



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Wednesday 17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Many of you will have seen the recent news announcement regarding the implementation of whole school testing in secondary schools and Post 16 provisions. I was first made aware of this possibility yesterday when the news was leaked on a number of media sites. Even now, the information I have read is vague on how the testing will work and who it will be for, **but we have been informed that there will be a phased return to education in January for certain year groups.** I believe this is so that the logistics and structure can be implemented to enable testing on school sites.

Students in Years 11 and 13

On Monday 4 January, the academy will reopen as normal to all Year 11 and Year 13 students. These year groups have their final examinations this academic year and so they must all attend.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

The academy will only be open to students in these year groups who are classed as vulnerable and those students whose parents are Key Workers. We will be contacting the parents of the vulnerable students before we finish for the Christmas break. Can the parents of the Key Worker students please complete the following Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3VDS8H8> so that we can assess the numbers who will be attending the academy for the week commencing Monday 4 January.

Vulnerable students and students whose parents are Key Workers will be split into their respective year group bubbles and will complete the online learning set by their teachers. All other students will access the online learning from home during the week.

Whilst your child is at home, they will access their learning via the online platform Satchel One. This will include PowerPoint presentations which are narrated with audio explanations for students to follow. If your child needs further support they can access this by clicking the link provided in the homework task for Satchel One during the timetabled time for that lesson. This will allow them to enter a waiting room on 'Zoom' where their teacher will be waiting to answer any questions verbally. Students must use their full name so that teachers can admit them from the waiting room to address any questions they may have. Once the lesson has ended, the teacher will no longer be available to support, we would therefore advise that all students follow their normal timetable as far as possible whilst they are at home.

All students will then return to the academy on Monday 11 January.

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The Sutton Academy

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On Site Testing

I understand that there will be questions over how the testing will work; will it be for all students and will it be compulsory? The honest answer at this point is that we do not have all of the information. My understanding is that during the first week back of term, I will be given more information and will be able to plan accordingly. I will inform parents as soon as I possibly can. Testing will only take place on the academy site once I have written to parents, fully informing them of how it will work.

From the information I have so far it is clear to see the benefits. For example, if a student tests positive then all the close contacts can be tested daily for seven 'school days' on site, which means they can stay in the academy if they test negative. This significantly reduces the impact of a positive case on students' education. **No tests will take place without prior consent.**

If there are any further updates or changes made by the Department for Education, I will ensure parents/carers are updated. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will be writing to all parents/carers again tomorrow with details of how we will manage Track and Trace over the first few days of the Christmas break.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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