

Dear Parent/Carer

14 July 2021

Thank You

As we fast approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to thank you for all the support you have given the staff and myself at the academy. My first year as Principal has certainly been eventful, but one I have thoroughly enjoyed. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, we have continued to push forward with our priorities to make sure the students get the quality of education they deserve.

Retirement

At the start of this term, Mrs Kilshaw informed me of her intention to retire from teaching at the end of this academic year. Mrs Kilshaw joined the academy in 1990 and in her thirty-one years as a teacher of Science at the academy, has made a significant impact on thousands of students. She has kindly agreed to stay on for a year, one day a week as a Science tutor, providing small group tuition to students but I felt that as a community we should thank her for her significant service to The Sutton Academy.

Pearson National Teaching Award

We are pleased to announce that The Sutton Academy has been awarded a Pearson National Teaching Award – The 2021 Lockdown Hero Award for Learner and Community Support.

Over the last twelve months, and especially during the periods of lockdown, our families have experienced hardship and suffering on an unprecedented scale. The academy and local community have worked in partnership to ensure that families can see there is a bright future at the end of the pandemic.

We are incredibly proud of how the whole community came together to support each other during the recent lockdown. We had donations of sanitiser and electronic devices from parents and members of the community to ensure the students could access their education. Staff have gone above and beyond, including making PPE for front line workers, continuing with an outstanding level of pastoral care and providing doorstep rewards for students to ensure their efforts in home learning didn't go unnoticed. The award is a credit to everyone associated with the academy.

The Lilac Centre

Our student leaders dedicated their charity efforts this year to the Lilac Centre, St Helens Hospital. The centre provides vital treatments and recovery therapies to cancer patients with in our local and wider communities. Our leaders were informed of how the smallest donation can be used to support the patients at the Lilac Centre. From small treats like a cup of coffee to holistic treatments like a therapy massage, every penny goes towards helping to raise a smile during a difficult time.

Given the importance of the Lilac Centre to our community, the student leaders challenged themselves to raise £1000, which would go towards funding a machine used to support patients during their recovery. To raise the funds, they ran a number of charity initiatives, including a raffle for a Signed Saints shirt and Ball. The shirt and ball were kindly donated by Saints RLFC and our Trustee Gordon Pennington. There was also an official Wimbledon towel up for grabs as third prize. The raffle, coupled with the other initiatives throughout the year took our leaders to their £1000 target.

Given the challenging circumstances this academic year, we are incredibly proud of their achievements in raising funds for a cause so important. On behalf of the student leaders, we would like to thank everyone who has made this possible during such a difficult time.

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The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

The Sutton Academy Values.

As a school, an important role is to ensure students can achieve their aspirations by leaving us with the best qualifications possible. We also believe the role of a school goes far beyond that. It is also our responsibility to develop them as human beings to ensure they can succeed in later life. There is significant research linking future success and happiness to developing a range of important characteristics. Therefore, in September, we will be launching The Sutton Academy values. The four values are characteristics that we believe are crucial to students becoming well-rounded and happy adults.

By the time each student leaves the academy we aim for them to be:



Kind - we expect our students to have a strong moral compass and have a disposition of empathy and respect.



Reflective - we expect our students to be critical thinkers who automatically look closely at their own work and the work of those they study.



Resilient - we expect our students to be challenged, we understand that learning is difficult and we will praise those who are willing to persevere.



Part of a community - we expect our students to be outward looking and to recognise the significant role they have in the development of the communities they are part of.

Return in September

As detailed in my letter sent on Friday 9 July, your child will be starting back on a slight stagger to enable the academy to test all students before returning. To make the start back as successful as possible, please make sure students return in full uniform and fully equipped. This includes the appropriate shoes, a poster of what is and isn't acceptable can be found [here](#). A reminder that facial piercings, fake nails and nail varnish are not allowed at the academy. Hair must be a natural hair colour.

Thank you again for your support, enjoy the summer break and we look forward to welcoming the students back in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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