



**SUTTON  
COMMUNITY  
ACADEMY**



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**Principal:** Mr Lewis Taylor

## End of Term Letter

As we reach the end of another academic year at Sutton Community Academy, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an excellent and transformative year for our school.

This year has been marked by significant progress across all areas of academy life. We are incredibly proud of the improvements we've seen in attendance, student behaviour, and the overall culture within the academy. These changes have created a more positive, respectful, and aspirational environment for all our young people to thrive in.

## Attendance

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate the significant improvements in attendance across the academy this year. This kind of progress doesn't happen by magic - it's the result of a shared commitment from students, families, and staff alike. We know that students who attend regularly - over 90% of the time - make strong academic progress, and it's fantastic to see so many of our young people embracing that.

A special mention must go to Year 9, whose attendance has been consistently strong throughout the year and is now the highest across our entire academy trust. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to their dedication and the support they receive at home and in school.

	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Year 7		93.2%
Year 8	91.3%	91.4%
Year 9	91.9%	93.6%
Year 10	88.4%	90.1%
Year 11	88.5%	90.4%

The quality of education continues to go from strength to strength, with staff and students working tirelessly to raise standards and expectations. We are hopeful that this will be reflected in the outcomes for our Year 11 and Year 13 students this summer, which we anticipate will show a strong improvement on last year's results.

We are also incredibly excited for the upcoming handover of our brand-new £2.7 million theatre and cinema. This promises to be a stunning facility that will benefit not only our students and staff, but also the wider community. It will provide a vibrant space for performance, creativity, and collaboration, and we can't wait to see it come to life in the new academic year.

Beyond the classroom, our extra-curricular offer has flourished. From sporting achievements, the continuation of work experience, and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to the outstanding school

production and a wide range of clubs and enrichment activities, our students have embraced every opportunity to grow, lead, and shine.

### **Personal Development**

This year has been full of opportunity and excitement as we continued to support our students in exploring future career paths and celebrating their achievements.

**Year 10 students** took part in a week-long work experience, followed by our popular Mock Interview Day. Local employers kindly volunteered their time to give students a taste of real-life interviews—an invaluable experience in building confidence and preparing for their next steps.

**Year 9** explored the world of apprenticeships through our *Get Into Apprenticeships* event, discovering a range of pathways to success. Meanwhile, **Year 8** delved into the tech industry thanks to our exciting partnership with *Innovate Her*, which introduced them to careers in technology and digital innovation.

Through the **Aspiring Ashfield** initiative, our students benefitted from unique experiences including a visit to *ITP Aero*, the *Reach For the Stars Careers in STEM* event, and the chance to connect with inspiring local businesses.

Our **reward programme** also blossomed this year with the expansion of the *ClassCharts Reward Shop*, offering students meaningful experiences such as landscape photography, sports activities, and a picnic day. Smaller treats like ice pops and water bottles added to the fun.

To celebrate **positive behaviour and excellent attendance**, students enjoyed a range of treats—from hot chocolate and Easter goodies to a magical trip to *Sherwood Observatory and Planetarium*. And of course, the *Twelve Days of Christmas Rewards* brought joyful cheer to the end of the first term.

We're proud of everything our students have achieved this year and look forward to even more success and inspiration ahead!

### **Behaviour and Standards**

Our students continue to be role models and a credit to themselves, their families, SCA and the wider community. External visitors comment on the positive atmosphere, unfailing politeness, smart uniform and exemplary conduct of our students. SCA students have earned a record number of positive points this year – 234,000 – 24% higher than last year. Especially pleasing is the 79% increase in positive points under the “Worked Hard” category showing excellent student commitment to their lessons. The rewards programme recognises these contributions to academy life and continues to go from strength to strength. Students have been able to enjoy movie afternoons, afternoon tea, a visit

to the Observatory, reading afternoons and even an ice pop to keep them cool in the recent heatwaves, to name a few examples of how we acknowledge and thank students for their conduct.

We know that positive behaviour and high standards lead to improved outcomes for our young people and we thank you for your continued support in this vital element of academy life.

We continue to be very proud of all our students who have received reading intervention this year and the magnificent levels of progress that students have made. Many students have graduated the programme this year with reading ages that are above their chronological age. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in our Buddy reading programme this year where sixth form students have listened to younger students read. All involved have said what an enjoyable and helpful experience this has been, and we look forward to extending this programme in the new academic year.

Please can I encourage you to continue to read at home during the summer break, even if it is only 10 minutes each day, to maintain confidence and enjoyment in reading. The school library has plenty of books to choose from along with the ePlatform which can be accessed via a mobile device or tablet. We look forward to hearing what you have read when we return to the academy.

It was great to see Year 7 students working with the author Darren Simpson this half term and discussing his work and getting the opportunity to read section of his book 'The Memory Thieves.'

## **September 2025**

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring a smooth and successful start for all students in September. Please take a moment over the summer to familiarise yourselves with our academy expectations—particularly around uniform, hair colour, and piercings. These standards are in place to promote a focused and respectful learning environment for everyone. By working together, we can ensure that all students return ready to learn, feeling confident and prepared to make a positive start to the year

## **Canteen update**

We've also worked hard this year to improve the physical environment of the academy. Significant redecoration and new flooring throughout key areas have helped create a more welcoming, modern, and inspiring space for our students and staff. Alongside this, we've continued to collaborate with our canteen team to enhance the quality and variety of food on offer.

It's been fantastic to see more students enjoying school meals, though this has naturally led to longer queues. To help speed up service, we encourage all parents and carers to provide biometric permissions so students can use their fingerprint at the tills—making the most of our efficient, cashless catering system.

**Final thoughts**

None of this would be possible without the dedication, passion, and relentless hard work of our staff. Every member of our team has gone above and beyond this year to support our students and each other, and I am deeply grateful for their commitment to making Sutton Community Academy the best it can be.

To our parents, carers, and community partners - thank you for your continued support. Your encouragement and involvement play a vital role in our shared success.

As we now look ahead to a well-earned summer break, I want to wish you all a restful, safe, and happy holiday.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead.

Have a great summer!

Mr L. Taylor