

Dear Parent/Carer

21 October 2022

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 such a positive seven weeks. The standard of uniform, equipment and engagement in lessons has been excellent. Students have worked incredibly hard in lessons to make sure they make every moment count.

The last two weeks have been difficult for everyone in The Sutton Academy community, losing both Mr Sykes and also our former Year 11 student Harley. I have spoken to all students in assemblies reminding them that if they need any support, to please let the academy know. Once again, thank you for all your support and the many kind messages we have received for Mr Sykes. All comments sent to the academy and placed on Facebook have been transferred to a book of condolence which has been given to Mr Sykes family.

### Results

In the summer, we celebrated record Year 13 and Year 11 results. Both groups of students worked incredibly hard, tackling the obstacle of Covid to make sure their studies did not suffer. Our Year 11 Progress 8 score for 2022 has been officially published by the Department for Education as +0.30. This is not only the highest score the academy has ever achieved, it puts the academy as the top performing school in St Helens and in the top 20% of schools in the country. It is also the highest Progress 8 score ever achieved by a secondary school in St Helens. As pleased as we are with the outcomes, we will continue our drive and high expectations to ensure we get even better.

### Extra-curricular

We have been able to launch our extra-curricular programme fully to all students, with 40 clubs running across the week and over 250 students staying back each night to take part. The list of clubs and the day they run can be found on the academy website [HERE](#).

### ClassCharts

The use of ClassCharts is now fully embedded, enabling us to share information on a daily basis, via the app with parents, carers and students. All home learning is now set on the app so parents can track what has been set. After receiving feedback, we have amended some terminology. The categories have changed from lesson grade 1-4 to;

Excellent: Role model, increased the opportunities to learn in the lesson

Good: Took the opportunities to learn in the lesson

Inconsistent: Missed opportunities to learn in the lesson

Poor: Prevented opportunities to learn in the lesson

We are hopeful that the change to the wording will empower teachers and parents to discuss students approach to learning in a more meaningful way, focusing on lessons being an opportunity to learn.



Our Sponsor:

St Helens College



In Partnership with:

PIXL  
Partners in excellence

Visit us here:



## Curriculum pages

At the academy we regularly update our curriculum, reflecting on how well students have learned and always looking to make it better. The curriculum was praised by Ofsted which has led to a number of schools approaching the academy for guidance on their own curriculum, but we know that this is a piece of work that is never really finished. Miss Whitby has been working on how we can make sure the website is updated regularly so parents/carers/students can see the most up to date version of the curriculum. Each half term, the most recent curriculum will be uploaded to the academy website so parents can be fully informed in what their child is learning. The curriculum pages can be accessed by following this [LINK](#)

## Standards

A quick reminder of some basic standards and expectations at the academy. Please support your child in their education by supplying the basic equipment below:

- A bag that can at least hold a PE kit, A4 exercise books and equipment. Any bag that can't hold these items is not suitable.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A green pen (provided by the academy)
- A mini whiteboard and pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on the days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow a kit if they have forgotten their own.

A reminder that facial piercings and painted nails are not allowed at the academy. This is not a new rule at the academy and if students were to attend, with their nose pierced for example, it would have to be removed.

## Return Dates

A reminder that Monday 31 October is a staff training day and so **all students will return at the normal time on Tuesday 1 November**. Also, the calendar for 2023-2024 has now been agreed by Trustees and can be viewed on our website.

I hope that everyone enjoys a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 1 November.

Yours faithfully



P Willerton  
Principal