

16th February 2023

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 16/02/23

This half term seems to have sped past, and the students and staff are ready for a well-deserved break. As a reminder, school is closed to students on Friday 17th February (tomorrow) for an INSET Day.

Goodbyes

As the half term ends, it is time for us to say goodbye to Howard Dodds. Howard has worked at St Martins since 2014, first starting as a Teaching Assistant and then becoming an Outdoor Education Instructor. Howard is moving to work at Kingsmead School's new outdoor education provision at Darley Barn, and we wish him success in this exciting new role.

Finally, we say goodbye to one of our wonderful kitchen staff, Theresa, upon her retirement. Teresa has worked at Noel Baker Academy for 33 years, and has been part of the team serving our students for a long time. We thank Theresa for her wonderful service to our school family, in providing us with many hot dinners and delicious puddings. We wish Theresa a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

Industrial Action

I wanted to make you aware that Industrial Action by the NEU is currently planned to take place on Wednesday 1st, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

Please be assured that as a special school, St Martins will remain open to our community of vulnerable young people, however, the school day will look different as the number of teaching staff working may be limited. Student groups could be merged, and students are likely not to follow their usual timetable or curriculum offer. Managing and maintaining safeguarding and the health and safety of students and staff will be our main priority. This follows government advice and guidance from the Shaw Education Trust.

We understand that some of our young people will find the changes to their school routine challenging and so you may prefer to keep your young person at home for the day.

We will write to you after the half term break when we have more information. Thank you for your support with this.

Sabrina Hobbs **Principal**

St Martins School, The Derwent Campus, Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0BT
Tel: 01332 571151 **Email:** admin@stmartins.derby.sch.uk **Online:** www.stmartinsschoolderby.co.uk

Food Technology

The successful delivery of food technology at St Martins School is hugely dependent on motivational and challenging lessons that provide our students with valuable life skills for a successful future. Within food technology lessons, students prepare and make a range of items including cakes, main meals and other delicious snacks. In order to continue to develop the provision, and with rising food costs, we would appreciate your support with a £10 contribution. This contribution can be made when your child accesses food technology, every other half term (three times per year).

Payments can be made via ParentPay from Monday 27th February, if you have any questions, please contact your child's pastoral team. We appreciate your support and will continue to provide the students with valuable life experiences during their food technology lessons.

Half Term Sports Fest at Derby Arena

Derby Arena are hosting a day of free sporting activities on Thursday 23rd February. A poster with information on the day is attached. More details can be found on their website: <https://www.derbyarena.co.uk/events-and-corporate/whats-on/arena-sport-fest/>

It is great to know that more inclusive opportunities are opening up to our community of young people and hope that your family can go along and enjoy time together, particularly during the school holidays.

Please let us know if you would like further support during the school holidays and we will do our best to sign post where help is available.

Have a fantastic half term break!

With best wishes,



Sabrina Hobbs
Principal

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2022/2023

Spring Term

School Starts Back – Monday 9th January 2023

School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 16th February

INSET Day – Friday 17th February

School Starts Back – Monday 27th February

School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 31st March

Summer Term

INSET Day – Monday 17th April

School Starts Back – Tuesday 18th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 26th May

School Starts Back – Monday 5th June

INSET Day – Monday 26th June

School Breaks up for Summer – Friday 21st July

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Derby SPORT FEST

**FREE
EVENT**

THURSDAY

23 9AM
—
4PM

FEBRUARY

**DERBY
ARENA**

ROYAL WAY, DERBY

01332 640 011

- Football for all ages • Family Track Circuits
- Open Track Tasters • First Pedal • Balance Bikes • Short Tennis
- Pickleball • Badminton • Table Tennis • Trailblazers Basketball
- Derbyshire Cricket • Stalls