



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the amazing activities which have taken place over this last half term. Our committed and dedicated staff, along with continued support from our Governing body, strive to ensure we provide the best academic education and character development for all of our learners both inside and outside of the classroom.

I am enormously proud of the progress we are making here at The Suthers School which has been validated by our recent Quality Assurance visits supported by the Executive team of NOVA Trust and our Chair of Governors Mrs Christine Kavanaugh. We have had many visitors in school over the last few weeks who have reported a calm and purposeful learning environment across the school. The most pleasing comment from external visitors is that they observed and spoke to many students who articulated how happy and proud they are to be part of The Suthers School community. Students explained to visitors how they feel safe in school and most importantly they know who to speak to if they have any problems or concerns. Our subject leaders are doing a fantastic job developing enriching lessons where students feel confident to communicate with their peers the knowledge they have remembered. Our new Home Learning strategy will begin after half term; teachers will be mapping opportunities for all students to continue to both recall and retrieve core knowledge and consolidate their learning at home. Students will be provided with higher level reading texts by their class teacher so they can come prepared for learning prior to a new topic being taught.

Our enrichment programme has enabled students to engage in basketball, kung fu, dance, journalism and stem club and many of our events and successes over the last half term can be seen on our Twitter and Instagram sites. Our enrichment programme continues to provide a wealth of opportunities for students to participate in. A particular mention to our Photography club, led by Mrs Pettit, who successfully developed their own 'pop-up' studio in which some of our Year 10 students have supported with their incredible talent for photography. These unique experiences within school capture the creativity and potential of students to allow them to pursue their interests outside of school. In addition, Miss Humber and Mr Sykes-Wood secured a piano for the school refectory; it is an absolute pleasure listening to the talented musicians we have playing a variety of songs throughout the day. Students from all year groups demonstrate their musicality and confidence to perform in front of others during breaks and lunch times and both staff and external visitors have commented on the relaxed atmosphere. To encourage more students to play an instrument, we look to advertise for some peripatetic tutors who can teach woodwind lessons as well as continuing with drum and singing lessons this half term.

Our students' mental health and well-being is at the forefront of everything we do and we continue to ensure we provide as much support as possible to provide them with strategies to support their personal development. We are fortunate to have welcomed a number of external visitors back into the school building including the school nurse, counsellors, the mental health team and support from the police so we can continue to build positive partnerships within school and within our local community.

Every Year 7 student achieved their bronze award or higher by February half term which is a fantastic achievement and we are proud of every single one of them. Our regular celebration assemblies took place in the last week of term to congratulate the amazing achievements of our students. Once again, I was lucky enough to meet with ten students, across all year groups, who received the most reward points over the half term. It was great to be able to have conversations with them about their future and what their hopes and

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dreams are once they leave school. One year 7 told me she wanted to be a Marine Biologist and her Science teacher, Miss Carter, had been supporting her with how she can manage to achieve her dream; another Year 7 shared an interest in becoming an engineer and our Year 11 students have plans to study A level at NA6 and attend Lincoln College to study mechanics. Listening to the aspiration of our students gives me incredible confidence in the support and opportunities we are providing. Our investment in careers guidance and advice is shown through the organised trips to University and our engagement with local business networking. In addition, we have also appointed a specialist 1:1 Level 6 Careers Advice and Guidance advisor who has attended school weekly to meet with our Year 11 and Year 10 students to support them further with their decision making.

Observing rehearsals for Matilda has been a great experience and staff and students continue to demonstrate their tenacity for the final performances which take place on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th March at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now which can be purchased through ParentPay. It would be fantastic to see as many parents and students supporting all of the hard work our dedicated staff and students have put in to this show.

We continue to make developments within our school curriculum. I was astounded by the professionalism of our Year 9 Food Technology students as they have been working on preparing 2 course meals with Mrs Gollin. The final appearance and taste of the food was delightful and I had the hard choice of making a decision as to which dish was the most appetising and aesthetically pleasing. Hopefully some of our Year 9 students will make the decision this half term, during their option selection, to use their talents and continue to develop their experience as a chef and learn more about nutrition and hospitality at GCSE level. Mr Lynas, School Leader for Achievement, will be sending more detailed information to all Year 9 parents regarding the options process very soon. These face to face sessions will provide the opportunity for Year 9 parents to visit the school and listen to the breadth of an offer we have for GCSE subjects next year.

Despite limited fixtures due to the dark evenings, our Year 11 Sports Leaders have been brilliantly leading Y7 students in PE sessions and they are certainly demonstrating their exceptional communication skills and ability to build relationships supporting the younger year groups with their sporting activities. Year 11 have shown real character strength of respect for their peers along with maintaining hard work at all times.

It is an exciting time for student voice. Our Suthers Student Parliament have met and are mapping out plans for the year and opportunities to build student leadership across the school. Students collected their badges on the last day of term. Student Parliament will continue to play a significant role during Active Tutor time where they will be leading activities and gaining the voice of their peers to feedback on what developments can be made across the school. It is so positive to see the vast amount of students who want to take part in making a difference within the school community.

Our next round of Y11 mock examinations are due to take place in the first two weeks back after half term and students have been working considerably hard in preparation for these exams. Period 7 for Year 11 will be cancelled for the next two weeks allowing them additional time to revise for subject examinations which will take place the following day.

On Thursday 3rd March, we will be supporting the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. The theme of the day is 'You are a reader' and we will be celebrating ways to promote reading for pleasure. Students and staff are encouraged to come to school wearing the costume of a character from a book. However, if students do not wish to dress as a character from a novel then they should wear their school uniform as usual.

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We will be sending information for our Parent/Carer Forum meeting to all of those parents who have communicated that they wish to be involved. This meeting will be held in March. If you would like to be a part of this group, and haven't yet been in touch, then please do email contact@suthersschool.co.uk and one of our team will contact you with further information.

If I could ask for your continued support to remind all students that mobile phones or headphones should not be used once inside the school gates. If students are seen using them on site, they will be confiscated for collection by parents or carers.

I hope everyone has had a good rest over the half term break and I very much look forward to welcoming all students and staff back on February 21st 2022.

Yours Sincerely,

Nic Watkin

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