

Dear Year 7 Students,

Welcome to The Suthers School! I hope you are all enjoying time off this summer with your family and friends. We are excited to have you join our school community and for you to begin this new chapter of your school life. As Head Teacher, I wanted to take a moment to share some important information with you.

As a new member of our school community I want you to share in the fantastic achievements of our Year 11 students who received their GCSE results this week. I am delighted that for the second year running, over 70% of our students achieved a 4+ in English and Maths which has enabled most of them to progress on to their preferred pathway. I am also delighted with our strong set of results at 7+ in English and Maths which places us in the top 5% of similar schools nationally. The coverage we received in the Newark Advertiser can be read at this link: <https://www.newarkadvertiser.co.uk/news/students-celebrate-their-gcse-results-with-smiles-and-balloo-9327366/>.

Firstly, let me assure you that The Suthers School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all of our students. We believe in fostering a love for learning to develop the knowledge, skills and character strengths you need to become a well-rounded young person. We are determined to support each individual's unique talents and abilities in and outside of school and to provide you with a variety of opportunities to explore different experiences.

It was great to see you all during our transition days back in July and I know most of you were excited but also nervous. I am hopeful after the transition days that you are now more confident and are looking forward to joining our school community. During this time, you will have met many of your teachers already but as we are a growing school, we have 13 new members of staff starting in September so they will also be feeling apprehensive and excited to start their journey at Suthers at the same time as you.

I wanted to remind you that your first day in school is **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. It is important you arrive for 8.20am before the school day starts at 8.25am. If you are being dropped off at school, we would kindly ask that your parents or carers drop and collect you away from the school gates so cars needing disability access can get closer to the allocated spaces at the front of the building. Once on site, you will need to use the side gate and make your way to the Quad. On this day there will only be Year 7 and Year 11 students in school so we can ensure you have a smooth and comfortable first day. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff are here to guide and support you every step of the way. We have carefully planned the day to help you settle in and familiarise yourself with our school building and learn about our TORCH character strengths in more depth. You will also have the opportunity to meet your tutor, tutor group and explore the school facilities. During break and lunch time, you will be able to purchase snacks or a main meal from the refectory. If you are not going to purchase food from school, then you will need to ensure you bring a packed lunch with you. At the end of the day, Year 7 will be dismissed at the usual time of 2.55pm. If you are travelling home by bus, the bus will leave the designated bus stop at 3.10pm.

Every term we run a Family Forum for your parents and carers and we use this opportunity for them to give us feedback. An improvement we are making in September is in relation to the setting of Practice Learning (Homework). As of September, all your subject teachers will be setting Practice Learning through the **My Child At School (MCAS) App**. This will allow your parents/carers to know exactly what homework you have to complete and the deadlines for completing the homework. To support you to become more independent we will also be launching the **Bromcom Student Portal** and **Bromcom Student App**. The Student Portal will be accessible through a Computer or Laptop and the App will be available on Smart Phones. We will be completing the registration process when you start school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. If you would like to be able to access the Bromcom Student App via your Smart Phone I would be grateful if you could download the app to your phone prior to returning to school. You will not be able to register and sign in to the app until you return to school and complete the registration process with your unique codes. The app can be downloaded from the **Google Play Store** or the **Apple App Store**. The app logo looks like this:



At The Suthers School we believe in the importance of a well-rounded education so you can become the best version of yourself. Alongside our broad and balanced academic curriculum, we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities and sports teams for you to get involved in. We would like every single one of you to look at the opportunities available to you and perhaps explore something new to develop your skills and interests. You will be able to book yourself on to an enrichment activity in the first week of term for the activities to begin week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

I would also like you to 'Save the Date' for our 'Meet the Tutor' evening which will be held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. This will provide your parents/carers with an opportunity to meet your Form Tutor, take a look at your school work and find out how well you have settled in to The Suthers School. Your parents/carers will receive further information over the next few weeks on how to book an appointment with your Form Tutor.

We place great emphasis on our 'Work Hard; Be Kind' ethos and the values of Tenacity, Optimism, Respect, Curiosity and Hard Work. We expect all of our students to treat each other and staff members with kindness and take ownership of their learning. There may be times when you are faced with challenges but we encourage you to take risks and understand that it is ok to make mistakes as you will learn over-time and reflect on how improvements can be made. By embodying these values, you will not only excel academically but you will also grow into confident and compassionate individuals so you can do more than you ever thought possible.

As you prepare for the start of the new school year, please ensure that you have all the necessary equipment and uniform as outlined in our school's uniform policy on our school website [Uniform & Equipment](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email our school reception via [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk) and we will be more than happy to assist you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Enjoy the rest of your summer break.

Best wishes,

Nic Watkin  
**Head Teacher**