

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thursday, December 15, 2022

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to update you on our latest review of our enrichment offer we provide at The Suthers School. Since September we have increased our enrichment offer and seen some exciting developments from the introduction of Young Enterprise and sign language, to boxing and cookery. It has been wonderful to observe the launch of our music lesson provision and to watch our students engage with a number of sporting fixtures against local schools. The recent visits to Meadowhall and to Lille in France have provided further enrichment experiences for our students that we will build on in 2023. Overall, our review acknowledges that our opt-in enrichment opportunities across the four days have been popular and continue to grow in number.

However, our evaluation has identified that as our student population grows we are not able to guarantee the consistency of high-quality compulsory enrichment every Tuesday after school. This is due to the fact that compulsory enrichment is only made possible by staff volunteering to run activities and our pupil numbers now exceed our staffing capacity to run these sessions.

Unfortunately, our existing indoor and outdoor facilities are not able to accommodate the increase in student numbers and as a result we are no longer able to offer the comprehensive level of provision. As a result of our review the decision has been taken and ratified by the Governing Body to make all enrichment optional from week commencing Monday 16th January 2023. This will mean that the school day will end at 2.55 p.m. on a Monday to Friday with the school bus leaving at 3.05 p.m. We will now run optional enrichment / Study Hall four days a week from Tuesday to Friday and will have a second bus leaving at 4.05 p.m. for those students engaging with these opportunities.

A full programme of enrichment sessions will be provided to you by e-mail on week commencing Monday 9th January 2023 with the opt-in programme commencing on the week commencing 16th January 2023. You will be able to book places on the enrichment activities via our website. Ahead of you receiving this information, I wanted to share the following new initiative which will also be available for Year 7 and 8 students to opt-in to in the new year:

- *To promote involvement in enrichment activities both inside and outside of school, we will be introducing "The Suthers Award Programme". This will be open to all students in Year 7 and Year 8. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to developing their TORCH characteristics, carry out a community project and complete a short expedition in the Summer term. This will support students with their character development and help prepare them for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards that will commence in Year 9 and Year 10.*

If any parents/carers would like to support in the delivery of any enrichment session, please do get in touch via contact@suthersschool.co.uk and we can provide you with more information about what this process will look like.

I am really looking forward to strengthening our opt-in enrichment offer and observing students enjoying the activities on offer outside of the classroom.

Further information about the start of next term will be sent in the newsletter tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Miss Nic Watkin
Head Teacher