



13th March 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 13/03/26

I hope this update finds you well. We've had a busy week, with two classes out on residential to Mount Cook, and a small group of 2 students and 2 staff visiting Auschwitz for the day as part of a project with the Holocaust Education Trust. Taking students away for visits is a core part of our personal development offer, due to how it enhances the life experiences of our young people by developing and utilising skills that they may not use directly in school. Thank you to staff for making this happen, and for families for allowing us to take your young person away.

Welcome

This week, we welcomed Hannah Pardey, as our new Preparing for Adulthood Adviser. It has taken us a while to recruit to this role to replace Ryan Gascoine since he left in mid-November, and so we are delighted that Hannah has now started. Thank you to Hayley Dexter for the support that she has provided during this period.

Hannah's role will be to support students at their transition points, particularly for Year 11 and Year 13 leavers, ensuring that every young person has the guidance, opportunities, and support they need to move confidently into further education, training or employment. I hope you will all make Hannah feel welcome at St Martins – she's really looking forward to meeting you all!

Congratulations

In other positive news, congratulations to Charlotte Blakeway and family on the birth of baby Stanley. Stanley was born at 10:08am on 4th March, weighing in at 7lbs 8oz. Both Charlotte and Stanley are doing well – we can't wait to meet him!

With best wishes,

Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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Newsletter

The Year thus far...

We have officially reached the half-way point of the academic year! For our Year 13s this is very busy and exciting time as they prepare for their next destinations. Students have been visiting colleges and provisions across the county and attending interviews. All Horizons' students have been 'working hard and playing hard' - enjoying meals and trips out, organised through our 6th Form Council. Christmas meals and bowling were enjoyed by all and we are planning an upcoming Easter meal, our residential in May and visit to Warner Bros Studios in June. Students are working hard towards outcomes across their subjects and placements.

March 2026

Where are we?

Horizons 6th Form
Friar Gate Studios
Ford Street
Derby
DE1 1EE



Tel: 01332 571151

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WEEK IN YEAR 13 FEEL LIKE?

In this edition, one of our established Year 13s has captured what a 'typical' week feels like at Horizons:

I have been at Horizons since 2024. I was excited to come to Horizons and learn about preparing to be an adult. When I started at Horizons we were based at Iron Gate, next to the Dandy Gent in town. Last summer, we packed up the building and moved the whole 6th Form to somewhere much nicer: Friar Gate Studios. Our new building is more spaced out and there are more classrooms for students to access. I attend Friar Gate Studios Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On a Wednesday I attend my Gallery 5 session. Before half-term this session used to be Healthy Eating with Jan - I learned about eating the right healthy foods. On a Thursday I go to the allotment in Spondon - it's beautiful and I really enjoy it. Soon we shall be going Elvaston Castle and I can't wait. On a Friday I do English with Matt and maths with Gus. I enjoy being with my friends in maths and English. I just got my iPad to help with my learning and I feel better because the screen is pink and that helps my eyes. Being here is relaxing and good for your well-being while you're learning :-). Written by ARD

HORIZONS' INTERVIEWS

Throughout February, the Horizons' Team ran informal interviews for prospective students who are considering Horizons 6th form for KS5. It was fabulous meeting year eleven students (and parents/carers). The team were blown away by how maturely the students conducted themselves; the developed responses they provided and the wide range of questions they prepared for us. Well done Year 11 students for your maturity and enthusiasm! We look forward to getting to know more about you over the transition events in the summer and welcoming you in September!

VISITING SPEAKERS TO HORIZONS AND NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK '26 (NCW26)

An exciting element of our Horizons curriculum is the array of visiting speakers that students meet, through their PSHE and Futures lessons. Students have met a range of PCSOs, Merlin from 1625 Outreach project, Jo from Project Search, Jonty from T2 and Mary from St Martins. Students have learned about road and rail safety, travel training, online safety, knife crime, managing pay slips and Project Search. From the 2nd - 6th March, students engaged with NCW events and the World of Work. Students have had opportunities to visit different Career Fair Events and will be attending a further one at East Midlands Airport at the end of March. Students have been thinking about their developing skills, what makes them employable and different career paths that may or may not suit them. We have been impressed with their levels of engagement with both visiting speakers - asking thoughtful questions - and events during NCW26!

Project SEARCH

Royal Derby Hospital

EXCITING NEWS

TWO more interns have gained employment!

We are delighted for both Luke and Jacob, having been successful in securing positions in the hospital. They will begin their employment in the next couple of months- how exciting!

Luke has gained a full time cleaning position and Jacob has gained a full time role as a Pharmacy Porter.

LOOK OUT

NSID - 27th March

We are raising awareness for the **National Supported Internship Day!** Keep an eye on our Instagram page to see what we get up to. Feel free to share and spread the word!

More people need to know about Supported Internships.

@SupportedInternshipsDerby

UPDATES FROM US

Our interns are coming to the end of their second placements and beginning preparations for their third and final areas of work.

We have enjoyed meeting with interns and parents to celebrate second-placement successes and prepare/support out interns for employment.



We have welcomed lots of visitors from local schools and a special guest; Rebecca O'Connor from RHD joined us recently to come and see how well our interns are getting on! Rebecca is the Executive Director of Corporate Development and sponsors networks and programmes aimed at inclusion. Not only did our interns present their areas of work to Rebecca, the group were also able to enjoy a conversation with her in the classroom. She shared her top-tips for employment and her enthusiasm for projects like ours!

Our Alumni

Jo and Phil enjoyed a meal with the Alumni group. It was great to catch up with this hard working crew! We are fortunate enough to see many of these guys in and around the hospital and it's wonderful to have previous interns become new mentors! We'll be delighted to see this group grow as more and more interns gain employment.



Dates for your Diaries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Information</u>
w/c 23 rd March	Spring Progress Reports are sent home	
Friday 27 th March	School finishes for the Easter Holiday	
Monday 13 th April	Students return after the Easter Holiday	
Friday 1 st May	INSET Day	School closed
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Tuesday 5 th May	GCSEs and formal assessments start	A letter has been sent home to relevant students this week.
Friday 8 th May	Options Taster Day	This is for current Year 9 and Year 10 students.
Tuesday 12 th May from 4:30pm-6:00pm	Options Evening	Year 9 and Year 10 students with their Parent Carers – letter will be sent home.

Term Dates 2025/2026

Spring Term 2026

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](#)

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