

Year 8 Newsletter

Issue 4 - June 2026

Welcome

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to read the Year 8 newsletter and for your continued support throughout the year.

Tracking 3 end-of-year assessments began last week on 1st June. Students were provided with their Tracking 3 booklets, which included knowledge organisers, revision techniques, and a range of useful information to support their preparation and revision.

We greatly appreciated your support during this time by encouraging students to revise regularly and helping them to prepare positively for their assessments. Tracking data will be shared with parents in the last few weeks of the academy year.

Mr Hughes



Achievement Leader

Mrs Boylan



Head of Year

Mrs Critchley
KS3
Head of Year



Achievement

Congratulations to Niya. Z who received Student of the Month for March.

Niya. Z has been nominated as Year 8's Student of the Month in recognition of her outstanding attitude and achievements throughout April. With exceptional attendance, an impressive 170 positive points, and no negative points, Niya consistently demonstrates the highest standards of behaviour and commitment to school life. She is always pleasant and respectful towards all members of staff, regularly greeting them warmly and asking how their day is going. Her kindness, positivity, and constant smile make her a valued member of the school community and a wonderful role model for her peers.



REWARDS & RECOGNITION
at The Sutton Academy

Celebrating *effort*, *character* and *success* - together

Each week, Year 8 students have the opportunity to earn rewards by meeting a range of criteria, including strong effort, excellent attendance, positive behaviour, and demonstrating our academy values. We are proud to celebrate their achievements in a variety of ways.

This half term, students have been able to work towards prizes such as a £30 family gift voucher, a chocolate hamper, and Krispy Kreme treats for a tutor group.

We encourage you to talk with your child about how they can continue to earn these rewards and to support them at home in making the most of these exciting 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 prepared for each round of tracking assessments. Students demonstrated a positive attitude to revision and worked hard to ensure they were ready to perform at their best.

As we reached the end of the term, students geared up for their final round of tracking assessments, which took place in the week beginning 1st June. It was encouraging to see them build on their efforts, and we greatly appreciated the support provided at home in helping students revise and prepare effectively.

Further information on revision strategies and support was shared with students at the end of May and also sent out to parents.

Communication with parents

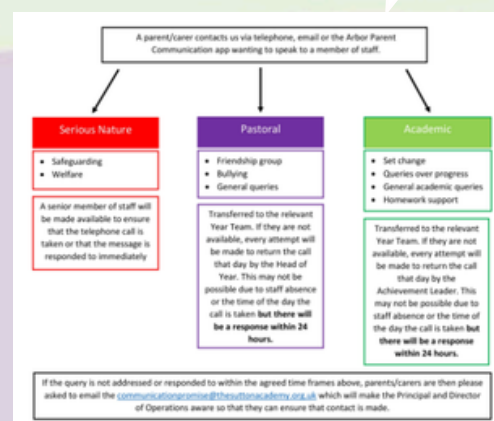
At the academy, we see the relationship between home and education as paramount. We are aware that there are a number of reasons that parents and carers would want to contact staff at the academy.

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 please follow click on the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Home Learning Focus

In my role as Achievement Leader, I have spoken to the year group about the importance of homework in reinforcing learning and deepening understanding across all subject areas. Regular completion of home learning not only consolidates knowledge from lessons but also helps students to develop independence, responsibility, and resilience in their studies.

However, there are still a number of students who are receiving negative points due to poor organisation and incomplete or late homework. It is important to emphasise that developing strong homework habits is essential preparation for Key Stage 4, where meeting deadlines and managing workload effectively are key to success. We would be very grateful for your continued support in encouraging your child to approach their home learning with consistency, care, and commitment. If you have any concerns or if your child would benefit from additional support, please contact the Year Team, who will be happy to help.

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

All home learning tasks are set and accessible via the Class Charts platform.



ClassCharts

If you require 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. Over the last term, Year 8 students have been studying transferable skills, including what they are, identifying their own strengths, improving these skills, developing communication skills, approaching teamwork effectively, and evidencing their skills.

This half term, they are continuing this work by focusing on target setting, broadening their horizons, and reflecting on their aspirations for the future. In addition, students will be developing key transferable skills such as recognising areas for improvement and further building their teamwork and leadership abilities.

Reading Spotlight



Throughout this half term's Ready to Learn sessions, students have been studying

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

We encourage parents and carers to discuss the novel with their child and engage in conversations about the important themes, characters, and ideas explored throughout the story.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support in encouraging students to use Sparx Reader regularly at home. In addition to this, we encourage all students to develop a love of reading by choosing books they enjoy. Students are welcome to borrow books from the academy library to support their reading outside of school. Reading regularly helps to build vocabulary, strengthen academic progress, and also gives students an important opportunity to relax and enjoy some quiet time.



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 also have access to a variety of subject-focused sessions that take place each week.

There are many benefits to participating in extra-curricular activities. Firstly, catch-up and revision sessions provide valuable academic support, giving students the opportunity to revisit learning, strengthen their understanding of key concepts, and receive guidance with coursework to help them achieve their full potential.

In addition, extra-curricular activities help students to develop important life skills beyond the classroom. Through exploring new interests and challenges, students build confidence, teamwork, leadership, and resilience – qualities that are highly valued by colleges, universities, and future employers.

Recently, I encouraged Year 8 students to set themselves the goal of joining at least one club this year as a positive step towards broadening their experiences and getting involved in academy life. So far, 177 Year 8 students (65.8%) have attended at least one extra-curricular club, with 8Y currently leading the year group with 22 students attending clubs regularly.

Sports Awards Golden Tickets will also be awarded after May Half Term to students who regularly attend extra-curricular PE clubs, represent the academy in sports teams, or have taken part in the school dance show.

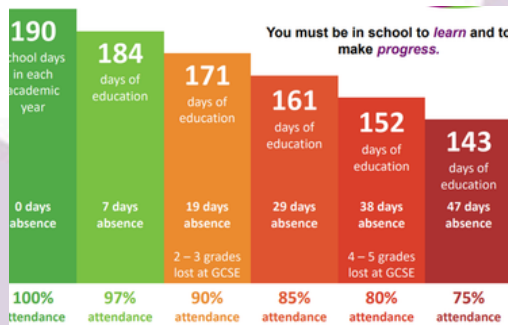
We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your child to participate in one or more of these opportunities. The full extra-curricular timetable is available via the link on our website.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

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.



EXCITING NEWS

We are delighted to announce this year's production of Sleeping Beauty, taking place on Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July. There will be 200 tickets available for each evening performance. Please note that ticket sales will close on Monday 29th June. For more information please go to Arbor pay.

The Music Department is delighted to announce its annual Summer Concert, which will take place on 23rd June 2026. This much-anticipated event showcases the incredible talent, hard work, and dedication of our students across a range of musical performances, including soloists, ensembles, and whole-group performances. Further information, including how to purchase tickets, will be sent out via Arbor Pay in due course. This is always a highlight of the school calendar and promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment, celebrating the creativity and achievements of our young musicians.

We warmly encourage parents, carers, and families not to miss this special event, as it offers a wonderful opportunity to see students perform with confidence and pride in a professional and uplifting setting.

Trips and Events

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.

