

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of a successful half-term, please find below details for the end of term, our return in June, and some brief updates on events at the academy.

Plans for the end of term:

The academy will finish for the half-term break at the normal time of 2.40pm on **Friday 26 May**. It will be a normal curriculum day at the academy and students will then return after the half-term holiday on **Monday 5 June**.

Formal examinations:

The formal Summer examination period is in full flow at the academy, particularly for Years 11 and 13 students. By the end of this half-term, students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have sat a total of 41 examinations. This roughly marks the half-way point of the examination series. Staff have gone above and beyond across the academic year to ensure that students are as well prepared as possible. This includes booster sessions, before during and after the academy day, as well as sessions at weekends and in half-term breaks. Staff give up their time to do this because we know it has a significant impact on the outcomes for the students.

Once again, this half-term there will be a large number of sessions running for Years 11 and 13. Please can we ask that you encourage your child to attend these as it genuinely makes a significant difference to their examination outcomes. The schedule can be found following the link below.

<https://www.thesuttonacademy.org.uk/students/examinations/revision>

Stakeholder feedback:

Every half-term, the Academy Leadership Team focus on a certain area of academy life and seek feedback from parents/carers, students and staff. Last half-term the focus was on the "Academy Values". I have detailed below some of the feedback received along with the actions we have taken as a result.

- We are really pleased to see that parents/carers and students feel that our academy values of being Kind, Resilient, Reflective and Part of a Community are important. We will continue to keep the profile of these high in lessons and in our communications.
- Whilst our students and staff were clear on how the lesson grades link with our academy values, less of our parents/carers were. We will now ensure that we share the rationale and criteria for lesson grades on a more regular basis with parents/carers. This will be included in the Year Group Newsletters each half-term.
- The majority of students felt that their good understanding of the values came from assemblies and displays in the academy. We will now look at how the values are promoted and presented to parents/carers and ensure they are as clear as the methods used with our students. This will also be included in the Year Group Newsletters each half-term.



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The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

Year 7 Cohort 2023/2024:

As busy as we are supporting Years 11 and 13 through their final weeks with us, we are also preparing to meet our new Year 7 cohort for September 2023. We had a record number of applications again this year, with over 500 parents/carers choosing the academy, with only 270 places available. This is the fifth consecutive year that the academy has been over-subscribed, meaning that the academy will be officially full next year, with 270 students in every year group for September 2023.

As our numbers have grown, this has led to further investment in both the site and staffing levels to ensure that we can continue to provide the best education possible. You will be well aware from the national media of the current teacher shortages. However, I am pleased to report we are fully staffed for September 2023. To support the increase in student numbers, I am investing significantly in the pastoral team at the academy which will include two additional Head of Years working across Key Stage 3 and 4, additional Literacy support staff, additional behaviour support staff and we are also exploring extending our on-site counselling service, by recruiting our own full-time counsellor.

Staff will be visiting the Year 6 students soon to join us, over the coming weeks and we are currently arranging three on-site transition days and a 'summer school' to support their transition.

Standards (a regular reminder):

We firmly believe that student's 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 is unable to 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 kit if they forget their own.

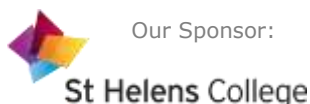
To ensure that the staff can focus on student's learning and wellbeing, please make sure that students return in June with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false eye lashes, nails, nail varnish, or dye their hair an unnatural colour. A reminder of the expectation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

Thank you once again for your continued support, I hope everyone enjoys the well-earned rest and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 5 June.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Willerton
Principal



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