

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parent Carers,

**Weekly Update: 15/02/24**

I hope this update finds you well. We are now officially half way through the school year with the end of Spring Term 1 today. I find that the school year is a journey with different "ups and downs", and opportunities for growth and learning. You will see in this week's update that we have focussed on the results of our recent Parental Survey. Through these results, I hope that you will see how we are happy to receive and act on the feedback that you give us, working on the "downs" and celebrating the "ups", as we strive to make St Martins the best that it can be.

**Shaw Education Trust – Parental Survey - You said, We did...**

***I would recommend this school to another parent*** - 97% of you said you would recommend St Martins to another parent. We are extremely proud of our school. There are always things that we can improve on, and trends we would like to address... here is how we are doing this.

***My child is making good progress at school*** – Many felt that their child was making good progress at school but some have raised questions about the EFL app.

We recognise that there are ongoing technical issues with the use of EFL, which we are currently exploring. We will continue to use this as an interim measure whilst we identify systems that are more efficient. We will also be viewing the way that we report home around progress with the hope that we can do this more readily on a regular basis throughout the year.

We believe that progress should be personalised rather than age related. An ongoing project is to design a reporting framework that gives families information on effort, attainment and attitudes, with an indicator of progress made within these areas that link in to the expectations of the child – aligned to their individual EHCP outcomes.

***My child is taught well at their school*** – A high proportion felt their child is taught well at school. However, some of you raised that you didn't know what your child was being taught. We are looking at how overviews are sent home, and will create an internal system to ensure that curriculum overviews are sent home regularly. Moving forward, copies of overviews will be on the website every half term.

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive 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)

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***I feel well supported by school regarding my child's needs.*** – Most felt well supported by school, however some were unsure. In recent years, we have aligned our Family Support alongside our pastoral teams in school. This work will continue to be developed. We are looking forward to sharing more about the work of our fantastic Family Support team and what they are able to support; alongside the way we are developing pastoral support via our class teams.

***My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.*** – We were delighted to read one of your comments – “Full support in every possible way”. We are proud of our staff team and the commitment that they show to Shape Successful Futures for our students.

***The school deals effectively with bullying.*** – 93% agreed with this, and a small number didn't know. In some cases, behaviour may be a reaction or a response to a need that is not being met. In these cases, we work as a team collaborating with families to identify next steps to avoid a situation from getting worse and to help the young person regulate positively – we would not view this as bullying.

In cases where behaviour is identified as bullying behaviour, both sets of Parent Carers are notified and triggers changes to Positive Support Behaviour Plans and a review of what is in place. At St Martins, we prefer to deal with things at the earliest stage to avoid escalation. We value working in partnership with families and working as a team around the individuals. If you ever have concerns or worries, we welcome your feedback.

***The school has high expectations for my child.*** – 100% agreed with this and gave us some wonderful feedback “I feel that the school has high expectations and they are in good hands...”, “always looking to the future...”. We are proud of our curriculum and the range of subjects and experiences that our young people have in school; including residentials, regular visits, work related activities in the café and in the surrounding community. Every decision centres on our aspiration of ‘Shaping Successful Futures’, for all our young people.

***The school supports my child's wider personal development.*** Most of you agreed with this. Students are able to engage in extracurricular activities during the day and after school where appropriate. Schools are facing a national recruitment difficulty, and we are thankful to have recently been able to employ new Learning Mentors to reengage students in outdoor learning and outdoor education opportunities.

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We are proud of our team and always expect the highest standards – only the best is good enough! We support our staff to develop their careers and celebrate their achievements, which can result in a few staff moving on to promoted posts, which can mean it takes time to find the right replacements. Students may miss out on additional Wellbeing Support for a time whilst we search for an excellent replacement. Another Learning Mentor is due to join our team after half term, and we can't wait for them to start.

***The school is really good at.*** Thank you for your encouraging and positive feedback...

- "Trying different solutions until they find one that works."
- "Helping my child realise they can achieve what they want to."
- "Having an accessible Family Support team."
- "Looking after my child and preparing them for life."

I trust that you have found our survey results of interest and encourage you to keep engaging in opportunities to feed-back your thoughts and ideas.

I look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Wishing you a restful half term,



**Sabrina Hobbs**  
**Executive Headteacher**

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## **Term Dates for Academic Year 2023/2024**

### **Autumn Term**

INSET Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

School Starts for the new Academic Year – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

School Starts Back – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November

School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### **Spring Term**

School Starts Back – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February

INSET Day – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

School Starts Back – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

School Breaks up for Easter – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term**

INSET Day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

School Starts Back – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

School Starts Back – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

INSET Day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July

School Breaks up for Summer – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</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/#>

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