

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has truly been a *Year of Firsts* at The Suthers School.

For the first time since opening, our school is oversubscribed in every year group with a healthy waiting list. I would like to sincerely thank you for placing your trust in us and supporting The Suthers Way which is leading to the highest standards of learning in the classroom and an array of wider opportunities that promote our TORCH character strengths.

This year has seen students take part in our first visit to the World War I battlefields in Belgium and France, our inaugural ski trip to Pampeago, Italy, our first Year 10 mock interviews, Sports Day, and Race for Life event along with many other events and activities. I am proud to share that we raised a fantastic **£3,500** for *Young Lives vs Cancer*—a testament to the power of our school community.

While we remain a relatively small school in size, our offer to students is wide-ranging and rich. I encourage you to read our end-of-year newsletter which is on our website for a detailed overview of the learning experiences and extra-curricular activities your child has engaged in this year.

Looking Ahead to September 2025

As we prepare to welcome students back on **Monday, 1st September 2025**, please take note of the following changes and key expectations for the new academic year:

1. The Suthers Way Card

From September, every student will be issued a *Suthers Way Card*, which must be brought to school each day—just like full uniform and essential equipment. The card serves two purposes:

- ☐ **Recognition:** Celebrating students who consistently demonstrate our values and high standards.
- ☐ **Accountability:** Addressing instances of behaviour that fall short of expectations, including:
 - ☐ Incorrect uniform
 - ☐ Lack of basic equipment
 - ☐ Poor corridor conduct
 - ☐ Littering or eating/drinking in prohibited areas
 - ☐ Energy drinks on site
 - ☐ Mobile phone use
 - ☐ Use of derogatory language

System Overview:

- ☐ Cards allow for **3 positive** and **3 negative** entries.
- ☐ Once full, cards are replaced.
- ☐ **Golden Ticket** issued for 3 positives.
- ☐ **After-school detention (30 minutes)** issued for 3 negatives.



- ☐ Students without a card, or who refuse to present it, will also receive a detention.
- ☐ Tutors will check cards daily and support students with clear, constructive feedback.

Note: Corridor-related behaviour will now be managed through this system, and the current 'C2 for Corridor Conduct' will be discontinued.

2. Uniform Expectations

Our uniform policy remains unchanged and can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.thesuthersschool.co.uk/page.php?p=uniform>. If a student arrives at school without the correct uniform, parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring the appropriate uniform to school. As a reminder our uniform consists of:

- ☐ School Tie – Regulation tie (red).
- ☐ Skirt or Trousers – Formal, plain black, **knee-length pleated skirt**. No stretch-fit, pencil style or skater skirts permitted. The rolling of skirts is not permitted. Plain black, school regulation formal trousers. No jeans, chinos or stretch material or skinny-fit trousers are permitted.
- ☐ Shirt – formal white, long sleeves or short sleeves with stiff collar which must always be clean and tucked into the waistband. The rolling of shirt sleeves is not permitted. Coloured t-shirts or vest tops are not permitted underneath shirts.
- ☐ Black tights only – Socks are not permitted when wearing a skirt. A lighter denier may be worn in warmer weather.
- ☐ Shoes must be plain black, formal, lace-up or slip-on, leather or leather-effect.
 - ☐ **Trainers** (including black ones), fabric pumps, boots, or slingbacks **are not permitted**.
 - ☐ Footwear exceptions for medical reasons must be communicated in writing.
 - ☐ If non-regulation shoes are worn for any other reason a suitable pair of shoes will be issued on loan.

3. Equipment List

In September, your child will receive:

- ☐ An **A4 Independent Study Folder**
- ☐ An **A4 wallet** containing:
 - ☐ Mini whiteboard
 - ☐ Whiteboard pen and rubber
 - ☐ Flashcards

These tools will support our drive for independence and effective classroom assessment.

Please ensure your child also brings:

- ☐ School bag to ensure all equipment is carried between lessons
- ☐ Pencil case
 - ☐ 2 black/blue pens and 2 red or coloured pens
 - ☐ 2 pencils
 - ☐ Highlighters
 - ☐ Rubber
 - ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Flashcards
- ☐ Scientific calculator (KS4)

4. Punctuality

Punctuality is essential for academic and life success.

Morning Expectations:

- ☐ Students must be on the quad by **8.25am**.
- ☐ Gates close at 8.25am. Late arrivals = **after-school detention**.
 - ☐ **First late** in a week = 15 minutes (LS1)
 - ☐ **Further lates** = 30 minutes (LS2)
 - ☐ Arrival **after 9.00am** = unauthorised absence for the morning.

Punctuality to Lessons:

Since February 2025, punctuality to lessons has improved from **89% to 98%** each week—a clear sign of impact.

- ☐ Late arrivals must knock and wait outside the classroom door.
- ☐ Without a valid reason, students will be sent to the **RR Room** for the lesson.
- ☐ Repeated lateness will lead to further sanctions.

5. Revised Behaviour System as per Trust policy: C1, C2a, C2b

From September:

- ☐ **C1:** A verbal warning and positive intervention. No sanction. Logged on Bromcom.
- ☐ **C2a (New):** Issued for *low-level disruption*.
 - ☐ Student is removed to a *C2a Matrix Classroom*.
 - ☐ 15-minute after-school detention.
 - ☐ Logged on Bromcom; parents informed via MCAS.
 - ☐ Teacher contacts parent to discuss support.
- ☐ **C2b (New):** Issued for *significant disruption*.
 - ☐ Student removed to **RR Room** for that lesson and the next.
 - ☐ 30-minute after-school detention.
 - ☐ Logged and communicated in the same way as above.

Please Note:

- ☐ Detentions are held **after school only**.
- ☐ Missed detentions = **1-hour SLT detention on Friday** (24 hours' notice will be given).

6. Mobile Phone Policy

Our mobile phone and electronic device policy has led to:

- ☐ Fewer incidents of online bullying
- ☐ Increased social interaction during breaks

However, some students are still using phones in toilets and as you will understand this is impossible to monitor or stop without your support. To help us in eliminating phone use during the school day, and further reducing the anxiety created by inappropriate mobile phone use, please consider using parental controls to restrict access between **8.25am and 2.45pm**. A guide is enclosed.

7. Parent/Carer Home-School agreement

We are introducing a KS3 & KS4 Parent/Carer Agreement that highlights and strengthens the vital partnership between students, parents/carers, and the school. This agreement is designed to foster a shared commitment to each child's success, reinforcing the positive connection between home, school, and the wider community. By working together, we can ensure the best possible support for every student's learning and development. Full details on how to complete the agreement will be provided at the start of the new school year.

In Closing

As we continue to work together in support of every student's growth, safety, and success, I'm reminded of the words of Neil Postman: *'Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.'* This powerful reflection speaks to the lasting impact we, as educators and parents/carers, have in shaping the future through the values, care, and guidance we provide today. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us prepare our students not only for academic achievement, but for life beyond the classroom.

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming all students back on **Monday, 1st September 2025**, for an **8:25am** start.

Kind regards,

James Griffiths
Deputy Head Teacher
The Suthers School