET Day – Wednesday 4th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Thursday 5th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 25th October

INSET Day – Monday 4th November

School Starts Back – Tuesday 5th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2025

School Starts Back – Monday 6th January 2025

School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 13th February

INSET Day – Friday 14th February

School Starts Back – Monday 24th February

School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Bank Holiday – Monday 21st April

INSET Day – Tuesday 22nd April

School Starts Back – Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23rd May

School Starts Back – Monday 2nd June

School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 23rd July

INSET Day – Thursday 24th 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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