



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

7 December 2020

Term 1 update:

As we approach the end of what has been a challenging but productive term, I am keen for us to celebrate the hard work of staff and students since we reopened fully in September. The academy was visited by the HSE earlier in the term, as part of their random inspections in schools regarding the Covid measures taken and they were incredibly positive about the steps taken at the academy. We also had an online visit from Ofsted as part of their strategy to gather information on how schools are reacting to Covid. Again this went well and the letter is available on our web page. I am keen that the rest of my letter does not contain anything Covid – despite the obvious challenge it provides, we have been determined to still push forward with initiatives at the academy, ensuring students receive the education they deserve.

Plans for the end of term:

The academy will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 18 December. It will be a half day, with Years 7,9,11 finishing at 12:00 and Years 8 and 10 finishing at 12:20. The school bus will not run at the earlier finish time but we have made a request and if this changes we will let you know. To support students in catching up with any lost learning, teachers will be teaching the normal curriculum until the last lesson of the final day where there will be year group award assemblies. These assemblies will be on Zoom with students taking part in their form rooms. The academy will reopen to all students on Monday 4 January, with the same staggered start times that have been in place so far this year.

Christmas Dinner:

Friday 11 December, the catering staff at the academy will be serving Christmas Dinner at lunch break. The cost per student is £2.45.

Fund Raising:

On Friday 11 December, we will be raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity, with students encouraged to wear a Christmas hat that day. Those students who wish to take part and donate will need to bring £1, which they will hand in at the gate or parents can donate via parent pay.

On Friday 18 December it is our Christmas Jumper day. This is part of our drive to raise money for one of our local charities, The Lilac Centre. Again, the cost will be £1 and student who wish to take part can donate as they enter the gate or parents can pay via parent pay.

Rewards:

We have recently made some changes to the Rewards System. This is to ensure that the excellent attitudes to learning and positive approach to Academy life from our students are recognised. The development of the skills and attitudes for success both during their time at the Academy, and in later life are central to our work and this is reflected in the focus of our Rewards System.

You will be informed through the School Gateway app of all achievement points issued. These achievement points will contribute to their overall total, and we feel it is important to share the positive news with parents/carers. We have introduced a 'Rewards Pyramid' which will range from 200 achievement points for a Bronze award, presented by the Year Team, to 600 points for a Diamond award, presented by the Principal and Trustees of the Academy.

Your son/daughter may receive a Spotlight Reward card for outstanding Attitude to Learning from a member of the Leadership Team during a visit to a lesson. These will be entered into a prize draw at the end of each half term.

In addition, there will be further rewards on offer within individual faculties and year teams to ensure that students who consistently show a positive attitude to their life at the Academy are rewarded for their efforts.



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Thank you once again to the Parent Council on helping us shape the new system and for their supportive feedback in a number of other parts of academy life. Mr Purcell will be writing to all parents in the new year detailing the “you said, we did” achieved so far from this forum.

ERIC:

The academy launched the Everybody Reads in the Curriculum this term. Fortnightly the teacher provides an extract linked to the subject which is read together as a group. Examples include students reading about Grenfell in Construction to the gender pay gap in PE. The literature selected is picked specifically for each year group and the curriculum they are studying. The initiative supports students knowledge in that subjects area but also allows teachers to explore new vocabulary and subject links outside of the classroom.

There is no “silver bullet” to students achieving their potential but developing reading skills and vocabulary are pretty close. This has underpinned a lot of the work this term. The English faculty surprised a number of Year 8 students with a mystery book as a gift, which even earned a retweet from Marcus Rashford!

New Catering Contract:

The academy completed the tender process for the catering provision earlier in the term and Mellors will be our new provider from 4 January. This comes with significant investment into the infrastructure of the dining rooms and details of new facilities around the site for September 2021 will be communicated in the new year. There will be no change to how parents and students pay for their dinners.

Attendance:

In the run up to Christmas, we will be rewarding students for their excellent attendance. Students will receive a raffle ticket for every two consecutive days they attend. The prizes will range from vouchers to family Christmas hampers.

Social Media:

I could write for pages over the exciting opportunities and awards our students have accessed this term. The academy has a number of social media platforms where parents can get a taste for the year so far and be kept up to date on any future events. Please follow the [link](#), which will take you to a page on our website which provides a handy list and description of the different profiles. Please follow us on Twitter/Facebook for all updates at the academy.

Meeting with the Principal:

As I have mentioned in my previous letter, I met with all staff at the academy this term to discuss the strengths and areas we need to work on as an academy. I would like to offer that opportunity to all parents/carers. Any parents/carers who are interested, please email contact@thesuttonacademy.org.uk and we will arrange either a face to face or virtual meeting for January.

Thank you again for your support this term. Enjoy a well earned rest with your families. I look forward to welcoming all students back in full uniform and ready to learn on Monday 4 January.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal



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