

13th July 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 13/07/26

I hope this update finds you well. Last week, students took part in transition activities ahead of next year – we were joined by our new Year 7 students at the main school, and our current students spent three days with next year's class and pastoral team to get them ready for this change. Students at Horizons were joined by the new Year 12 students too, who are taking part in an extended transition over two weeks.

Classes took part in group activities and lessons to get to know each other better and experience what it's like to be in a different year group. It was brilliant to see the kindness our current students have shown to welcome our newest members of our community. Through these transition activities, we hope that students and families feel more confident about their next steps. Our Family Support team is always available if you need any extra support or resources to further prepare.

Mobile Phones in School

You may have seen updates in the news recently regarding mobile phone usage in school and changes in the law. Derby City school leaders have become increasingly concerned by the negative impact of smartphone use by children in our schools. We welcome the actions of the government to increase online safety for the young people in our care.

As many of you will know, the government has already introduced an outright ban on phones in schools and, from September, schools will be legally required to have a phone free school day for students. This is being implemented through the Children's Wellbeing and School Bill 2026.

This means that there is no need for your child to have a smartphone; in fact, in every school in Derby City, they will not be permitted to use it during the school day. Please see the attached posted for the rules of use of mobile phones at St Martins School and we value your support through this time.

End of Year Progress Report and Parent Carer Evening

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 have been given copies of their End of Year Reports ahead of Parent Carer Evening on Tuesday 14th July. Please get in touch with your child's Pastoral Team if you have not received a copy of the report. We hope that you find this progress report a useful reflection of the past year.

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT
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National Year of Reading – July Focus

On Monday 13th July, students will be taking part in our July Year of Reading focus during their English lessons.

This month, we will be celebrating everything our students have achieved throughout the Year of Reading. Lessons will give students the opportunity to share books they have enjoyed, reflect on their favourite reading experiences, and take part in activities that celebrate reading for pleasure. The focus will be on recognising participation, building confidence, and reinforcing that every reading journey is unique.

As we come to the end of the school year, we will also be sending home our August Summer Reading Challenge. This optional challenge is designed to encourage students to continue enjoying reading over the summer holidays in a way that suits them. Whether they choose to read a book, comic, magazine, recipe, instructions, or listen to an audiobook, every reading experience counts.

We hope families will enjoy taking part together and help us continue to foster a lifelong love of reading beyond the classroom.

MartinFest – Wristbands

Wristbands are available to purchase via ParentPay until Wednesday 15th July. If you do not have a ParentPay account, please contact the school office.

Wristbands cost £3 each, or 2 for £5, with up to 2 Parent Carers/Family Members per family able to attend – pre-school age siblings are able to attend too and won't require a wristband. Students do not need to purchase a wristband for this day. *Wristbands will not be available on the day. Please do not turn up without a wristband as you will not be able to take part.*

With best wishes,



Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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MOBILE PHONE USAGE AT ST MARTINS

A MOBILE PHONE-FREE SCHOOL DAY

OUR DAILY EXPECTATIONS



HAND IT IN

Students must hand their phone to their Pastoral Teacher at the start of the day.



SAFE STORAGE

Phones are securely stored by the Pastoral Team throughout the school day.



RETURNED

Phones are returned to students at the end of the school day.



Failure to hand in a phone or being caught with a phone during the school day will result in parents/carers being contacted immediately and further sanctions may be applied.

PARENTS & CARERS:

YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE



Please support our policy at home by discussing the risks of mobile phone use and the benefits of a phone-free environment.



If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the School Office.



If your child needs to contact home, this will be facilitated by a member of our staff team.



Questions or concerns? We're here to help and will always explain our approach.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS



We recognise that some students may need adaptations due to a disability, medical condition or other exceptional circumstances.

Where a mobile phone is required, we will agree specific arrangements so it can be used only for its intended purpose, at agreed times and locations.

This does not mean unrestricted access during the school day.

SEARCHES



Staff authorised by the Headteacher have the legal power to search students or their possessions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the possession of prohibited items.

Mobile phones are identified as an item that may be searched for in our Behaviour Policy.

All searches will be conducted lawfully, proportionately and in line with national guidance.

ON TRIPS & EDUCATIONAL VISITS



The use of mobile phones and other devices on trips will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account:

- ✓ the nature of the visit
- ✓ safeguarding considerations
- ✓ communication requirements
- ✓ the educational aims of the trip

Expectations will be shared in advance.



THIS IS NOT NEW AT ST MARTINS

These expectations have long been in place, and the vast majority of our students successfully meet them every day. The 2026 government guidance reinforces the positive impact of a mobile phone-free school day.



Supporting learning.
Protecting wellbeing.
Building a positive
school community.



WE LEARN



WE RESPECT



WE'RE FAMILY

Dates for your diaries:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Information</u>
Tuesday 14 th July	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Parent Carer Evening	Parent Carers invited – information has been sent home.
Friday 17 th July	Martinfest!	Parent Carers invited – information has been shared.
Tuesday 21 st July	Prize Day	Parent Carers of winners invited. Information has been home.
Wednesday 22 nd July	Students break up for Summer.	

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Term Dates 2025/2026

Summer Term 2026

School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 22nd July

INSET Day – Thursday 23rd July

Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day – Friday 4th September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Monday 7th September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23rd October

INSET Day – Monday 2nd November

School Starts Back – Tuesday 3rd November

INSET Day – Friday 27th November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 4th January 2027

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 12th February

School Starts Back – Monday 22nd February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 25th March

Summer Term 2027

School Starts Back – Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May

INSET Day – Tuesday 4th May

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 28th May

School Starts Back – Monday 7th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 23rd July

INSET Day – Monday 26th 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](#)

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