

Dear Parent/ Carer,

It is a pleasure to have welcomed all our students back into the building on Monday, after a well-earned summer break. Students look exceptional in their uniform and have made a fantastic start to the term. This week I have seen many examples of students working hard and being kind. For example, Year 7s have been fostering a love for reading through their English library lesson, making popcorn in cooking and having an introduction to instruments of the orchestra in Music. They have also demonstrated our high standards of respect and responsibility in the refectory and in outdoor spaces during unstructured time. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Key Stage Three Culture for Learning Lead. My role is to ensure that every single student is able to achieve and thrive at The Suthers School. I will be working closely with Senior Leaders, the Pastoral Team and Heads of Subjects to support pupil progress and achievement. I will also be reviewing our Approach to Learning reflection process that will support both students and parents to know how students can continue to progress.

Planners

As it is the start of a new year, every student has been given a brand-new planner this week, which is an essential part of their equipment. The planners will be used in all lessons through the use of their green, amber and red cards. We encourage all students to place their planners on green at the start of all lessons and then use amber and red when they need to indicate to their teacher that they are unsure in lesson. Working in partnership with parents and carers is a priority at The Suthers School and we have therefore drawn up a home school agreement document that is printed at the front of student planners. This agreement has been written in response to the feedback from students, staff and also parents and carers. You will see that the document reflects our high expectations and outlines the commitment needed from all to ensure that students achieve their very best potential when at school. We ask that you read through this document and sign it alongside the student and form tutor signatures that have been completed this week.

When students receive homework, it is our expectation that students record this in their planner, to act as a reminder for what has been set and when it is due. Students are given time to do this in their lessons, when the homework is clearly explained. We also ask that at the end of every week, you discuss any homework your child has received to support them in making sure they have completed it and submit it on time. There is also a weekly signature spot for all to sign: students, parents, carers and form tutors. Students will be expected to show this in their form time every week and we would therefore appreciate your support in checking and signing this each week.

Further communication will be sent regarding our homework strategy and teaching and learning agenda. Approach to Learning Score (AToLS)

We will report on your child's approach to learning 6 times a year. There is a page in the student planner which shows the required learning traits for each category. We are ambitious for all students to reach our gold standard. Further information will be sent regarding AToLS in the next few weeks. In addition, I have attached a copy of the standards for you.

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CAT4 Assessments

On the 20th September, all Year 7 students will be completing CAT4 assessments. CAT4 is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement – namely verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasons and provides accurate analysis of potential student achievement. The data from these assessments will support staff in making sure that every student makes good progress against their individual abilities as they journey through the Suthers School.

Meet the Tutor Evening

On the 5th October, we will be inviting parents and carers to join us between 3:05 and 5:35 to meet your child's form tutor as well as some of their teachers. There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books and find out how they are settling in to school.

Half Term 1 Key Dates

8/9/2022	Portrait Photographs
20/9/2022	Year 7 CAT4 assessments
30/9/2022	MacMillan Cake Sale
01/10/2022	MacMillan Coffee Morning. Students and parents and carers welcome 10am-12noon
05/10/2022	Meet the Tutor Evening (3:05-5:35) More information to follow.
W/c October 10 th or 17 th TBC	Year 7 trip to Rutland Water

I am really excited to see our Year 7s settle in over the next half term and will be keen to celebrate their achievements with you as we move through the year.

Should you have any queries or would like to discuss anything further please get in contact with me at zallen@suthersschool.co.uk.

If you have any pastoral concerns regarding your child, please contact the pastoral lead for Year 7 Miss Watson at kwatson@suthersschool.co.uk

Your sincerely,

Zoe Allen
Head of History and KS3 Culture for Learning Lead