

28th June 2024

Dear Parent Carers,

Weekly Update: 28/06/24

I hope this update finds you well. There has been lots of excitement in school over the past couple of weeks, with our whole-school visit to Spring Lakes, the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly this morning, as well as students finding out this afternoon who their pastoral staff will be next year ahead of our Transition Days next week.

Spring Lakes

We had a fantastic day at Spring Lakes last week – the weather was perfect, and the students enjoyed their activities and lunch! Students took part in a range of activities including the Aqua Park, Paddle boarding, Pedalos and time on the beach. It was a great Personal Development opportunity for students to practise skills of teamwork, social skills and resilience, with a chance to try new things.

Our school visit was the biggest group that Spring Lakes have ever hosted, and their staff complimented the students on how polite they were, as well as their tidiness. We really pleased to hear this, and I hope you are as well. Thank you for supporting us with completing the waivers, we appreciate that it wasn't as straightforward as we would have liked!

Here are some quotes from students:

- Jaydan B in Year 8 – "Let's go again!"
- Amrit in Year 9 – "It was good because I had fun. I felt like it was fun to spend time with the year 9s before we move to Key Stage 4."
- Castiel in Year 7 – "5 Stars!"
- Roman in Year 7 – "Best Day ever!"
- Hadley in Year 9 – "I liked sunbathing on the beach with my pillow!"
- Martha in Year 10 – "I thought the pedalos were really nostalgic!"
- Jorjamae in Year 10 – "Great place to go with the family."
- Thomas in Year 10 – "I loved the pedalos and would like to go again."

- Horizons Students –
 - "I really enjoyed it because it was lots of fun and there was loads to do"
 - "To me, paddle boarding was the most peaceful water activity."

Some photographs of our day out are on the next page...

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive Headteacher**

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Leavers

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students had their last 'official' day with us today and are moving on to a range of destinations.

- Year 11s are moving up to Horizons 6th Form, Derby College, Holbrook School, Lees Brook Skills Academy and Portland College.
- Year 13s are going on to Derby College, Transition2, Elite Training, and our supported internship programme, Project SEARCH, at the Royal Derby Hospital.

We wish our leavers the very best for this next stage in their journey. At St Martins, we work together to Shape Successful Futures with our students, and I am confident that they will go from strength to strength in their new settings and steps in their adulthood.

I would like to thank the families of our leavers today – we've been on this journey together for a while, and your ongoing support and collaboration has been appreciated over the years.

Transition Days

This afternoon, students found out who their Teacher and pastoral staff will be next year. Next week, we are having three transition days on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and students will spend time with their new staff on these days to get to know each other and learn about what next year will look like. Our new Year 7 students will also join us on these days so that they can start their transition into secondary school.

Parent Carer Survey

If you haven't already, please could you complete the Shaw Education Trust parental survey. Your views are important to the Trust and the school and we are keen to hear your thoughts on what we do well, and what we can improve on.

There is a prize draw for completing the survey! Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SpecialSchoolParentSurveyTerm32024>

INSET Day on Monday

Don't forget that it's INSET Day on Monday 1st July – school will be closed on this day and reopen again on Tuesday 2nd July.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabrina Hobbs'.

Sabrina Hobbs
Executive Headteacher

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Term Dates for Academic Year 2023/2024

Summer Term

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 24th May
School Starts Back – Monday 3rd June
INSET Day – Monday 1st July
School Breaks up for Summer – Tuesday 23rd July

Term Dates for Academic Year 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

INSET Day – Wednesday 4th September
School Starts for the new Academic Year – Thursday 5th September
School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 25th October
INSET Day – Monday 4th November
School Starts Back – Tuesday 5th November
School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2025

School Starts Back – Monday 6th January 2025
School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 13th February
INSET Day – Friday 14th February
School Starts Back – Monday 24th February
School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Bank Holiday – Monday 21st April
INSET Day – Tuesday 22nd April
School Starts Back – Wednesday 23rd April
Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May
School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23rd May
School Starts Back – Monday 2nd June
School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 23rd July
INSET Day – Thursday 24th 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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