Year 8 Newsletter

The Sutton Academy

Issue 1 - November 2026

Welcome

We are incredibly excited about the year ahead for our Year 8 students and look forward to seeing them continue to grow, develop and achieve.

Our priority as a year team is to work collaboratively with students, families and staff to ensure every individual is supported, challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential. By working together, maintaining high expectations and celebrating both effort and achievement, we want every student to feel valued, confident and proud of their progress.

Year 8 is an important opportunity to build on the foundations established in Year 7, embrace new challenges and continue to demonstrate the kindness, resilience and sense of community that make our year group so special.

We cannot wait to see what we can achieve together!

Year 8 Team



Miss Ayrton
Achievement Leader



Mr Friar
Head of Year



Miss O'Hare
KS3 Head of Year



Mrs Dempsey
Assistant Principal

Achievement

The academy values are designed in a way so that everyone can demonstrate and cultivate them through practice and support; every one of our students has the ability to become the type of person we believe they can and should be.

As we continue to celebrate the ongoing success of our Year Group we would like to spotlight the following students who were entered into a prize draw for weekly attendance.

IN IT TO WIN IT

Ava M | Mayas A

Well DONE

There have been a large number of students representing the academy in a wide range of sports Thank you for being part of our community.

A huge congratulations to students Jack J, Oliver B, Scott S, Adam C and Bobbie R on their outstanding success with Thatto Heath Crusaders Under 12s!

The team have been crowned NWC Division Champions and Lancashire Shield winners.

Well done, boys, on a truly remarkable season. We are incredibly proud of your success both on and off the field!

WINNER

Student of the Half Term

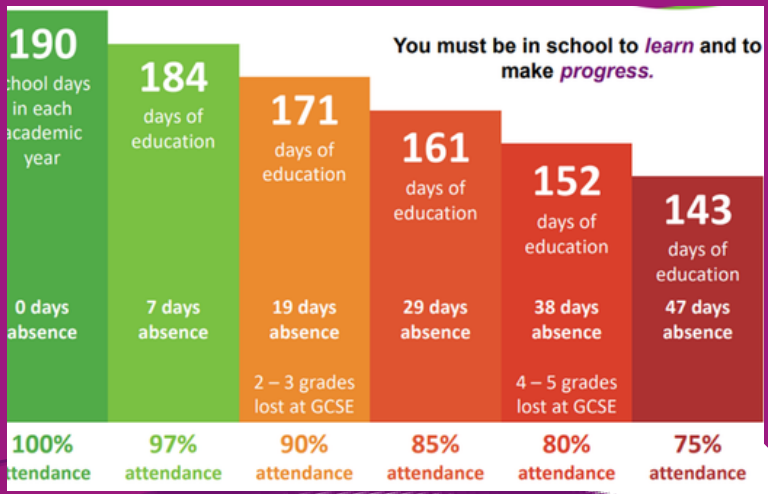




Attendance Matters

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. Everyday counts.



Find us here:

www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk

TCAT

Extra Curricular & Enrichment

Extra-curricular activities are a great way for students to make new friends, increase confidence and relieve stress.

Find out all the amazing clubs we have on offer by clicking the link below:

CLICK HERE



Home Learning Focus



Home learning is important because it helps students practice and reinforce what they learn in class.

By completing homework regularly, students can improve their understanding of subjects, develop critical thinking skills, and build good study habits. Home learning also teaches responsibility, time management, and independence, as students must organize their work and meet deadlines. In addition, it gives teachers an opportunity to assess students' progress and identify areas where they may need extra help.

Overall, homework plays an important role in supporting academic success and helping students become confident, lifelong learners.

Curriculum Spotlight

This half term, our Year 8 students have been engaged in a wide range of exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum.

English
students have been studying Frankenstein, exploring themes, characters and the historical context of this classic novel.

Mathematics
they have been developing their numerical fluency through work on number skills, standard form, operations and fractions.

Science
students have been investigating chemical reactions while building their practical laboratory skills through hands-on experiments.

History
lessons have focused on the English Civil War, helping students understand one of the most significant periods in British history.

Spanish
students have been expanding their vocabulary and conversational skills by learning how to discuss their favourite foods and hobbies.

Religious Education
students have been exploring the beliefs, practices and traditions of Islam, developing their understanding of different faiths and cultures.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm and hard work shown by Year 8 students and look forward to seeing their continued progress throughout the year.

Assessment Focus

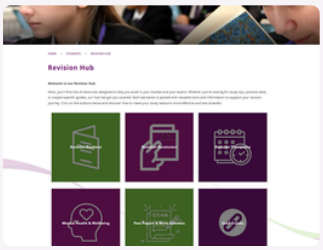
Students completed their first round of Tracking Assessments before half term, and we are extremely proud of the maturity, commitment and resilience they demonstrated throughout the assessment period. We recognise that formal assessments can be challenging, and the experience provides valuable preparation for the demands and expectations of GCSE examinations. We look forward to celebrating students' achievements and recognising the progress they have made.

It was also encouraging to see so many students taking responsibility for their learning by producing high-quality revision materials. Students who demonstrated their commitment to effective revision were rewarded with Revision Revolution Achievement Points, recognising their initiative and the positive learning habits they are developing.

Visit our Revision Hub:

CLICK HERE!

thesuttonacademy.org.uk/revision-hub



Reading Spotlight

Throughout the year on a Wednesday and Thursday students have been reading Hunger Games during form time. Our library opened last half term, with our grand opening taking place during the week our Book Fair arrives on 26 November.





Trips and Events



Students enjoyed getting creative at our Halloween pumpkin decorating event, choosing their own pumpkins to carve, paint and decorate. The Plaza was filled with imaginative designs, Halloween spirit and plenty of teamwork.

Well done to all students for their truly fang-tastic creations!

Parent Communication

Our Approach

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.

Our Communication Promise

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.

Appointments & Safeguarding

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 opposite.



A parent/carer contacts us via telephone, email or the Arbor Parent Communication app wanting to speak to a member of staff.

Serious Nature	Pastoral	Academic
• Safeguarding • Welfare	• Friendship group • Bullying • General queries	• Set change • Queries over progress • General academic queries • Homework support
A senior member of staff will be made available to ensure that the telephone call is taken or that the message is responded to immediately	Transferred to the relevant Year Team. If they are not available, every attempt will be made to return the call that day by the Head of Year. This may not be possible due to staff absence or the time of the day the call is taken **but there will be a response within 24 hours.**	Transferred to the relevant Year Team. If they are not available, every attempt will be made to return the call that day by the Achievement Leader. This may not be possible due to staff absence or the time of the day the call is taken **but there will be a response within 24 hours.**

If the query is not addressed or responded to within the agreed time frames above, parents/carers are then please asked to email the communicationpromise@thesuttonacademy.org.uk which will make the Principal and Director of Operations aware so that they can ensure that contact is made.