



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Many of you will have seen the recent news announcement that as a country, we have been placed in a national lockdown. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what this means for your child's education; as my previous communication is unfortunately out of date. Schools are being asked to stay open for Critical Worker and 'vulnerable' provision, with all other year groups accessing their learning online. We have to assume this will be until at least the February half term.

I understand the concerns that this will cause but I hope the actions detailed below that the academy are taking will go some way of reassuring you that we will do all we can to make sure that students' education does not suffer.

For those students who access Free School Meals, we are waiting on further guidance but the process may be similar to the previous national lockdown when an online voucher system was used.

If you are a Critical Worker or feel that your child meets the 'vulnerable' definition and would like your child to have access to our onsite provision, please contact us. The definitions can be accessed following this [link](#).

In previous letters I have spoken about how online learning does not replace face-to-face teaching but we do know that online learning is far better than no learning at all. Your support in ensuring that your child engages with the online learning opportunities will reduce the possibility of any gaps appearing in their learning.

For Years 11 and 13 students, the announcement included *"We recognise that this will mean it is not possible or fair for all examinations to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements."*

At this point, we do not know what the examinations will be replaced with and we are still waiting for confirmation that all examinations will be cancelled. The announcement makes the engagement with home learning even more important. If students do not need to sit examinations, a method used could be the academy entering a Centre Assessed Grade in a similar way to Summer 2020 or students sitting an internal assessment when they return. This would not be solely based on online learning content covered over the next few weeks, it would be based on their work across their time with us, but the current period of online learning will contribute towards it. This is why their engagement now is imperative to them getting the grade they deserve as it might be able to provide the evidence we require when issuing grades.

Letter continued on next page

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From our experience, students' engagement is improved when the structure of the academy day is adhered to. This would mean attempting their learning for the subject when they would normally have it on site. It can ensure students keep a normal sleeping pattern and they can access their teachers live support. To support parents with this, the times for each year group of the academy day are attached at the end of this letter.

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. They will then complete the tasks to return to the teacher for feedback.

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. If your child also finished their work quickly, they can contact the teacher for extension work or to discuss what they have done to ensure they have completed it correctly.

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. A reminder that students must use their full name on Zoom so that teachers can admit them from the waiting room.

We believe that students would also benefit from some "live lessons" which provides opportunity for students to interact with their teacher. With this in mind, you will be receiving a letter later this week will go into further details about how students will be provided a live lesson a day. The lesson will take place at their normal lesson time. They will still be provided the normal pre-recorded lessons for the other lessons that day with tasks and the recording of the live lesson also being uploaded to Satchel One so that all students have access to it.

If you have any queries or suggestions on how we can add to the home learning system, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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Times of the Academy Day - Year 10

Period 1	8.55am - 9.55am
Break	9.55am - 10.10am
Period 2	10.10am - 11.10am
Period 3	11.10am - 12.10pm
Lunch	12.10pm - 12.40pm
Period 4	12.40pm - 1.40pm
Period 5	1.40pm - 2.40pm
Ready to Learn	2.40pm - 3.00pm