

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of this half-term, I would like to send a big thank you for your support in what was a disrupted start to 2025. The weather in the first week back created a number of challenges as we returned but we were able to stay open to ensure that those students who could attend, did. Later in my letter I provide details about the plans we have in place should we be forced to close.

End of Half-Term Plans

The academy will continue as normal until 2.40pm on Friday 14 February. We will re-open for all students on Monday 24 February at the normal time of 8.35am. Please ensure good attendance up until the end of the half-term, as lessons will continue as normal. Over half-term there are a number of revision and coursework catch up sessions running for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. The timetable for these can be found [HERE](#).

You Said, We Did

Last half-term the focus of our stakeholder feedback focused on the transition of students joining Year 7 from Primary Schools. The feedback was incredibly positive for the work we undertake, with some useful areas suggested for improvement.

You said: The apps the academy asks students and parents/carers to use are good, however additional support for parents in using them would be beneficial.

We did: We will be reviewing our current welcome meetings in Year 7 to provide opportunities for parental support and drop-in sessions.

You said: The academy shares regular emails to keep me informed.

We did: We will continue to promote our communication with parents including half-termly letters and Year Team newsletters.

You said: Provide a paper copy for parents/carers of some key information which is shared during the welcome events.

We did: We are creating a Parent Transition Handbook to work alongside our Student Transition Handbook; to provide as much information as possible to support parents/carers and students in preparing to start at the academy.

Results

Since the 2024 results were officially published for our previous Year 11 cohort by the Department for Education, a number of further results league tables have been released.

- Fischer Family Trust (FFT) create a series of “similar schools” leagues table. The academy’s outcomes for 2024 finished **2nd** in England and top in the North West against similar schools.
- The Fairer Schools index released through Northern Powerhouse released through the Mirror newspaper group, places the academy **top** in St Helens and named in their download as one of the schools who made the most significant jump.
- The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) Contextual Value added, places the academy in the **top 20%** nationally.

We will always strive to be better, however these league tables are recognition of the hard work from staff and students on a daily basis.



Our Values:



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The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

Academy Closure

As detailed in my message home to parents on Thursday 9 January, it would need to be extreme circumstances for the academy to ever close. We know the importance education has in the lives of students, but there is always a chance that the situation is so extreme that we would have to close. For information, if the academy was ever to close, we would follow the academy plan for 'unexpected closure' which can be found [HERE](#). This explains what the provision would look like for a one-day closure, two-day closure or several days closure; including links on how to access the online learning provided.

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 green and purple 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. There has recently been an increase of female students wearing branded socks with their shoes, which is not allowed. Please support the academy by ensuring your child has the equipment needed to access their learning in lessons and that they meet all the expectations above with regards to uniform standards.

Return Dates

The academy finishes for half-term at 2.40pm on Friday 14 February, with students returning at the normal time of 8.35am on Monday 24 February. I hope that everyone enjoys a restful break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 24 February.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Willerton
Principal



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