

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have hopefully read the press release outlining our first ever Year 11 cohort's achievements in their GCSE results. These results will place The Suthers School in the top 20% of schools nationally in English and Maths. We are extremely proud of every single student and the hard work and commitment they dedicated to their studies considering the difficult challenges they have faced over the last couple of years. We are also incredibly proud to see their development of character and how they have grown as individuals at The Suthers School. They have all managed to secure their next destinations and we look forward to hearing how they are settling in over the next few months.

We are now excited to welcome all students back to The Suthers School on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8.25 am. Due to the school now being oversubscribed at Key Stage Three, we have appointed 12 new staff members. As a result we have added additional teaching and tutor groups to enhance the learning experience across all subjects. These improvements will be communicated to students during the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> September when they will be onboarded by their form tutors during periods 1-3.

**On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September students will be directed to their year group areas:**

Year 7 – Refectory (directed through the main reception of the school as previously communicated)

Year 8 – Auditorium (through side gate)

Year 9 – Sports Hall (through side gate)

Year 10 – Activity Studio (through side gate)

Year 11 – Drama Studio (through side gate)

Students will be directed to their form tutor and will then be taken through a series of onboarding routines during the first morning. These routines will establish the high standards and expectations we uphold in lessons and unstructured times. We would like to thank our Student Parliament who joined us during the summer holiday to help us establish these routines by providing additional feedback.

All students will have an assembly before lunch time delivered by the Senior Leadership Team to outline our expectations. We are unashamedly proud of our high expectations which we know contribute to our students achieving high academic outcomes which increase their opportunities at Post-16. We take pride in all of our students working hard, being kind and being actively engaged in their learning. Our TORCH values and character strengths will be communicated regularly throughout this academic year and everyday students will be rewarded when they demonstrate our five character strengths whilst following our Nova Trust motto of Work Hard; Be Kind.

We take pride in our appearance at The Suthers School and whilst wearing our uniform students are always representing our school community. Please see enclosed a reminder of September 2022 uniform requirements.

Our site team work hard to ensure our school is a pleasant environment for everyone to work and learn in and therefore a polite reminder that chewing gum, energy drinks and fizzy drinks (except sparkling water) are banned from site. Please remind your child not to bring this in to school. Hot drinks should be finished prior to entering school site. If any of these items are seen, they will be confiscated immediately.

Mobile phones should be turned off and placed in bags on arrival to school and if seen on school site will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. If confiscated, mobile phones will need to be collected by parents and carers at the end of the school day.

 **The Suthers School**  
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**Head Teacher**  
Nicola Watkin BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL  
**Executive Head Teacher**  
Andy Seymour BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



We would be grateful for anyone within our school community to be mindful of those with allergies. It is important to note that we are a nut free school so students and staff are not permitted to bring nuts on to school site for the well-being of our school community.

It is very important that students attend school with a bag and pencil case containing the correct equipment so they are ready to learn.

*The following list is essential equipment for their learning:*

• 3 pens (blue or black ink plus 1 red pen) – Students will be provided with a multi-pen on their first day. Year 7 already have this in the pencil case provided so must remember to bring this with them on their first day.

- Ruler, protractor and compass
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Scientific calculator
- Reading book (student choice of fiction or non-fiction)
- Colouring pens/pencils (optional)

After receiving feedback from all stakeholders, we have slightly amended our correction and consequence system from September 2022. The C3 consequence has been removed as we have zero-tolerance to any disruption to learning. This removal is to reduce low level disruption in classrooms as students and teachers deserve to experience disruption free learning. We now have a C1 (correction) and C2 (consequence) which is now a removal from lesson.

Please find the link to our school website where you can read The Suthers School Behaviour Policy which outlines the expected learning behaviours in and outside of school. We have introduced our Respect and Responsibilities room where students may be sent if they are not adhering to our high standards of behaviour, punctuality and uniform. If your child is placed in the Respect and Responsibilities room (RR) for not meeting the expected standards for learning, you will receive an email to inform you. They will complete some restorative work before returning to lessons when deemed ready to learn. ([website link](#))

In response to the Edurio survey and your parent and carer feedback, there has been significant work carried out on our communication strategy. We are grateful for the support from our Family Forum members who helped us shape the communication channels and systems between home and school and we would like to continue to develop this level of discussion with other families who wish to join us to develop our school improvement agendas.

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*We would like to share with you the outcomes and changes made as a result of the meeting:*

- Key messages of communication will always be sent via email and you will receive a push message through MCAS
- An additional Front of House staff member has been appointed to respond to telephone calls and monitor [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk) email, along with communicating attendance concerns
- An additional telephone line has been added for direct contact to school
- Any communication received through [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk) will be triaged and sent to the most appropriate member of staff to deal with your concern
- We endeavour for a staff member to return correspondence within 48 hours of your initial contact with school. We appreciate your understanding that many of our tutors and teachers have a full timetable and therefore will respond when they have availability to do so within this time frame
- The newsletter will continue to be sent via email which will contain all successes of the term along with the bulletin for the half term ahead informing you of key dates on the calendar
- Twitter and Instagram will still be used as our social media sites to share the successes and celebrations of students and staff within the school. Our website now has a link to the headlines from these social media sites
- Year group letters will now be sent to contact parents and carers regarding specific events or notices
- Positive phone calls from tutors and teachers will be made on a regular basis
- Head Teacher's postcards will continue to be handed to students or letters will be sent home for their exceptional contributions and achievements

If there is an urgent pastoral concern then Pastoral Leaders for your child's year group can be contacted directly:

[kwatson@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:kwatson@suthersschool.co.uk) – Kenya Watson, Year 7

[mleggett@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:mleggett@suthersschool.co.uk) – Matt Leggett, Year 8

[pmoon@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:pmoon@suthersschool.co.uk) – Paul Moon, Year 9

[wredmond@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:wredmond@suthersschool.co.uk) – Wendy Redmond, Year 10 and Year 11

As a team, we will continue to work hard to develop strong partnerships with our families to ensure you have clear and concise communication regarding your child's education, events and key messages. We have also uplifted our 'Home: School' agreement which is within the Suthers School Behaviour Policy and the school planner. Your child will bring this home in their planner for you to sign within the first week of term. Planners will be checked by tutors for any key messages from parents or carers.

Work is taking place on our Approach to Learning reporting system with staff training taking place this half term during Continuous Professional Learning in school. You will therefore receive a slightly amended report when your child is sent their progress report this academic year. In addition, you will receive an invite to your child's Character and Academic Success evenings (CAS) which will be a hybrid model of online and face to face appointments to enable as many parents and carers to attend the evening.

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A polite reminder that the car park is a designated 'drop and go' area to allow for a safe entry and exit for all students. Please can we ask for all parents and carers support in not parking for any period of time in this area. You will see the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral staff in Hi-Vis jackets on duty to support with this process.

Last half term we sent you the date of October's Family Forum meeting which is to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 5.30pm – 6.30pm. If you would like to be part of our Family Forum, then please do get in touch at [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk).

As a reminder, we have attached the bulletin for this half term.

Thank you, as always, for you continued support.

Nic Watkin  
Head Teacher