

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to extend my thanks to you for your continued support over this fifteen-week term. Even though the academic year is split into three terms, this is by far the longest, with nearly 40% of the academic year now being complete. The last day of term is **Friday 19 December** and students will finish at **12.10pm**. It will be a non-uniform day with students encouraged to wear their Christmas jumpers if they own them.

Five Days of Christmas

Similar to last year, there are a number of plans to celebrate the last few days of term.

Each Day, Santa will be visiting Tutor Group classrooms to give gifts to those students with the highest achievement points in the year so far.

Monday 15 December - Darts club will be running at lunchtime and students are invited to sign up to our Santa Dash, taking place at 3.00pm on the athletics track.

Tuesday 16 December - At lunch time we have Darts club and a Christmas Craft club. At the end of the academy day, it is our Christmas movie event at 3.00pm in the Arts Theatre.

Wednesday 17 December - At lunch time we have Darts club and a Christmas Craft club. At the end of the academy day, we have 'UV Just Dance' from 3.00pm - 4.00pm in the Sports Hall.

Thursday 18 December - At lunch time we have Darts club and a Christmas Craft club. At the end of the academy day, we have Christmas Bingo taking place in the Technology Plaza at 3.00pm.

Friday 19 December - Hot chocolate for all students upon morning entry, and it is non-uniform/Christmas jumper day too!

Parents/carers can sign their child up for the events above via the Arbor app. Some of the events require an entry fee with proceeds going to our chosen local charity for the year - 'The Hope Centre'.

Academy Uniform

As I approach my eleventh year at the academy, it has always surprised me compared to previous schools at which I have worked, as to how few female students wear trousers at the academy; especially during winter. That trend seems to have turned over the last five weeks! Due to the pace of the change to female students wearing trousers, this is the first time I have had chance to communicate the expectations.

It has always been part of the academy uniform that girls can wear trousers, and in the winter months I think it is really sensible and also offers a more affordable option for uniform.

A number of parents have contacted the academy for clarification, the expectations is smart, plain, black trousers. On the whole students have been sticking to this, I am aware that the fashion is a slightly flared leg at the bottom of the trousers, which matches most female business suits.

For those students who have not been allowed to wear trousers, it is because they are either:

- Patterned (not plain)
- Leggings rather than trousers
- "Skintight" trousers
- Overly flared trousers

We would appreciate parents/carers supporting with the above to ensure students have the appropriate uniform to wear at the academy.

Punctuality & Attendance

Attendance continues to be a challenge nationally and we are still seeing it here at the academy also. This is a plea to send your child into the academy at every opportunity. Even on those days where they do not feel 100%, please send them in. If they are genuinely unwell, we will contact you. On the majority of occasions these students are fine once they are in the academy, where they belong - in their lessons and with their friends.

Ofsted

You may be aware that Ofsted has launched its new inspection toolkit. The academy is due for inspection in June 2026. Due to the strength of our previous inspection, this would have been a monitoring inspection, but the new toolkit means that all schools are inspected as full inspections. The changes that Ofsted have made are significant and I will write to parents/carers to in the new year to provide examples of how the new reports will look when published.

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 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 green and purple pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on those days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow a kit if they forget their own.

To ensure that the staffs focus can be on students' learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return back 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.



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

Further information can be found on the uniform section of the academy website. There has recently been an increase in a number of students wearing fake eye lashes and nails which has led to them being taken out of lessons until these are removed. Please support the academy by making sure these are removed before your child attends.

Catering Provider

From January 2026, the academy will have a new catering provider serving students and staff within our dining rooms. 'Caterlink' are a national company who already provide an excellent service to over 1,000 schools across the UK. Initial details of this change have already been shared on our website and social media platforms, and further information (menus, offers, new initiatives) will be emailed out to parents/carers in the new year.

Return Dates

The academy finishes for the Christmas holiday at 12.10pm on Friday 19 December. Historically, on the last day of term, attendance does drop but there is no reason for this to happen as the education that we provide continues to be consistent. We are rewarding students in the morning with a non-uniform day/Christmas jumper day, but if attendance is low, unfortunately we will not offer this in the future.

All students will **return to the academy at the normal time of 8.40am on Monday 5 January 2026.**

I hope that everyone enjoys a restful break, a happy new year and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Yours faithfully



Mr P. Willerton
Principal



Our Values:



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