



The Sutton Academy
Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

18 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday this week, I received a letter from Northern Rail, naming us as one of several schools where a number of students have been identified as not paying for train tickets. The letter asked for support from the schools, but also explained that Northern Rail would be making a press release to publicise the issues they were having. This came as a shock to the academy.

Northern Rail have only contacted the academy once this academic year, which was back in November 2023, when they asked if academy staff would support for a two-week period on the train station platforms. They stated that they would also provide additional staffing to support. Since this two-week period where we supported, Northern Rail staffing on the platforms has reduced again, and no further incidents have been reported to the academy.

I have responded to their letter and I hope to meet with Northern Rail in the new academic year, in September, to discuss the support that we can offer. I will also be requesting details on how Northern Rail themselves intend to invest in strategies to challenge commuters not paying for tickets, such as additional staffing and ticket barriers, etc.

In the meantime, can we please ask for the support of parents/carers to ensure that students have enough funds to purchase tickets when travelling on the train. Northern Rail offers students under the age of sixteen a 75% discount on the cost of their commute through the 11-16 Education Season Ticket Scheme. Further information can be found using website the link below.

<https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/tickets/educational-season>

We will be discussing this issue with students in assemblies in the new academic year.

Yours faithfully



Mr P. Willerton
Principal



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