

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Sutton Academy is working in partnership with parents and St Helens Council to encourage students back into the academy following several very difficult months. Encouraging regular academy attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success, both in school and in life. We know that children have missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling behind. Those with higher overall absence achieve less well at both primary and secondary school. Academy attendance is therefore compulsory. When you make attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour and have a better chance of achieving their full potential.

*The target attendance figure for all students is a minimum of 96% attendance.*

At 96% attendance – 73% of students achieve five good grades at GCSE (9-4) including English and Maths.

We are always pleased to work together with parents and carers in resolving any difficulties and are committed to improving attendance levels at the academy. We offer a large range of rewards for students who have good attendance. You can view your child's attendance percentage on the School Gateway app.

Please note the important information below which will help you work with us to ensure that your child has the very best chance of success at The Sutton Academy:

#### Key Points for Information

- From Monday 10 May there are 49 academy days left of this academic year
- If your child is ill, please contact the academy on **each** day of absence.

**\*\*Please note The Sutton Academy does NOT operate a 48 hour return to school policy following an illness/sickness bug. Your child should return to the academy at the earliest opportunity\*\***

- There are a range of illnesses where it is acceptable for your child to still attend, these include common colds and stomach ache. Please see the attendance policy for further advice.
- If no contact is received regarding an absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Only genuine absence will be authorised. Please ensure that medical appointments are made outside of academy time.
- Holidays must not be taken in academy time
- Contact the attendance team if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into the academy.
- As a parent or carer it is your legal duty to ensure your child attends.
- The local authority is once again in a position to use legal sanctions, including penalty notices and prosecution in court to ensure good attendance.

Thank you for working in partnership to ensure your child achieves the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality at The Sutton Academy.

Yours sincerely

Ms G Medare  
Assistant Principal