



The Sutton Academy
Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please accept my apologies for contacting you during the Christmas break. The last 10 months have shown us that the pandemic has led to an ever-changing national picture, leading to regular changes in school guidance.

Many of you will have seen the recent news announcement that, due to the rise in local and national Covid-19 cases, schools are being asked to stay open for Key Worker and Vulnerable provision, with all other year groups accessing their learning online for the week commencing Monday 4 January. This means that the letter I emailed out on Wednesday 17 December is unfortunately now out of date.

To confirm, on Monday 4 January the academy will only re-open to students in Years 7 - 13 who are classed as 'Vulnerable' and those students whose parents are Key Workers. For this week, all other students will access their learning online from home.

On Monday 11 January, Years 11 and 13 will return to the academy, whilst all other Year Groups continue to access their learning online from home.

On Monday 18 January, Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will then return to the academy.

We have already surveyed parents of students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Can we now please ask that any 'Key Worker' parents of students in Years 11 and 13 please complete the following Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7Q9JS9C> so that we can assess the numbers who will be attending the academy for the week commencing Monday 4 January.

We will be contacting the parents of identified 'Vulnerable' students separately.

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 commencing Monday 4 January.

There is no doubt in my mind that online learning does not replace face-to-face teaching, and I am sure you share my frustrations that we are unable to fully open next week but in the current climate we must follow government guidance. However, in saying that, we do know that online learning is far better than no learning at all. The Department for Education are very clear that there will still be GCSE and A-Level examinations this year and so your support in ensuring that your children engage with the online learning opportunities will help determine their success in the summer.

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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. The benefits of this provision is that they can be replayed regularly and accessed at any time.

We will also be providing live tuition via 'Zoom'. 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. We strongly encourage students to access this support to ensure they get the most out of the online learning system. 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.

If there are any further updates or changes on returning to the academy or on testing 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.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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