



**SUTTON
COMMUNITY
ACADEMY**



SCA-office@attrust.org.uk



01623 980055



High Pavement, Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire, NG17 1EE

Principal: Mr Lewis Taylor

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Half-Term 5

As we reach the end of the half-term break, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an exceptionally busy, productive, and successful period for our academy. Over recent weeks, I have been incredibly pleased with the continued progress being made across all areas of school life; from students' academic achievements and personal development to the wider opportunities and experiences that enrich our community.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership we receive from you as parents and carers, for which I am extremely grateful. In this letter, I would like to update you on a number of important areas of interest, whilst also sharing some of the highlights from the half-term.

Attendance Update – Leading the Way

We are pleased to share that attendance reached 92% this last half term - above national average and a testament to the commitment of our students, families, and staff. Yet, whilst this is a positive milestone, we know we can aim even higher.

Every day in school matters. It is an opportunity for our young people to learn, discover their niche, build resilience, and secure a prosperous future. That is why we remain ambitious in striving for even better. We are proud to have been recognised in the top 25% of similar schools nationally for attendance - a fantastic achievement. Now, our next goal is clear: to be number one.

Thank you to all our parents/carers and students for your continued support. Together, we now move forward with our shared ambition of achieving 97%+ attendance.

Reading

We have continued to be impressed this half-term with the huge improvements students have made in reading. A number of students have graduated from the Thinking Reading programme with some really impressive scores, having made significant progress. A new cohort of Year 10 students have now completed the Buddy Readers training and have been working with students in Year 7 and Year 8. A huge well done to all involved.

Please encourage reading at home and remind your child to access the online E-Platform and Sparx Reader.

Leading Parent Partnership Award

We are delighted to confirm that the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) team will be visiting the academy in the first week of June. LPPA is a nationally recognised award that supports schools in developing strong, effective partnerships with parents and carers, with a clear focus on improving outcomes for children through positive engagement. The team will spend time in school looking at the work we have already done and how we continue to involve families in all aspects of academy life. This is something we are proud of and are always looking to strengthen, as it plays a huge part in making our academy a true community school. Please look out for further updates in next half term's newsletter, where we will share feedback from the visit and outline the next steps.



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Phone Pouches

We will be making our school a **phone-free** space from September 2026, in line with the latest Department for Education guidelines which make clear that schools must be phone-free.

Whilst we have made significant gains towards this over the last 3 years, with phones now *'not seen or heard'*, all schools in Academy Transformation Trust will be moving to being 'phone free' (medical exemptions apply) in the new academic year.

From September we will be implementing a secure lockable phone pouch system. Such systems have been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate a safer and more engaged learning environment. Local schools to us have successfully implemented the same systems and we are confident that the secure lockable phone pouches will have a positive impact and further improve the social behaviours, learning and safeguarding here as well, as students feel better able to fully engage with their teachers and classmates.

The system utilises a simple, secure storage pouch. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned secure pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Further details around this will be communicated in due course.

Careers and Pathways Update

We were pleased to welcome Vision West Notts into the academy to deliver an engaging talk to Year 9 introducing T-Levels and vocational subjects, giving students a real insight into what it is like to study at college. They explored a wide range of course options, discussed entry requirements and helped students begin thinking about the pathways that best suit their interests and ambitions.

As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for life beyond school, we also launched work experience with Year 9. Students will take part in their placements during 16th–20th November of Year 10, and this early introduction ensures that they have plenty of time to secure meaningful and rewarding opportunities.

We were especially proud to welcome back an SCA alumnus, now studying the Uniformed Protective Services course at West Notts. They spoke passionately about their experiences, the skills they are developing, and the pathways the course can lead to; which include careers in the emergency services, armed forces, and wider public service roles. Hearing from former students who once sat where they sit now was inspiring for our Year 9 to 11 students and helped them see the real possibilities ahead.

Finally, we are pleased to let you know that you can now access Unifrog through your own parent/carer account. Please refer to the letter that was sent home with full instructions on how to set up your login and get started. Having a parent/carer account will allow you to follow your child's progress as they explore careers, courses, and next-step pathways and see the tools they are using to research universities, apprenticeships, and employment options. You can also support them with applications, personal statements, and goal-setting and access a wide range of guides, videos, and resources designed to help families navigate post-16 and post-18 choices.

We hope you find this a valuable way to stay involved in your child's journey and to support them as they plan their future. If you have any questions once you receive the setup letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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New MUGA

We are incredibly excited to share that our brand-new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), located at the back of the Maths block, is now nearing completion and will be open for students during the summer term. This fantastic new space will make a real and lasting difference for our students, providing opportunities for sport, activity and connection.

This project is particularly special as the MUGA is being created in memory of Daniel Amromaghwo, a much-loved member of our sixth form who tragically passed away. We are deeply grateful for the generous donation that has made this possible, and we hope this space will stand as a powerful, living tribute to Daniel - filled with energy, smiles and togetherness.

To ensure that the area reflects our students' voices and creativity, we will also be launching student-led planting competitions to help design and enhance the surrounding environment. This will enable students to take real ownership of the space, making it vibrant, welcoming and truly representative of our community.

Across the academy, we continue to support many young people facing serious challenges, and this space symbolises hope, resilience and belonging - values that sit firmly at the heart of everything we do.

Ofsted

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, I would like to thank our entire academy community for the tremendous support shown throughout the process. The final report will be published shortly, we are pleased with the outcome of the inspection and, in particular, the many strengths that were recognised across the academy.

The inspection provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the hard work, commitment and ambition of our students, staff, governors and wider community. We remain incredibly grateful for your continued encouragement and partnership as we continue to move the academy forward and build on the many positive developments taking place across the school.

Cornerstone Theatre

I would also like to remind parents/carers that the Cornerstone Theatre is now officially open. Whilst operating separately from the academy, the theatre is proudly situated on our site and provides a fantastic range of opportunities for both our students and the wider community. From professionally programmed performances and live entertainment to venue hire for local groups, dance schools and community organisations, the theatre is already becoming a vibrant hub for the arts and local engagement.

We would encourage you to take a look at the exciting upcoming events using the following link and to follow the [Cornerstone Theatre Facebook page](#) for the latest news, performances and updates. Tickets and further show information can be found on Ticket Source: <https://www.ticketsource.com/academy-transformation-trust-sutton-community-academy>.



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Looking Ahead to Next Half-Term

Year 9 students will receive their GCSE option allocations via their school email when we return after half-term. Tutors will remind students to check their school inboxes, and if students are happy with their allocated subjects, they will not need to take any further action.

Instructions will be included in the email for anybody who wishes to request a change. At this stage, we are unable to make any amendments, so we ask that students and families wait for this email before contacting the school.

We will also be running a **GCSE Options Transition Week for Year 9 students**, beginning 13th June, during which students will spend a morning in each of their allocated option blocks. This will allow them to experience the subjects more deeply, understand course expectations, meet teaching staff, and gain a clearer sense of whether the subjects are the right fit, before final timetables are confirmed.

Year 10 mock exams will begin immediately after half-term. Students have already taken part in a series of assemblies and tutor sessions to help them prepare and they will continue revising both in lessons and through their homework. Please support your child to revise at home by helping them create a quiet study space, encouraging short but regular revision sessions, quizzing them on key facts, or asking them to explain a topic aloud to check their understanding. Students have received a copy of their mock exam timetable, which is also available on the Year 10 Teams page; tutors can provide a paper replacement if needed.

On the afternoon of **Tuesday 16th June**, we will be holding a Welcome to Year 11 Assembly for students, followed by a **Welcome to Year 11 Parent/Carers' Event at 4pm**. Further details will follow, but if you have a child in Year 10, please keep this date free as we will be sharing important information about upcoming changes to tutor time, small-group interventions, the extended school day (Period 6), and the wider support in place to help students succeed in Year 11.

Year 11 students have made an incredible start to their exams - demonstrating maturity, focus and a real determination to do themselves proud. Their conduct in the exam hall and around school has been exemplary, and staff have been genuinely impressed by the positive attitude they are bringing to this final stretch. **Staggered study leave** will begin after half-term, and letters have already been sent to all Year 11 parents/carers - please check these carefully for full details. Our final **Leavers' Assembly and shirt-signing** event will take place on **Tuesday 16th June**, with the **Year 11 Prom** following on **Thursday 25th June**. We are very much looking forward to celebrating the end of an era with our wonderful Year 11 students and marking their achievements together.



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Half-Term 6 Curriculum

Please find below the topics being taught in the summer term at Key Stage 3:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English – Gender through the ages Maths – Probability and Ratio Science – Forces and Eco-systems French – Lifestyle Choices History – The Tudors Geography – Physical Landscapes and Weather and Eco-systems Art - Surrealism Drama – Australian children Music – Ukelele PSHCE – Personal Development and careers	English – Travel Writing Maths – Transformations Science – Space, Health and Lifestyle French – Holidays History – Britain’s journey to democracy Geography – Tectonics Art – Guernica Project Drama – The School Trip Music – Reggae PSHCE – First Aid and Online Safety	English – Journalistic Writing Maths – Representations Science – Atomic Structure French – My Social Life History – Medicine through time Geography – India Art – Peony Yip Project Music – Rock School PSHCE – Anti-social behaviour

Sports Day – Monday 20th July

We are delighted to share our excitement for this year’s Annual Sports Day. This promises to be a fantastic celebration of smiles, togetherness, teamwork, and collaboration across our school community. We are once again visiting the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield on Monday 20th July 2026. Students should arrive at school at the usual time, dressed in their full PE kit, and will be transported to and from the venue by school buses. Full details will be shared by the PE department in the coming weeks, including during assemblies and tutor time. Sports Day is always one of the highlights of the school year and this year promises to be no different.

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Finally, as we approach the new term, I would like to thank you for your continued support in upholding the high standards we expect across our academy community, particularly in relation to punctuality and uniform, which help foster a culture of pride, readiness, and respect for learning.

We look forward to welcoming students back into the academy on **Monday at 8:27am**, ready for another successful term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L. Taylor

Principal