

Dear Parent/Carer

23 October 2020

Half Term Update

As we approach the end of the first half term of the academic year, I would like to send a big thank you for your support in enabling the academy to reopen to students. We have been able to run a full curriculum for all students, giving them access to their normal subject teacher. Attendance currently sits at 94%, an encouraging figure when the current circumstances are considered and by following the guidance on Covid-19, parents and carers have played a key part in keeping everyone safe at the academy. I understand the frustrations when someone in a household shows symptoms, causing the household to stay at home and self-isolate, but by following this guidance, it then reduces the chance of the academy having to ask larger groups of students to self-isolate.

The academy continues to take all precautions necessary to ensure students have access to their normal full curriculum. Students are now wearing masks in the building when moving around site and we will continue year group bubbles with staggered breaks and start times until Christmas. We will review this again at the end of term. We are continuing our additional cleaner hours, where each block has a full time cleaner to make sure rooms are cleaned throughout the day, regular cleaning of door handles and of the Dining Rooms between use. This is at considerable cost to the academy but we feel it is imperative to keeping everyone safe.

As we finish for Half Term, we need to do everything we can to keep each other safe. Being in the Liverpool City Region, we are currently classed as a "Tier 3" area and so need to be following the linked guidance [Link](#).

Show My Homework (Satchel One) continues to be our platform to provide online learning. Each teacher uploads their lessons and resources each day so that any student who is absent, Covid related or not, has the curriculum relevant work to complete so they do not fall behind. This will be colour coded red on the app. If the decision is made for a "circuit breaker" then we will write to all parents to confirm the academy plans but Show My Homework (Satchel One) will be the platform for students to access their online learning.

It is refreshing to be able to talk about something else other than Covid!

On the 12 October, the academy held its first online Parent Council meeting led by Mr Purcell and our parent trustee member Natalie Morley. Thank you for all the parents who gave up their time and contributed to really worthwhile discussions. If there are any parents or carers interested in joining, please email Mr Purcell at the academy (chris.purcell@thesuttonacademy.org.uk)

The Student Leadership team have made an excellent start, meeting to prioritise the areas they would like to focus on over the year. Daisy Street (Head Girl), Jack Jones (Head Boy), Alix Dixon



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(Deputy Head Girl) and Caitlyn James (Deputy Head Girl) met with radio host Claire Simmo to discuss which charities the academy will be supporting throughout the academic year. The student leadership team are keen to have an impact on a local level, choosing the Lilac Centre as a particular focus of our charity work this year. The team are working closely with Claire to explore what activities the academy can do in the restrictions, including online fundraising opportunities. Alongside their charity work, they are continuing the academy wide student voice programme as well as creating a system to deliver our Peer Mental Health programme in the “bubble system”. The academy will also be exploring fundraising for Willowbrook Hospice, with news to follow next half term.

After Half Term, we will be slowly re-introducing the enrichment opportunities back at the academy. We feel these activities and experiences are a key part of the wider curriculum at the academy. These will be year group specific to ensure bubbles are kept intact and an online booking system to be able to control numbers. Miss Egerton will be giving further information out over the coming weeks.

As the new Principal, I am currently meeting every member of staff individually at the academy to discuss their thoughts on how we can continue to develop and improve. Once these meetings are complete, I will be offering the opportunity to parents.

We have high expectations of everyone at the academy and feel that is key to students receiving the education they deserve. There are clear expectations for students attending the academy fully prepared to learn and in full uniform. It is imperative that parents support us with this to enable time for staff to focus on all the other elements of education and pastoral care. The list of uniform expectations and equipment are on the academy web site and attached to this letter for ease.

Thank you again for your support during what has been a challenging and unusual half term. I am very proud of how the students have returned to their education with a determination to make it count. I hope everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 2 November.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton
Principal

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