



# The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

Dear Parents & Carers

15 July 2020

Firstly I wanted to thank you for all your support and kind words regarding my recent appointment as Principal of The Sutton Academy. I am incredibly proud to have the opportunity to lead this fantastic school and look forward to working closely with you all as we strive to offer the best quality education that our students deserve.

I intend to write to you all in the new academic year to outline my plans for the academy and to offer the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss the academy, but the immediate priority is ensuring that all students can be welcomed back to the academy in September.

The Academy Leadership Team is currently working hard to plan the provision for students' return in September and to identify the strategies needed to combat the impact of covid-19.

Our priorities in the covid-19 'Education Recovery Plan' include

- 1) The Pastoral care and well-being to support students returning to the academy
- 2) Reviewing and adapting our teaching and the curriculum to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the enforced academy closure
- 3) Supporting the most vulnerable in our community who may have struggled most during the lockdown.
- 4) Supporting those students making their transition into Years 7 & 12 at the academy.

I also wanted to take the time to reassure parents who may be worried that their child has "fallen behind". Parents, staff and students have been working hard to ensure learning can take place at home digitally but we accept this does not replace teaching in a classroom. As challenging as the last few months have been, it represents just 3.5% of a student's education from Year 1 to Year 11. We are confident that with the right focus on teaching, learning and curriculum, students will not suffer academically. After feedback from parents during one-to-one meetings, we will be providing **optional** home learning tasks for the summer break. If you feel these would be beneficial for your child they will be available for students to access on Show My Homework throughout the 6 week Summer Holidays. However we would also like to emphasise the importance of students having a break from academic work so that they are well rested and prepared for a smooth transition back to full time school from September.

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back in September. The academy hasn't been the same without them and staff are looking forward to seeing them again. Guidance was provided

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by the Department for Education which included a list of actions that schools must take when reopening, which include:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) **Minimise** contact between individuals and maintain social distancing **wherever possible**
- 6) **Where necessary**, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 listed above must be in place in all schools, all of the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and **schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.**

Number 6 applies in **specific circumstances.**

We are now working hard to make sure that any return to site is done so in a safe manner, and we are confident that this is achievable. The situation can change week to week and so I intend to write to all parents again in August to confirm finalised plans.

As it stands:

- Years 7 and 12 will return on Wednesday 2 September to allow effective transition
- All other year groups will then return on Thursday 3 September.
- There will be a staggered start and finish to the academy day.
- Until further notice, Years 7, 9 and 11 will arrive between 8.15am and 8.30am. They will then finish at 2.40pm
- Until further notice, Years 8 and 10 will arrive between 8.35am and 8.50am. They will then finish at 3.00pm.
- A specific letter for Sixth Form students will come out in due course.
- To minimise contact between individuals, each year group will be allocated a teaching block onsite where the majority of their lessons will take place. Students will still have access to specialist provision such as PE, Technology and ICT. This will be carefully planned to ensure year groups are kept apart.



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- Students will follow their normal academic curriculum. The difference will be that their teachers will move between blocks to teach the lessons; to remove any congestion on the corridors.
- Students will have a normal break and lunch each day, but they will be staggered so that each year group have their own dining room and space to talk with friends. Students from different year groups will not be able to mix during these times.

The normal high expectations of students will be in place. There is no change to the behaviour policy, just additional expectations to ensure staff and students are safe on the return to the academy. Listed below is a reminder of our core expectations but please refer to the website for further clarification on additional expectations related to covid-19.

- Students will be expected to attend in full academy uniform, including blazer and tie.
- Normal schools shoes need to be worn (see attached sheet for guidance).
- Students will need to attend fully equipped with a bag, pencil case, pen, pencil, ruler, reading book and PE kit if needed for that day. Students will not be able to borrow equipment that is listed above.
- The only permitted item of jewellery is a wristwatch and/or plain single ear studs. No other jewellery piercings or retainers of any kind are allowed.
- No nail varnish or acrylic nails are permitted, even in natural colours.
- Hair colour should be natural and not dyed. There should be no extreme styles and no shaved patterns in hair or eyebrows.

Please refer to the uniform expectations on the academy website if you are unsure.

Specific year group letters will go out two weeks before we return in September with further details on what the academy day will look like. This letter will specify where each year group will enter site and will also detail all aspects of cleaning and hand hygiene.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries should you have any, and thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton  
Senior Vice Principal

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