

Wednesday 8 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of a successful half-term, please find below details for when we break up, our return and some brief updates on events at the academy. It has been another successful few weeks at the academy, as the academic year continues to fly by!

Plans for the end of half-term:

The academy will finish for the half-term break at the usual time of 2.40pm on Friday 10 February. It will be a normal curriculum day at the academy and students will then return on Monday 20 February.

Future strike action:

As detailed in my previous letters, future strike action is expected unless an agreement is reached between the teaching unions and the government. In the build up to the strike day, schools were not informed who was striking and the exact numbers were difficult to calculate. For example, 33,000 teachers nationally, moved unions to support the strike. Over sixty teaching staff at the academy were on strike that day and a number of other staff were unable to come in due to childcare issues caused by the strike. We are working on a plan for the next strike day now that we have a better grasp of the staffing impact, but as you can imagine the numbers detailed above make that very challenging. We will do our best to offer the best provision as possible for the students.

New Key Stage 3 academic reports:

We worked with parents and staff last academic year to redesign the reports in Years 7, 8 and 9 that we send home each term. After the first round of tracking, we have made some minor tweaks after further feedback. These include how we share guidance on how your child can improve. The next round of tracking reports are due out next term, and as always we ask that you please contact your child's year team if you have any queries regarding your respective report.

Curriculum and Microsoft Teams:

Earlier this term we wrote to parents/carers detailing how students access their curriculum via Microsoft Teams. A guide on how parents can support their child with this can be found by following this [LINK](#). All of the Curriculum Maps can be found for each subject on the academy website, and this ensures that students and parents are fully informed on what students are learning at the academy. The Curriculum Maps can be found by following this [LINK](#) or by visiting the academy website >Curriculum>Curriculum Maps.

Free breakfast for all students:

Thanks to an incredibly kind donation from one of our parents, who wishes to remain anonymous, and the National School Breakfast program we have once again being able to provide all students with the option of a free breakfast, which includes bagels, porridge, cereal etc. when they arrive at the academy. So far, we have had a large number of students access this provision.



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The Sutton Academy Social Media:

The academy has a number of social media accounts so that parents/carers/students can keep up to date with actions and developments at the academy. This includes Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Our social media accounts can be quickly accessed by following this [LINK](#). Please can we ask that you 'like/follow' them all, to keep up-to-date with academy news and events.

Year 9 Options

On Thursday 23 February we will be holding our Year 9 Options Evening. This will involve a talk on the process and an opportunity to visit all the subjects on offer at the academy. We will then ask students to complete a "straw poll" to give us an idea of the subjects your child may want to study next year. Students will then be provided with "taster lessons" in the subjects that they have chosen. Finally, in March, parents/carers will be asked to attend a one-to-one meeting with a member of the academy Leadership Team to complete the Year 10 Options process. Further details regarding the Options Evening will be circulated to Year 9 parents/carers shortly.

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 can't hold these items is not 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 kit if they forget their own.

To make sure that staff can focus on students learning and wellbeing, please make sure that students return back in February 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.

Also, a reminder of the expectation regarding academy skirts, details of which were in a letter sent out in November. Further information can also be found on the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your continued support, I hope that everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 20 February.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton
Principal