



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of a successful term, please find below the details for the end of term, our return in January 2022 and some brief updates on events at the academy.

Plans for the End of Term:

The academy will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 17 December. This will be a half-day, with students finishing at 12.10pm. To support students in catching up with any lost learning, teachers will be teaching the normal curriculum on the final day, alongside year group award assemblies. The academy bus will not run at the earlier finish time but we have made a request and if this does change we will let you know. Further information on the dates for returning in January will be distributed next week.

Christmas Dinner:

On Tuesday 14 December, the catering staff at the academy will be serving a Christmas Dinner. The cost per student is £2.45.

Fund Raising:

To continue our partnership with the Whiston and St Helens Charities' our student leadership team have been working with Claire Simmo (Charity Liaison) to see how we can best support the organisation this year. It was suggested that, due to the ongoing pandemic, the children's ward have suffered a reduction in donations. To overcome this issue, the trust is raising money to provide the children's ward with a bank of iPads. Our aim this year is to raise £1000 towards this initiative, ensuring their stay at the hospital is a little bit brighter. The fund-raising activities planned include:

- On Friday 17 December it is our Christmas Jumper day. The cost will be £1.00 and students who wish to take part can donate as they enter the gate or parents can pay via ParentPay.
- Our student leaders will be selling bespoke Christmas decorations, costing £2.00 each from Wednesday 8 December.

Another local charity we are proud to support is the Teardrops Hub in St Helens. Every year, we aim to collect as many donations of food, gifts and toiletries to fill hampers for less fortunate families in our local communities. We will be taking ten students to the hub on the last day of term to help pack these hampers in readiness to share across the borough. This is fast becoming one of our favourite occasions for the student leaders. Please refer to our social media sites for full details on how to donate.

Academy Values:

This year we have launched the four core academy values; being kind, reflective, resilient and part of a community. The students' engagement with this has been excellent. We ask that you please download the ClassCharts app, so that you can monitor your child's attitude to learning, behaviour and their use of the academy values.

Ofsted:

On Wednesday 1 December, Ofsted visited the academy as part of a Section 8 monitoring inspection. The visit was incredibly positive about the curriculum, students and the work undertaken by staff.

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The Sutton Academy

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The inspector is aiming to re-visit as part of a full Section 5 inspection sooner than scheduled which, we hope, would result in a change of grading for the academy. I will circulate the Ofsted letter once it has been published.

Reading:

There has been a real drive at the academy over the last two years to increase reading at the academy to ensure students have the literacy skills to succeed later in life. Twice a week, students are reading together a challenging text in their Ready to Learn session with their form tutor. Students are also accessing reading at key points in lessons across all subjects. It is incredibly powerful for students to read with an adult, even at secondary age. This might be adults reading the same book to then discuss it. If you would like some ideas regarding age appropriate books, please refer to the academy suggested reading canon [here](#).

Rainbow Flag Award:

A group of students who attend the enrichment club The Rainbow Group have embarked on a significant piece of work towards the academy achieving the rainbow flag award. The award encourages a whole school and community approach towards not only LGBT+ inclusion but also visibility and understanding. The award is a year-long process of implementing positive yet appropriate strategies to improve the lives of all students within school, not just LGBT+ students, LGBT+ families and LGBT+ staff members.

Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that students' education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning.

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, exercise books and equipment. Any bag that cannot hold these items is not a suitable bag.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A reading book
- A green pen (provided by the academy)
- A mini whiteboard and pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on the days the student has PE. Students will be expected to borrow PE kit if they forget their own.

To make sure that staff focus on students learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return back in January with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further details can be found on the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your support. I am very proud of the attitude that the students have shown towards their education with a determination to make it count. I hope everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back in January.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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