



20th March 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 20/03/26

I hope this update finds you well. As Eid ul-Fitr begins, we would like to wish all members of our school community who are celebrating a joyful and peaceful Eid. We hope you enjoy a wonderful time marking this special occasion with your family and friends.

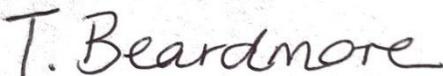
This week's update has a focus on Transitions across the school – from the start of the journey at St Martins to next steps into 6th Form and further education provisions. We hope you find this information helpful.

Safeguarding and Family Support

Ahead of next week's Family Support information update, I wanted to share some news with you regarding the team. Jess Longhurst, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, is moving on from St Martins after Easter to take up a new role with Derby City Council. Jess's replacement will start on Monday 1st June.

In the meanwhile, the Family Support Team – Marie Chadwick and Monika Wood, will continue their work to support students and families across the school. I will be working closely with the Safeguarding Team to ensure that we continue to provide the best support that we can. If you have any concerns or queries, please get in touch.

With best wishes,



Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

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SENCO UPDATE



TRANSITIONS ACROSS THE SCHOOL

It has been a very busy and exciting time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they continue their Annual Reviews and prepare for their next steps. Thank you to all staff for your hard work and support throughout this important transition period. We have seen a large number of visits, successful interviews and fantastic opportunities emerging for our young people. Several students already have confirmed places, while others are currently awaiting results or final confirmation.

Our learners will be moving on to a wonderful range of destinations, including Horizons 6th Form, Leesbrook, Derby College, T2 and YMCA, with courses such as Animal Care, Hospitality & Catering, Sport and Hair & Beauty. Students have shown exceptional effort in preparing for this next stage, and we are incredibly proud of the determination and maturity they have demonstrated. A huge thank you goes to Hayley Dexter, who has been supporting students and families throughout the entire process behind the scenes.



We are also pleased to welcome Hannah, who will be working with us during the Summer term and into the next academic year to support transition as part of her role in school as Preparing for Adulthood Adviser. Hannah will get to know all Year 11 and Year 13 students and help them with additional visits, open days and discussions about their thoughts and feelings around the big move. She will also be working with Year 9 students as they prepare for their transition into KS4, introducing them to different Options activities and supporting them in understanding how to be ready and confident for the changes ahead.

TRANSITIONS ACROSS SCHOOL



For our current Year 9s, annual reviews will take place after Easter during the Summer term. This timing allows us to have meaningful conversations about KS4 and the Options available. An Options Evening for parents and carers of Year 9 and Year 10 will take place on 12th May, providing an opportunity to explore Friday Options pathways. In addition, an Options Day will be held on 8th May, where students will experience a variety of Options sessions to support them in identifying their interests and making informed choices.

Transition is also well underway for our incoming Year 6 students. We were delighted to host our first open evening this week, with another planned for April. This is always an exciting time filled with anticipation, a few nerves, and lots of support as families begin their journey with us. Our whole-school moving up days will take place on 7th, 8th and 9th July, giving students the opportunity to spend time in their new class groups with their teacher and teaching assistant. More information will follow after Easter.



Finally, I would like to share that I will be going on maternity leave at the end of this academic year. A member of staff will be stepping into the Deputy SENCO role during this time to support the school and the wellbeing team. I wanted to make you aware in advance, especially if you feel you may need support during the Summer term before I finish.



Yours sincerely,
Heather Woodward,
Assistant
Headteacher and
SENCO



Thank you, as always, for your ongoing dedication and support. We are incredibly fortunate to work within such a fantastic school community.

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 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](#) Instagram - [St. Martins School Instagram](#)

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