



Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the final few days of the Summer term, I wanted to inform you of several curriculum improvements we are introducing from Monday 2nd September 2024.

Curriculum Uplift

Like all schools in The NOVA Trust, The Suthers School will be moving to a two-week timetable – Week A and Week B. This improvement provides the school with enhanced flexibility to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which goes beyond the expectations of the National Curriculum. The introduction of a two-week curriculum model ensures that we can also extend our successful PSHE and Civics curriculum to students in Years 10 and 11.

We will also be moving to a five-lesson day with each lesson being 60 minutes in length. This additional time will provide subject teachers with the flexibility to implement challenging and transformative learning experiences for all our students.

School Day

As a result of our curriculum improvements, we will be making a small change to the end of our school day which will end at 2.45pm. We have worked closely with Marshalls to modify the bus times so that our students arrive at school on time, which remains unchanged for an 8.25am start. The bus will depart at the end of the day at 2.55pm (the bus timetable will be sent out prior to the students return to school in September). Due to the lack of uptake of the enrichment bus for the last 2 years, Marshalls are now only running one bus for enrichment on a Wednesday. Due to inflation the cost of a bus ticket will increase by 10 pence from September.

Ending the school day 10 minutes early might pose challenges and to mitigate these challenges we encourage students to engage with our enrichment programme which is available Tuesday to Friday each week and our homework club which runs daily from The Fern.

Standing Briefing	8.25am
Registration	8.30am to 8.50am
Period 1	8.50am to 9.50am
Period 2	9.50am to 10.50am
Break	10.50am to 11.10am
Period 3	11.10am to 12.10pm
Period 4 (Years 7, 8, and 9)	12.10pm to 1.10pm
Lunch (Years 10 and 11)	12.10pm to 12.45pm
Period 4 (Years 10 and 11)	12.45pm to 1.45pm
Lunch (Years 7, 8, and 9)	1.10pm to 1.45pm
Period 5	1.45pm to 2.45pm
Period 6 (Enrichment)	2.45pm to 3.45pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrichment runs Tuesday to Friday • Homework Club runs from The Fern Monday to Friday 	

Lunchtime

You will also notice, in response to Student and Parent/Carer Voice, we will revert to a split lunch from September due to our increased number of students. This will ensure all students queue quickly for food and can then enjoy their unstructured time.

Homework

Research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has shown that homework can add at least five months additional progress for students who complete homework compared to those that do not. As of September, we will be rolling out a new homework app called 'Show My Homework'. All homework will appear on this app for you to keep track of your child's homework. In September you will receive information on how to download the app and a personalised access code to link your child(ren) with the app. Homework will be set on a cycle as outlined below.

Years 7-9

- Homework will be set on a weekly basis in English, Maths and Science.
- Homework will be set every two weeks in Art, Geography, History, and MFL.
- Homework will be set as and when it is appropriate in all other subjects.

Years 10 and 11

- Homework will be set weekly in all exam subjects.

Students will have access to The Fern from 2.45 to 3.45pm each day to complete their homework. In response to feedback from parents and carers through our Family Forum we will start to issue a detention for those students who do not complete their homework. If you are a parent/carer of a child with SEND and would like to discuss the role of homework in line with the SEND Code of Practice with our SENDCo please e-mail: SENDCo@suthersschool.co.uk to arrange an appointment.

Thanks for your continued support.

Regards

James Griffiths
Deputy Head Teacher