



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

22 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of this half term, we thank you once again for your continued support. It has been a busy six weeks with Year 11 and Year 13 students starting their final exams, as well as a number of Year 10 and Year 12 students sitting official unit exams too. By the end of this week there will have been thirty exams in the last two weeks alone. To support students in achieving to their best of their abilities, staff have been running additional sessions to complement our usual "Boost & Secure" programme. This has included a number of evening sessions and interventions on a weekend. This year we trialed private tuition for students in Year 11 for a range of subjects on a Saturday morning. Over 70 students have taken advantage of this provision, which has run for the last two months and is fully funded by the academy. This is in addition to Saturday Booster sessions, with close to 200 students attending sessions in Humanities, English and Maths. Attendance and engagement to these sessions make a significant difference in the results students leave with, and in turn, their opportunities after the academy.

The academy will finish for the May half-term holiday on Friday 24 May at the normal time of 2.40pm, and we will re-open on Monday 3 June. There will be a large number of revision sessions taking place over the holiday period, and these dates have already been circulated to Year 11 & Sixth Form students and their parents/carers.

'You Said, We Did':

In our recent parent and student voice survey, the focus was Behaviour and Attendance. The feedback from both students and parents was overwhelmingly positive. In the free text section, there were a small number of queries where a parent/carer has contacted the academy but had not received a reply. A reminder of the communication protocol we have at the academy can be found following this [LINK](#) . If a Parent/Carer ever contacts the academy and does not receive a reply within 24 hours, please email the communication promise email address, this automatically sends an email to a group containing myself and the Director of Operations. Every parent who has contacted us through this address has been responded to that day.

Procedure for academy closure:

In the unexpected eventuality that the academy needs to close, for example due to poor weather, we have guidance on how students will be able to access their online learning through Microsoft Teams via this [LINK](#). Parents/Carers will be communicated the details of the closure via email and parents/carers will need to follow the guide, including a YouTube video talking through how to access and use Microsoft Teams.

Attendance matters:

I appreciate that there will be times when a student is unwell or unable to attend, but attendance really does matter. When 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.



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I have previously shared 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.

The Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT):

Work has continued with the Department for Education and TCAT to support our move to be part of a Multi Academy Trust. The official transfer is due to take place on the first day in September, assuming all lease documents for the building are provided by the Local Authority in time. I will update parents and carers further when we have more information.

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 hold at least 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 staff can focus on students' learning and wellbeing, can we please make sure that students return 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. Recently there has been an increase in a small number of students wearing fake eye lashes, which has led to them being removed from lessons until they are removed. Please support the academy by making sure these are removed before your child attends.

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 3 June.

Yours faithfully

P Willerton
Principal

