

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of a successful half-term, please find below the details for the end of term, our return in April and some brief updates on events at the academy. It has been another successful few weeks at the academy, the year continues to fly by!

Plans for the End of Term:

The academy will finish for Easter at the normal time of 2.40pm on Friday 31 March. It will be a normal curriculum day and students will return after the Easter holiday, on Monday 17 April.

Revision:

There will be a range of Years 10, 11 12 & 13 revision sessions for students over the Easter holiday. To see the full schedule, please follow this [link](#).

Student Password Change:

Starting on Monday 17 April a new student password policy will come into effect to meet current security needs and to ensure the safety of students at the academy. Your child may be asked to enter a new password when they next log on to an academy computer.

Their new password will need to contain the following:

- 8 Characters
- Upper and Lowercase Characters
- A number or special character (like a ! ? £)

This password will also change for their Microsoft Teams and Email accounts.

Trips:

This half-term has been a busy one for educational trips. In the last few weeks, we have run trips to the UN mock conference, a trip to Parliament, Year 11 Gold transition trips to Carmel College, a Geography led trip to Iceland, Year 11 Geography fieldtrip to Liverpool, Year 10 careers event in The Walton Centre and Sixth Form Dance students visited Pineapple Studios in London. We also saw a group of Year 8 students attend a music industry conference, a group of Year 10 students took part in a conference led by Cambridge University, a Year 13 Geography fieldtrip, a Spanish/Art led trip to Andalucía and a Sixth Form theatre trip. I would like to publicly thank staff for giving up their spare time to provide students with these fantastic experiences.

Stakeholder Feedback:

Every half term, the Academy Leadership Team seek feedback from parents/carers, students and staff on a specific academy improvement priority. Last half-term the focus was on "Curriculum & Learning Platforms". I have detailed overleaf some of the feedback along with actions we have taken as a result.

- You said: "Review communication on what students are covering each half-term"

We did: Introduced half-termly Year Group newsletters outlining the content that students will learn that half-term. Reviewed the curriculum pages on the academy website to make them more accessible.

- You said: "Provide guidance on how my child can make further progress after tracking feedback"

We did: Updated the comments provided on tracking reports and created a guidance video on how to access Microsoft Teams for support work.

- You said: "Greater levels of support is needed for the key platforms that are used by the students"

We did: For a number of our key platforms, we are now creating short guidance videos to provide a greater level of support on how to use each system. These will continue to be developed throughout the remainder of the academic year and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

Over the last few weeks I have spoken to staff, students and parents to get feedback on how we can improve the toilet provision further at the academy. We have made the decision to lock the toilets at the academy when they are not in use. This was due to feedback from parents and students regarding litter in the toilets and a small amount of graffiti. Ultimately the students have the right to access toilets which are looked after by their peers. This has meant that the toilets are now far cleaner and students have fed back that this has been positive. Students have also fed back that it has improved punctuality to lessons, which has reduced disruption to their learning.

As with any new initiative, we sought further feedback and a concern was raised regarding students who may desperately need to leave the room as they are unwell or staff are not available to open the toilets for students who need it during lessons. To combat this, the academy has now provided all staff with an emergency access card for student toilets that they are able to issue to a student who is in desperate need or might feel unwell.

If your child is sick or in need of an emergency toilet pass for other reasons, you can still apply for these through the respective Year Teams at the academy.

Students have also fed back that the queue during Break-B time (when Years 8, 9 and 11 are on their morning break) can be quite long. With this in mind, we have opened up an additional part of the academy site for Break-B so that students can access extra toilet facilities. This means that during morning breaks each year group have access to their own set of toilets to avoid queuing.

We believe these measures will ensure any students who need to go to the toilet can do so, that student learning is not disrupted and that the toilets are kept clean for the benefit of all students.



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that students' education should not be hampered by a lack of equipment. Below is a list of equipment that is non-negotiable so that students can access their learning.

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

To make sure that staff focus can be on students learning and wellbeing, can you please make sure that students return back in April with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear with false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. A reminder of the expectation regarding academy skirts, details of which were in a previous letter. Further information can be found on the Uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your support, I hope that everyone enjoys the well-earned rest, and I look forward to welcoming all students back to the academy on Monday 17 April.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal



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