

Year 8 Newsletter

Issue 3 - April 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.

Recently the music department held their annual Rock Night which was an incredible success, showcasing the outstanding talent within the academy. The students were truly fantastic, delivering energetic and polished performances that reflected their hard work and dedication. A special mention must go to the Year 8 students who took part they were absolutely amazing. It was inspiring to see them perform with such confidence, embracing the stage with real passion and enthusiasm for music. Their enjoyment was clear to everyone watching, and it created a vibrant, uplifting atmosphere throughout the evening. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the event, responding with excitement and support, making it a memorable night for all involved.

Achievement

Congratulations to James. C who received Student of the Month for March.

James has been proudly nominated by the Year Team for Student of the Month for Year 8 in recognition of his outstanding achievements throughout February. James earned an impressive 180 positive points over the course of the month, with no negative points. James has maintained 100% attendance, demonstrating his commitment to his education. James is always polite, well-mannered and respectful to both staff and fellow students, James consistently sets a fantastic example. He is a valued and respected member of the Year 8 community and this nomination is thoroughly well deserved.



**REWARDS &
RECOGNITION**
at The Sutton Academy

Celebrating effort, character and success – together

Each week, Year 8 students have the chance to earn rewards by meeting a variety of criteria, including strong effort, excellent attendance, positive behaviour and demonstrating our academy values. We are delighted to recognise and celebrate their achievements in a range of ways. Recent rewards have included a £20 cinema voucher, chocolate treats, breakfast for a tutor group and doughnut rewards. This half term, the incentives are just as exciting, with prizes such as a £30 family entertainment voucher, chocolate hampers, Krispy Kreme treats, lunch jump queue passes, or a cookie. We encourage you to talk with your child about how they can work towards these rewards and to continue supporting them at home to make the most of these fantastic opportunities.

WINNER

Student of the Month



Assessment Focus



I have been incredibly proud of the Year 8 cohort and the commitment they have shown towards their learning, particularly in the way they have prepared for each round of tracking assessments. Students have demonstrated a positive attitude to revision and have worked hard to ensure they are ready to perform at their best. As we approach the end of the term, students will now be gearing up for their final round of tracking assessments, which will take place in the week beginning 1st June. It is important that they continue to build on their efforts, and we encourage you to support your child at home by helping them to revise and prepare effectively. Further information on revision strategies and support will be shared with students at the end of May and will also be sent out to parents.

Mr Hughes



**Achievement
Leader**

Mrs Boylan



Head of Year

Mrs Critchley
KS3
Head of Year



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 following link.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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. However, there are still a number of students within the year group who continue to receive negative points due to a lack of organisation and not completing homework on time. It is important to stress that completing homework is essential in preparing students for Key Stage 4, where meeting coursework deadlines is a vital part of success. We would be grateful for your ongoing support in encouraging your child to approach their homework with care, organisation 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.

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 the future.

In addition, during this half term, students in Year 8 will be developing key transferable skills, including identifying their strengths, recognising areas for improvement, and building their teamwork and leadership abilities.

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 March...

3rd – Mayar. A – 2454 points
2nd – Lucas. B – 3115 points
1st – Alice B – 4004 points



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.

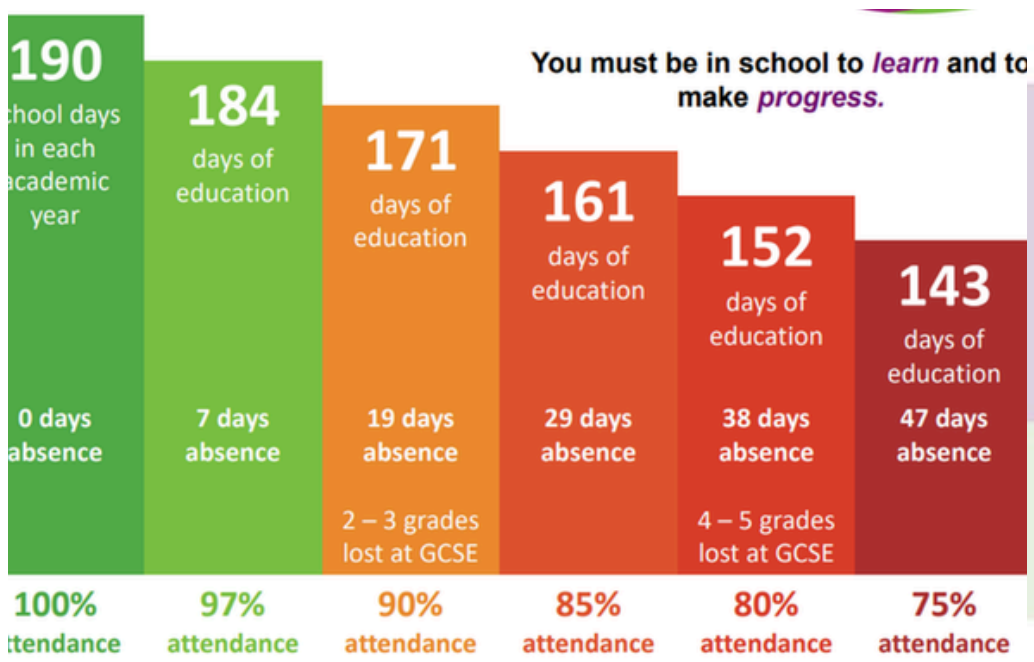
Year 8 students will be taking part in an exciting science trip to Chester Zoo as part of their current science project, providing a valuable opportunity to explore real-world applications of their learning. The trip has been scheduled across two dates: Wednesday 24th June for Band 1 students and Monday 29th June for Band 2 students.

This experience will allow students to engage with a wide range of species, habitats, and conservation efforts, helping to deepen their understanding of key scientific concepts. Further details about the trip, including arrangements and requirements, will be shared in due course.

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 and the impact that poor attendance can have on your child's GCSE results.



You must be in school to *learn* and to *make progress*.

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 our website.



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