



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

5 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of Years 5 & 6 Students

You may be aware that there has been a significant increase in the number of Covid-19 cases within secondary and primary schools across St Helens. Having met with Public Health England and the St Helens Test and Trace team, I have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Open Evening at the academy.

The annual Open Evening is one of our favourite events, for staff and students. We are incredibly proud of the academy and enjoy showing prospective new parents and students what it means to be a student at The Sutton Academy. I understand that a number of secondary schools may still be able to run their respective Open Evenings but ultimately the safety of our staff, students, parents and community come first. I cannot risk further disruption to students' education in Years 7-13 at the academy and also to those students in Years 5 and 6 who would want to visit. The academy is now significantly oversubscribed in Years 7, 8 and 9 and we very much anticipate this being the case next year. This means that the number of visitors we expect on Open Evening would be large, bringing together students from over twenty different primary schools. It would be irresponsible of me to run the event.

I am also very aware of the big decision it is for parents to pick the next destination for their child's education. Rather than running a large Open Evening, we will instead be offering individual tours with myself or a member of the Academy Leadership Team for smaller groups across the academy day. This can be during the academy day for parents, or after the academy day if your child would also like to attend with you. Please contact the main academy switchboard on **01744 678859** to arrange your tour.

We will be uploading a number of presentations and documents onto the academy website so that parents can read more information about the academy. This will be launched on Friday 8 October at 3.00pm and can be found within the 'Joining Us' section of our website, www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk

A reminder that the deadline for applications is Sunday 31 October and parents/carers can apply online by using the following link, <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/schools-education/school-admissions/secondary-schools/>

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Willerton
Principal

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