



The Sutton Academy
Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

26 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we rapidly come to the end of our second term this academic year, we thank you once again for your continued support. It has been a busy six weeks with mock examinations for Years 11 & 13, and with trips to New York; Andalucía; Alton Towers; London and Edgehill University.

The academy will finish for Easter on Thursday 28 March at the normal time of 2.40pm and will re-open on Monday 15 April. There will be a large number of revision sessions taking place over the Easter holiday period, and these have already been circulated to Year 11 & Sixth Form students and to their parents/carers.

You Said, We Did:

In my last letter, I communicated our plan to run a presentation for parents, which will explain the pathway to university and some of the key information around this; such as how student finance works. This is scheduled to go ahead on Thursday 25 April at 5.30pm. Further information will be sent out closer to the date.

In our parent/carers survey on 'Reading', you fed back that you would like to be given an annual update on your child's reading level/reading age. Students complete the New Group Reading Test each year, once the test has been completed, information about your child's reading age and strategies to support and encourage reading at home, will then be shared via a letter.

You also fed back that reading should be set as home learning that is monitored and encourages parents/carers to support with reading. Sparx Reader has now been introduced for Year 7 as part of their English home learning programme. Sparx Reader is a reading, comprehension and vocabulary programme that gets all young people reading regularly to help improve their literacy. We are now looking to roll out this reading programme to other year groups.

Our second topic was around home learning. It was really pleasing to see that many students and parents understand the value and purpose of us setting home learning tasks, and how they are designed to consolidate and deepen students understanding of the content that they are covering. We recognise that students do have commitments outside of the academy, but we strive to be as good, if not better, than the highest performing schools in the country. We have high expectations and aspirations for our students, and know how important students expanding their learning outside of the classroom will impact on their academic outcomes, and ultimately their life chances.

There were, however, a number of similar feedback points that we are now addressing. You said the time it should take to complete home learning should be between thirty minutes and one hour. We agree, and we are working with our subject leaders to ensure that any planned home learning tasks remain within that timeframe.



Our Sponsor:

St Helens College



In Partnership with:

PIXL
Partners in excellence

Visit us here:



Revision Revolution:

Thank you to all parents/carers who have encouraged and supported their child in engaging in the 'Revision Revolution' challenge. It has been wonderful to see so many students working independently to prepare high quality revision materials for their Tracking-2 assessments. One student in each year group who received the most nominations, has been rewarded in assembly with a £20 Amazon Voucher.

We are very proud of our students and are confident that developing good study habits and routines will stand them in good stead for future examinations. Please keep an eye out for more details on the 'Revision Revolution' winners on our social media platforms and within year group newsletters.

Sporting Success:

Since returning after the February half-term, our students have been involved in a number of sporting activities and competitions, both locally and regionally. The highlight of which, was the Years 7 & 8 boys winning the St Helens Schools indoor athletics competition. Both teams therefore progressed through to the Merseyside Youth Games Final, where they competed against the sixteen finalists. The Year 7 team came 5th and Year 8 team came 10th.

The Year 7/8 girls football team won 3-0 against Gateacre Community School, who were undefeated in Liverpool, and the Year 8 boys football team played in the school's festival and were undefeated on the day; playing four games, winning two and drawing two.

24 members of our Year 9 sports leaders ran three events this half-term, alongside the St Helens Council sports development team. The feedback from the primary schools who participated in these events has been excellent, and they have been a real credit to the academy.

Attendance Matters:

I appreciate that there will be times when a student is just too unwell or unable to attend, but attendance really does matter. When the students are in the academy, they have more opportunities to mix with their peers, they do not create gaps in their learning, and in the long term it makes a significant impact on the grades that our students achieve.

I have shared previously last year's Year 11 cohort as an example; the students with attendance above 95% went on to achieve progress scores, which placed them in the top 15% nationally. The students with attendance below 90% achieved progress scores far below this.

Once again, a plea to send your child into the academy at every opportunity.



Our Sponsor:

St Helens College



In Partnership with:



Visit us here:





The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

The Challenge Academy Trust:

As we continue to work towards joining The Challenge Academy Trust, the rescheduled parent/carer drop-in session will now take place in the academy on Monday 15 April, 5.30pm – 6.30pm. I will be in attendance throughout the evening, along with Trust CEO Andy Moorcroft, and we will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

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 a suitable bag.
- Pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A reading book.
- A green pen (provided by the academy)
- A mini whiteboard and pen (provided by the academy)
- PE kit on those days they have PE. Students will be expected to borrow a kit if they forget their own.

To make sure that the staffs focus can be on students' learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return back with the **correct** shoes and uniform. Students are not permitted to wear false nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes or dye their hair an unnatural colour. Further information can be found on the uniform section of the academy website.

Thank you again for your continued support. I hope that everyone enjoys the well-earned rest, and I look forward to welcoming all students back to the academy on Monday 15 April.

Yours faithfully



P Willerton
Principal



In Partnership with:



Visit us here:

