

Year 8 Newsletter

Issue 2 - February 2026



The Sutton Academy



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read this Year 8 newsletter. We greatly value the continued support of our parents and carers, and we appreciate you staying connected with all that our students are achieving.

It was a real privilege to watch our Year 8 students recently taking part in the annual dance show. The event was truly outstanding and a wonderful celebration of talent, commitment and confidence. Our students performed with energy and pride, supporting one another every step of the way.

The evening was a powerful reminder of our core academy values, particularly the importance of being part of a community. The sense of unity and shared success throughout the event reflected exactly what we strive to nurture in our Year 8 cohort.

Achievement

Congratulations to Molly-Rae.J who received Student of the Month for January.

Molly-Rae. J. has been selected as Student of the Month for her outstanding commitment and positive contribution to the academy. She achieved excellent attendance throughout January and was our top student for attitude to learning and positive points, consistently demonstrating focus and enthusiasm. Molly-Rae is also a supportive and valued member of the academy community, always willing to help staff and support others, making her a fantastic role model for her peers.

Each week, students in Year 8 have the opportunity to earn rewards for meeting a range of different criteria, including effort, attendance, positive behaviour and demonstrating our academy values. We are proud to celebrate their achievements in a variety of ways. Recent rewards have included a £20 cinema voucher, chocolate treats, breakfast for a tutor group and donut rewards. This half term, the prizes are even more exciting: students can win a Greggs voucher, a sweet jar, a chocolate reward, breakfast for their tutor group, or even the star prize of a laptop. Please do speak to your child about how they can work towards winning each of these prizes and continue to encourage them at home to make the most of these fantastic opportunities.

Mr Hughes



Achievement Leader

Mrs Boylan



Head of Year

Mrs Critchley
KS3
Head of Year



Breakfast
TREAT

WINNER

Student of the Month



Assessment Focus



As an Achievement Leader, I am incredibly proud of the way our students have conducted themselves during their recent formal examinations. They approached this important period with maturity, focus, and determination, demonstrating not only their academic commitment but also the very best of our academy values. Their behaviour throughout was impeccable; they showed respect for one another, supported their peers with kindness, and represented the academy with real integrity. It was a pleasure to see them rise to the occasion in such a responsible and positive manner.

Find us here:

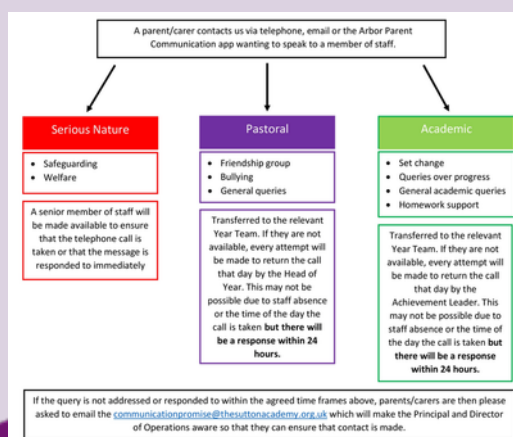


Communication with parents

At the academy, we see the relationship between home and education as paramount. We are aware that there are a number of reasons that parents and carers would want to contact staff at the academy.

The Sutton Academy is an organisation with a large number of staff and students and so we want to ensure that there is clarity on how to contact certain staff and what the expectations are on our 'communication promise' to you in terms of responding. We appreciate that at times parents/carers may request a face-to-face meeting with staff. We will always endeavour to facilitate parental meetings; however, we cannot guarantee this if a parent/carer arrives at reception without an appointment. This is because staff have a range of duties and commitments that cannot be covered at short notice.

If a parent/carer arrives at reception without an appointment, they will be able to leave their details and an appointment will be made with the relevant Year Team for a later date. In the case of a serious safeguarding issue, a member of the safeguarding team will be made available immediately. The promise is related to telephone contact made or by messages sent in via email or the Arbor app. We understand that some parents/carers will contact staff direct via email but unfortunately, we cannot monitor when or how these are responded to, and so we advise that if you have any concerns to click on the image below.



Home Learning Focus

In my role as Achievement Leader, I have addressed the year group to emphasise how important homework is in strengthening their learning and extending their understanding in each subject area. Regular completion of homework not only reinforces what has been taught in lessons but also helps students to develop independence and resilience in their studies. We would be grateful for your ongoing support in encouraging your child to approach their homework with care and commitment. Should you encounter any concerns regarding home learning, or if your child would benefit from further guidance, please contact the Year Team who will be pleased to assist.

As a reminder, our expectations for Year 8 home learning and revision are as follows:

- 30 minutes of English – Sparx Reader
- 30 minutes of Maths – Sparx Maths
- 30 minutes of Science
- 30 minutes of History, Geography, Religious Education, or Spanish
- 30 minutes of RE, Music and Technology – every 2 weeks
- PE and Computer Science - Termly

As a reminder, all home learning tasks are set and accessible via the Class Charts platform. If you require your login details or support accessing Class Charts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Trips and events

Dates for your diary: our Year 8 Partnership Evening will take place on **Thursday 7th May**. This event provides a valuable opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss how they have settled into the academy and their progress in lessons. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend.

Year 8 students will be participating in our annual Rock Night, taking place on **Wednesday 25th March**. Ticket details will be communicated to parents and carers nearer the time.

Aspirations

As part of our Ready to Learn programme, students explore careers and future aspirations. Within this, students are currently focusing on target setting, broadening their horizons and thinking about their aspirations for their future.

Through this work, students are asked to consider their own strengths, what matters most to them, the role models who inspire them, and the possible routes they could take post-16. We would really appreciate your support in having a conversation with your child about their hopes and aspirations for the future.

As a school, we will continue to do all we can to guide and support students in working towards their goals.

Reading Spotlight



During Ready To Learn this half term, students have been reading 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins. Please speak to your child about the novel and the themes within it.

For reading at home, please continue to encourage your child to use Sparx Reader regularly. In addition, we would love to see students reading for enjoyment as well. Students are able to borrow books from the academy library to support their reading at home. Reading not only helps to develop vocabulary and improve academic outcomes, but also provides students with an opportunity to relax and unwind.

Congratulations to the following students who scored the most points for Sparx Reader in January...

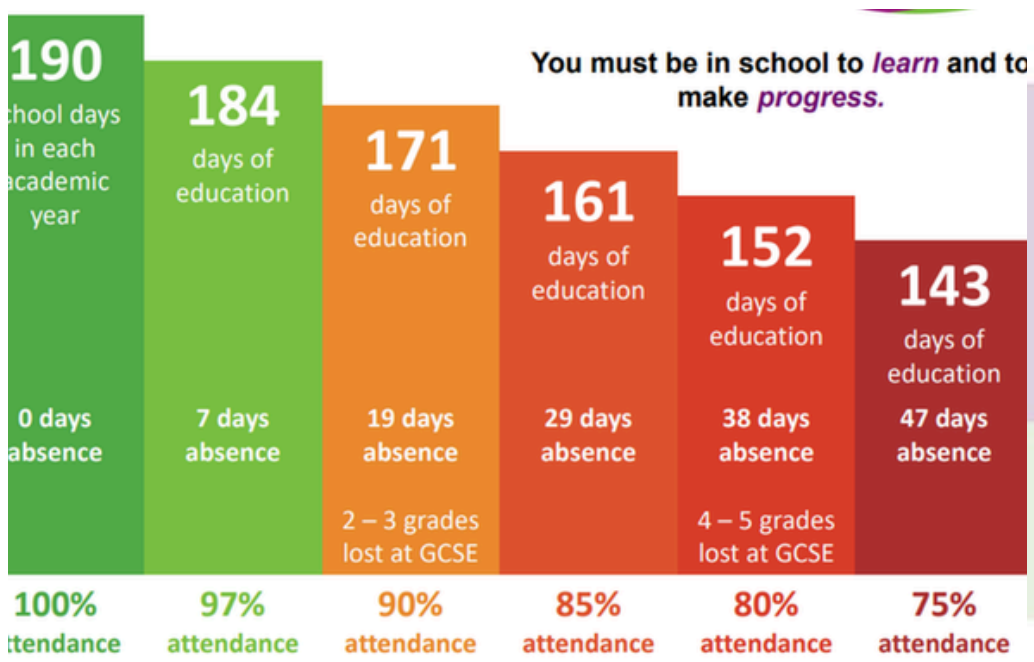
- 3rd – Bates. M – 2822 points
- 2nd – Mayar. A – 3504 points
- 1st – Alice B.S – 4028 points



Attendance Matters

As always, one of our main priorities is student attendance to school. We strive that all students achieve 96% and above and work hard with them to achieve this. Your support in getting your child to school each day is imperative – thank you for your continued efforts with this.

Poor attendance can result in poor outcomes for your child. Please see the bar chart below at the impact that poor attendance can have on your child's GCSE results.



Enrichment

The Sutton Academy provides a diverse and inspiring extra-curricular programme, designed to engage students and broaden their experiences. Alongside a wide range of sporting clubs, students can also access a variety of subject-focused sessions that take place each week.

There are two significant advantages to participating in extra-curricular activities. Firstly, catch-up and revision sessions offer valuable academic support. They provide students with the opportunity to revisit learning, secure a deeper understanding of key concepts, and receive guidance with coursework, helping them to stay on track and achieve their full potential.

Secondly, involvement in extra-curricular activities allows students to develop important life skills beyond the classroom. By exploring new interests and challenges, they build confidence, teamwork, leadership, and resilience – qualities that are highly valued by colleges, universities, and future employers.

I recently encouraged Year 8 students to set themselves a goal of joining at least one club this year, as a positive step towards broadening their experiences.

Please support us by encouraging your child to participate in one or more of these opportunities. The full extra-curricular timetable is available via the link on our website.



A few photographs from this year's Dance show 'Boogie Wonderland'