

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of the staff and Governors at St Martins. Let's hope it is brighter as we move towards having a vaccine for COVID and the pandemic begins to subside.

I also want to set out our current plans for school under the latest Government guidance.

These plans are subject to change as the education landscape moves, Government advice alters and advice from Unions to their members evolves.

St Martins will be open to all students from tomorrow, where provision can be safely staffed. We will tighten our bubble arrangements so that each pastoral group will stay with the same staff across all Key Stages. This is to keep everyone as safe as we can. We will continue to follow all Government guidance. Routines for hand washing, wearing masks in communal areas and social distancing where possible, are all familiar parts of the students' routines and these will continue. Safety for all remains paramount.

When we cannot staff the pastoral bubble adequately, due to staff absence, students in the class will be put on a rota to attend school and will be provided with home learning. You will be informed directly by school staff if this is the case for your child. Our aim is to educate as many students as we can, safely, within our school. I am committed to this.

All off site trips and visits will be cancelled whilst Derby is in Tier 4. We will be making the most of our outdoor learning space within the school site.

If students are struggling and becoming dysregulated, staff will work with them as usual to calm and settle them. If this is not possible I will be asking that they come home until they can return and keep the rules we have in place. This is for everyone's safety.



Debbie Gerring **Headteacher**

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

The team here are working hard to set up in school testing arrangements for those students and staff who would like to be tested. The testing is voluntary and I will send more details, including consent forms, as our plans progress. The testing does not replace the usual test needed if your child has symptoms. The following advice still applies -

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **they must not come to school** and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Please contact the school as soon as possible to let us know if your child is remaining at home due to having symptoms or if another member of your household has symptoms.

If your child or another member of your household has a test for COVID-19, please inform the school as soon as possible when a test has been arranged and when the results have been received.

You can telephone the school on 01332 571151 or send an email to admin@stmartins.derby.sch.uk.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature of 37.8 or above
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>


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If your child is shielding or will not be attending school whilst Derby is in Tier 4, please contact the School Office. I will be authorising such absences and we will work with you towards what is best for your child.

If you have any queries please get in touch with myself or your child's pastoral team. As usual, we will find our way through this challenging time together. I thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Gerring'.

Debbie Gerring
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Howe'.

Jeff Howe
Chair of Academy Council



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