



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Dear Parent/Carer

30 March 2021

Term 2 Update:

As we approach the end of what has been a challenging but productive term, I am keen for us to celebrate the hard work of staff and students since we reopened fully on Monday 8 March. The academy has invested significantly in its support for students who may have found the recent lockdown difficult. Please contact us with any concerns you have so we can ensure students get the support they need.

The academy was visited virtually, online by Ofsted on Thursday 18 March, as part of their 'Section 8' monitoring inspection duty. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The visit used information from meetings with senior leaders, faculty leaders, teachers, students and information from the Parent View and staff questionnaire. Both the Parent View and staff questionnaire were incredibly positive, as was the feedback on our curriculum and actions taken by the academy to offer a good quality of education. The letter is due to be published soon, the academy will inform parents when this is available.

Plans for the End of Term:

The academy will close for Easter on Thursday 1 April. It will be a normal academy day with students leaving site at their normal finish times. As requested by the Department for Education, the Academy Leadership Team will continue to run Track and Trace for the first six days of the Easter Break in case of a positive Covid 19 case. The email address to inform the academy of this is covid19@thesuttonacademy.org.uk.

As usual, please do not hesitate to contact us throughout the Easter break if you need any support.

Updated Guidance:

On Friday 26 March, the Government released its updated Covid 19 guidance. The main changes in the guidance included:

- An announcement will be made on expectations for masks in classrooms over the Easter break. At this point we will assume that they remain compulsory and will update you should the announcement say differently.
- That Year 11 and 13 students are expected to continue attending until the end of June. The guidance states that most students will have completed their studies by the end of May, so the June provision can include provision of on site and off site activities. We intend to use this time to prepare students for their next steps. Further information will be released after the Easter break.
- The list of evidence that schools can use to create a teacher assessed grade for Year 11 and 13 was also released. The evidence required is in line with what we predicted, this means the plans to use the two week assessment window in May, alongside all the other evidence we have collected over the last two years, will provide the students grades which are fair. It is imperative that students keep working hard to ensure they get the grades they deserve.

Site Developments:

You will have seen the work currently being undertaken to build a new 3G football pitch. This is an exciting development that we look forward to our students having access to. Plans have also been submitted to redevelop the two dining rooms, convert part of the current "Tech Plaza" into a new 'grab and go' dining area and to significantly develop the Sixth Form common room. Work will be completed over the next five months, ready for September.



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The academy continues to grow in popularity. Year 7 for September 2021 is again oversubscribed with 270 students joining the academy. With the Sixth Form also oversubscribed, the academy is looking to developing the current site to increase capacity. We hope to share these plans with you soon.



Meeting with the Principal:

As I previously mentioned in my letter in December, I would like to offer this opportunity to all parents/carers. Any parents or carers who are interested, please email contact@thesuttonacademy.org.uk and I will arrange either a face to face or virtual meeting in the new term.

Standards:

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.

- An appropriate bag that can at least hold a PE kit, A4 exercise books and equipment. Any bag that can't hold these items is not a suitable.
- 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 those days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow PE kit if they forget their own.

To ensure that staff can focus on students' learning, can we please ask that students return in April with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further details can be found in the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your support during what has been a challenging and unusual term. I am very proud of how the students have returned to their education with a determination to make it count. I hope everyone enjoys the well-earned break and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 19 April.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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