

12th September 2025

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 12/09/25

I am delighted to welcome all students and staff back to St Martins School for the new academic year. I hope that you have all had a good summer and feel refreshed and ready for the year ahead. I am really excited to start my journey as Headteacher at St Martins.

For those of you who are new to St Martins, we compile a 'weekly update' to share news, information and updates from across the school, Post-16 and Project SEARCH. We hope that you find them useful. Term dates for the year are included with every update to support with planning, and key dates are shared every half term too.

Staffing Updates

In addition to my new role as Headteacher at St Martins, there have been some other staffing and leadership changes to support our ever growing and developing school.

Rachel Cooper is remaining as Assistant Headteacher, but will also deputise as Headteacher in my absence. Leigh Bradder, our Design Technology teacher has taken on the role of Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning, and his teaching role is being covered by supply teacher, Jo Woodhall.

Our Post-16 team is now being led by new Assistant Headteacher, Liz Sanger. Liz previously worked for the Respect Schools as a Headteacher for their Kingsmead site. We are excited for Liz to join us and establish our new Post-16 site, Friar Gate Studios.

We are joined by two new teachers – Sarah Cavell and Hannah Parkes. Sarah is also our new Cultural Capital Faculty Lead. Our Learning Mentor team has been strengthened by two new Learning Mentors, William Fell and Morgan Stanley. The Classroom support team has one new Teaching Assistant – Sarah Beatty, and two new Classroom Assistants – Paul Nelson and Virginia Wong. Last but not least, our Admin Team has been joined by Joanna Whittle who works closely alongside Heather, our SENCO, to help administrate the Annual Review process.

I hope that you will join me in extending a warm welcome to all of our new team members!

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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Student Health and Vaccinations

One of our students is currently receiving medical treatment for an illness that puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), chickenpox or shingles.

The best way to protect this young person from measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) is for all students to be immunised against these common childhood diseases. You can discuss immunisations with your GP if your child has not already received them. If your child is suspected of having measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), or chicken pox, please inform the school so that we can help support this vulnerable young person. It is also important to let us know if there is shingles in your household.

Your child is not at risk from this situation, however, the health and wellbeing of our young people is always a priority. We hope that you are able to support our school community in this way.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up at St Martins

We have gates in place as a safeguarding measure to help keep our school site safe. The gates will be open in the morning until 9:15am. The gates will open at 2:10pm for the end of the day, before closing at 2:45pm for Noel Baker students to safely depart the site. If you are visiting the school during the day, you will need to press the buzzer and identify yourself before being admitted onto the school site.

Please do not try to enter the school site before 2:10pm to collect your child, or follow vehicles onto the site before this time. It is vital that the entrance to the site remains clear for vehicles which need access, including staff, visitors and emergency services. Once the gates open at 2:10pm, traffic is able to move onto the school site freely.

Once on the school site, please do not park in the main car park. This car park is for staff use only. Instead, please turn left and park in the overflow parking next to the Sports Hall. When walking across the site, please ensure that you remain on the foot paths and don't cross in front of vehicles.

To ensure the safety of all of our young people and a smooth transition into school, please can you make sure that your child/young person has been left with a member of staff when dropping them off.

We appreciate that these measures may impact on your overall experience of drop-off/pick-up, however they are essential to the safe control and management of both schools on site.

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Online Safety

A 'back to school' online safety poster has been included with this update as a resource to support your young person with safely managing their devices and online presence. We hope you find this useful.

Dates for your Diaries:

Date	Event	Information
Tuesday 23 rd September	Parent Carer Evening from 3pm-6pm	Letter has been sent home.
Thursday 9 th October	Next Steps Event at Noel Baker – time TBC	Letter will be sent home.
Tuesday 14 th October	Flu Vaccinations in school	Information has been sent home today via email to all students in Years 7-11.
Thursday 16 th October	Tempest Photography in school to take student portraits	Letter will be sent home.
Wednesday 22 nd October	Mini Monster Marathon	Letter will be sent home.

With best wishes,



Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).





Term Dates for Academic Year 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

INSET Day – Thursday 4th September

INSET Day – Friday 5th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Monday 8th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 24th October

School Starts Back – Monday 3rd November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 19th December

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/#>

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