

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 23/10/26

I hope this update finds you well. The first half term of this academic year has flown by, and today we are breaking up for a well-deserved rest!

This half term has provided additional challenges to the school, as I have not been able to be here due to having emergency surgery a few weeks ago. I want to thank the staff team for their hard work in making sure that the school ran smoothly and still focussed on our vision of 'Shaping Successful Futures' for our students. I also want to thank our students for their hard work and resilience and how they have settled into their new classes and routines. Thank you to our wider school community too, for your kindness and support.

Mini Monster Marathon and Creepy Crafts

Thank you to all who took part in the Creepy Crafts and the Mini Monster Marathon on Wednesday – it was great to see so many Parent Carers take part in activities and in dressing up too! We hope that you enjoyed taking part with your child/young person.

So far, we have raised over £700 through tickets and sponsorship money which will go towards MartinFest 2027! Please hand any sponsorship money in to Terrie by Friday 6th November.

Visitors from Osnabrück

The Youth Parliament of Osnabrück visited St Martins today, talking to the Key Stage 4 students in assembly and touring the school. Osnabrück is twinned with Derby, and the cities often host reciprocal visits. They learnt about different subjects we offer and were very impressed with the talent of our students. We exchanged gifts and have promised to continue to strengthen the links



between Derby and Osnabrück. It was great for our students to meet and chat with the visitors who left saying how great our school is. Thank you, Osnabrück Youth Parliament! Our Head Students, Joel and Sonny are pictured with our visitors today.

Toni Beardmore Headteacher

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October Reading Focus

We are continuing to follow the National Year of Reading in school, and have focussed this month on 'Reading Together'. Students have been able to take part in reading activities in school where their class has joined another to share books, read aloud and enjoy stories together. We hope that you are able to continue this at home over the half term break, and beyond!

Beyond-16 event at Friar Gate Studios

Students in Year 9-11 are invited to attend a Beyond-16 event on Tuesday 10th November from 4:30pm-7:30pm with various colleges and other service providers in attendance – including our own team from Horizons 6th Form. More information is on the poster further in the update.

Reminder about Escooters

The Derwent Campus of St Martins School and Noel-Baker Academy does not permit the riding of escooters on the school site. If arriving at school on an escooter, please walk with the scooter until exiting the school site.

Tempest School Photographs

Students have brought their proofs home this week. Please use the proof to purchase photographs via Tempest's website. Photographs ordered by 2nd November can be delivered to school free of charge.

I look forward to welcoming all students back to school after the Half Term on Tuesday 3rd November.

With best wishes for a relaxing and refreshing half term,



Toni Beardmore
Headteacher

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National Year of Reading 2026

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER



OCTOBER FOCUS : READING TOGETHER

STUDENTS WILL TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER CLASS TO SHARE STORIES, EXPLORE BOOKS AND ENJOY READING EXPERIENCES TOGETHER!

- ✨ Team Up! Join your allocated partner class.
- 📖 Share a Story! Choose a book or story everyone can enjoy together.
- 😊 Get Involved! Take part through reading, listening, acting and sensory experiences.
- 💭 Reflect Together! Share favourite moments, characters and events from the story.



BEYOND 16

WHAT'S NEXT?

PATHWAYS, POSSIBILITIES AND SUPPORT

YOUR
FUTURE
STARTS
HERE

 **GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
YEAR 9 PLUS WITH AN EHCP**

**Not sure what comes
after school? Start here.**

Come and meet colleges, universities
and support services that can help
you explore your options for life
after Year 11.

EXPLORE:



College and
training opportunities



Supported internships



Travel training and
independence skills



Money and
benefits advice



Housing and
support services



Meet real people
who can help



SHORT TALKS THROUGHOUT THE EVENING

Hear from experts on topics like:

- ✓ Supported Internships
- ✓ College Pathways
- ✓ Health Services
- ✓ Social Care & Preparing for Adulthood



SIGN UP ON ARRIVAL!



GLOW & GROW CAFÉ

Enjoy free drinks and cakes
made and served by young
people with support from
Transition2.



**TUESDAY
10TH NOVEMBER**



4:30PM – 7:30PM
Drop in between



**FRIAR GATE
STUDIOS, DERBY**



FREE TO ATTEND



DerbyPromise

Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

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](#)

Toni Beardmore **Headteacher**

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