

Year 8 Newsletter

Issue 4 - January 2026



The Sutton Academy



Welcome

Happy New Year to you all, and thank you for taking the time to read our Year 8 Newsletter.

I have started the year by meeting with all students in the year group to discuss the importance of making a positive start. I have encouraged students to identify one area of their school life they would like to improve. This might include reducing behaviour points, becoming more organised with home learning, improving attendance, joining an after-school club, or reading more regularly.

I would appreciate you taking some time to sit down with your child to talk about one aspect of their learning they would like to develop further, and to agree on a simple strategy for how they will work towards achieving this goal.

Achievement

Congratulations to Archie. A who received Student of the Month for November.

Archie is a force of kindness in our academy. Always polite and well-mannered, he never hesitates to hold doors open for students and staff alike. Archie's habit of asking how your day is and genuinely caring about the answer brings warmth to our academy. His small, consistent acts of thoughtful kindness make a big difference, and we're grateful for the positivity he brings each day. Well done Archie and thank you.

As you may be aware, we also held our Christmas Celebration Assembly during the final week of term. This assembly recognised and rewarded students for their positive attitudes to learning across subject areas, strong attendance, commitment to our academy values, and excellent behaviour in school. ***Congratulations to all students who received a certificate and reward for their achievements.***

Home Learning Focus

As Achievement Leader, I have spoken to the year group about the importance of homework in supporting their learning and developing their understanding of each subject. We kindly ask that you continue to encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability. If there are any difficulties with completing home learning, or if your child requires additional support, please contact the Year Team.

As a reminder, our expectations for Year 7 home learning and revision are as follows:

- 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

Mr Hodgson (Assistant Principal) has recently written to parents and carers regarding the importance of completing home learning and has outlined our updated sanction policy for non-completion. 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.

- 30 minutes of English – Sparx Reader
- 30 minutes of Maths – Sparx Maths

WINNER

Student of the Month



Mr Hughes

Mrs Boylan



Achievement
Leader

Head of Year



Mrs Critchley
KS3
Head of Year

Find us here:

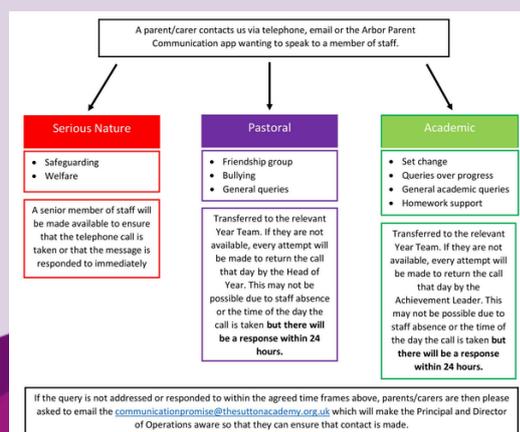


Communication with parents

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 image below.



Assessment Focus



Students will soon be completing their next set of tracking assessments in English, Maths and Science. These assessments will begin in the week commencing **Monday 19th January and will be completed by Monday 26th January.**

Non core exams will be held in classrooms week commencing **Monday 26th January.** I was extremely proud of the effort students put into revising for their first set of tracking assessments, particularly the effective use of flashcards.

Students will once again be reminded in assembly this week of the importance of revision, and we kindly ask for your support in encouraging them to revise at home. We are hopeful that students will continue to demonstrate strong revision skills and be successful in the next round of the Revision Revolution competition, led by Miss Gobin.

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 December...

3rd – Darcy. B – 1506 points

2nd – Mayar. A – 3016 points

1st – Alice.B.S – 4021 points

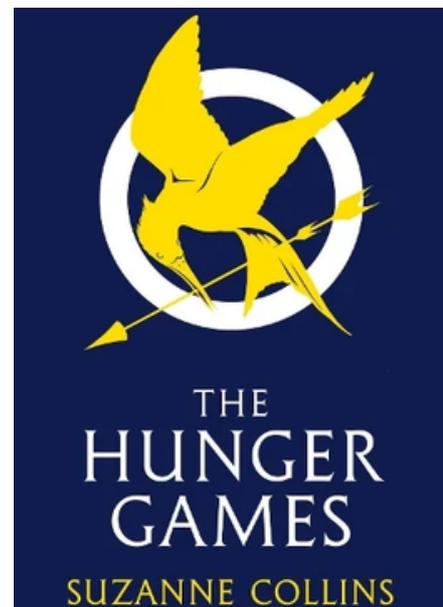


Tracking 2 results will be shared in mid-March. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's tracking data, please do not hesitate to contact me. encouraging them to revise at home. We are hopeful that students will continue to demonstrate strong revision skills and be successful in the next round of the Revision Revolution competition, led by Miss Gobin. Tracking 2 results will be shared in mid-March. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's tracking data, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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.



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.

Trips and events

Dates for your diary: our Year 8 Partnership Evening will take place on **Thursday 7th March**. 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 also be involved in our annual Dance Show, which will run from **Tuesday 10th February to Thursday 12th February**. Further information regarding tickets will be shared with parents and carers in due course.

In addition, 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.

Enrichment

The Sutton Academy's extra-curricular programme offers students a broad, engaging and aspirational range of opportunities. This includes a variety of sporting clubs alongside a wide selection of subject-specific sessions that run each week.

There are two key benefits to taking part in extra-curricular activities. Firstly, catch-up and revision sessions provide excellent support to help students strengthen their academic progress. Whether a lesson has been missed, further understanding is needed, or support with coursework is required, these sessions are designed to help students succeed.

Secondly, extra-curricular activities give students the chance to develop skills and gain experiences beyond the everyday curriculum. By taking part in new opportunities, students can build valuable personal qualities that are highly regarded by future employers and further education providers.

I recently spoke to Year 8 students about setting themselves a resolution to try at least one club this year.

Please encourage your child to take part in one or more of these activities. The extra-curricular timetable can be accessed via the link on our website:



Get ready for an unforgettable event as 12 of our amazing staff members take the stage in mascot costumes, singing their favourite songs – all to raise funds for student enrichment activities!

Event Schedule:

Round 1: Monday 19 January

Round 2: Tuesday 20 January

The Final: Wednesday 21 January

Venue: Arts Theatre

Time: 2:40 PM – 4:45 PM

Tickets: £3.00 each

On sale via Arbor Pay under 'School Shop'.

Extras:

Enjoy treats from our cash-only tuck shop during the show!

Don't miss this fun-filled event – secure your tickets early!