



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very proud and extremely impressed with how our students have started this academic year and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them all whilst walking the corridors, being in lessons and standing on the school gate.

It has been a fantastic couple of weeks and students are really showing their enthusiasm for learning and building relationships with each other which is crucial for their character development. We continue to strengthen their understanding as to how they can support one another and how they can talk to staff if they have any worries or concerns. I am proud to work with such a team who care deeply for our young people by listening and providing them with support when it's needed.

I am delighted with how proud our students wear their uniform in school and also in the local community; their smart appearance has been acknowledged and we continue to encourage the high standard of uniform which represents our high expectations of all students. There are a small number of students wearing items which are not in our uniform policy including knee high socks and ankle socks along with some nose piercings; retainers should be worn as per our uniform policy which can be viewed on our website. To instill a consistent approach to improve uniform standards here at The Suthers School, black tights with an A line or pleated skirt, or trousers is the expectation. We have been sensitive in our approach to enable students and families to address the issues identified and are now entering week four of the autumn term and I am grateful for parents and carers continuing support so students uphold these high expectations.

During this last few weeks my focus has been on visiting classrooms and observing students engage in learning. As a result, I am delighted by the quality of the curriculum planning and teaching and learning taking place; there are regular opportunities for students to share their thinking and voice their opinion on a particular subject. Students are shaping their talk around the ambitious topics they have studied during lessons and share their enjoyment regarding specific subjects they have studied as they depart the school. Further work will continue with staff here at The Suthers School to ensure ambitious knowledge is taught to all students enabling them to feel confident to share their wider knowledge about a particular topic with their family and friends.

Emerging from the pandemic, we are finding it extremely challenging to find the breadth of enrichment opportunities for a varied programme. However, we will be able to offer Supervised Study along with a choice of activities for students to explore in Year 7-10 as from 2nd November.

No doubt you will have seen in the media about the lack of HGV drivers and general resources to operate supply chains. This is causing nationwide shortages of food for supermarkets, restaurants, takeaway outlets and hospitality providers such as Aspens. Aspens are working hard to keep any changes to a minimum and thank all parents and carers for their patience while the supply chain stabilises.

Unfortunately, our breakfast club, launched in September, is unable to continue due to the very low uptake of students purchasing food from our provider. As a result, at present, we have had to make the decision to postpone our breakfast club. Therefore, to fulfil

The Suthers School | Cross Lane, Fernwood, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 3NH
Telephone: 01636 957690 | Email: contact@suthersschool.co.uk | Website: www.suthersschool.co.uk

Executive Head Teacher: **Andrew Seymour** BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH | Head of School: **Nicola Watkin** BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL

The Suthers School is a member of the Nova Education Trust | Registered in England and Wales—No. 7635510
Registered Office: C19, The Sir Colin Campbell Building, University of Nottingham Innovation Park, Triumph Road, Nottingham NG7 2TU, ENGLAND



safeguarding procedures, on Monday 27th September we will be opening the school gates at 8.15am rather than 8.00am to ensure students are supervised when on the school site.

As part of our wider charity and community work, we are holding a Macmillan day on Friday 24th September which will showcase our staff and students' fantastic culinary skills. Students will be able to fundraise for this wonderful charity by purchasing some homemade biscuits and cakes, so they might wish to bring a small amount of money into school to contribute to some of these organised events.

In addition, we will be holding a Macmillan coffee/open morning for parents and carers on Saturday 2nd October from 10am-12noon. If you would like to join us to support this great cause and take the opportunity to meet some of our staff and students whilst visiting our brand new building and facilities, then please complete our online form which will be found on our school website early next week. If you would like to bake a cake or some biscuits to support this charity we would be extremely appreciative of this kind gesture.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact your child's form tutor via email and they will respond to you as soon as they are available to do so.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your kind words and continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Nic Watkin
Head of School