



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new year 7s to the school and welcome back all students who are hopefully rested, ready and excited to return in September. I would also like to thank all staff who were involved in this year's Summer School. It has been wonderful to see our year 7s building relationships and making new friends as well as enjoying the activities which our staff have planned effectively to make sure this week was a success.

As we near the beginning of the next academic year, I wanted to write to inform you of some important changes regarding the school day. We will be introducing a breakfast club which will open at 8am where students will be able to purchase refreshments from the refectory before tutor time begins at 8.30am. Eating a healthy breakfast before the school day increases concentration and therefore it is vital for all students to increase their energy levels prior to learning. In addition, refreshments will also be available again during break time so students can purchase a warm or cold snack through ParentPay if they choose to do so.

Attendance and punctuality are key to successful learning and all students must be prepared to learn at the start of the day. Students will need to be in school by 8.25am to be sat ready to Connect to their learning in Tutor time with the correct equipment, including a reading book. Students will be ready to receive their registration mark at 8.30 am. If they do not arrive on time to Tutor time then they will be issued with a break time detention for lateness on that day and I am hopeful you will be supportive of the importance of punctuality as it prepares students for the world of work with the intention to be early rather than on time. They must arrive to school wearing their correct uniform with pride and there is an expectation for all students, even if on a part time timetable, to wear the uniform which was outlined in the letter prior to the summer term. Please find attached a video link in the email for you to watch and revisit if required.

We are delighted with our student numbers in year 7 being at full capacity but as a result of our school roll rising this puts additional strain on the supervision for footfall during lunch time. We have therefore had to implement a split lunch system to ensure all students have adequate time and space to enjoy their lunch. This will allow us to maintain a calm and settled lunch time by limiting year group numbers during each 45-minute sitting and as a result make it more manageable for supervision and allow students to purchase and consume their lunch in a timely manner.

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The enrichment period at the end of the school day has had to be postponed until November 1st for Years 7-10. The decision to suspend period 7 earlier this year was not taken lightly and given that this is one of the unique features of our school we are keen to re-instate this as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are not in the position to restart this provision in September for all year groups. However, I would like to confirm that from November 1st 2021 we intend to offer quality enrichment provision which will be held during period 7 until 4pm. I appreciate this is later in the term than many of you would expect and we are also disappointed as a staff body that it has to be delayed. By postponing the start, it means careful planning and preparation can take place this half term to ensure we engage and secure external partnerships to develop a comprehensive programme of enrichment, providing students with a range of experiences for them to explore as well as complimenting high quality classroom learning. Supervised study will also allow for students to consolidate their learning and work independently; teaching staff will be utilising planning time to develop ways we can support students to understand the ways they approach their learning by promoting metacognitive strategies. These strategies will allow students to think deeply about the learning processes and reflect on what they have done well and how they can improve so they can approach their learning in a way that works for them.

In addition, there still remains some uncertainty around how our Key Stage 4 students will be assessed in 2022/23. In order to provide as much support possible to ensure our Year 11 students achieve the very best outcomes and feel confident in their approach to learning, we will be utilising the extended school day from September-October half term for Year 11 only. The timetabled sessions will take place period 7 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to provide additional learning time and targeted support in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Provision for support in other subjects will be built in as required. To support staff with any assessment changes and further curriculum developments, additional time has been scheduled within the calendar for staff professional learning and therefore the school day will operate as shown below from September 2021. Throughout the academic year, Monday after school will be utilised for Continuous Professional Learning for our staff body and Friday will remain an early finish.



Changes to the school day:

Day	Start Time	Lunch Time		Finish Time
Breakfast Club 8 am – can be purchased through ParentPay				
	8.25 am	Year 8 & 9	Year 7, 10 & 11	
Mon	8.30 am	11.40 - 12.25 pm	12.30 - 1.15 pm	2.55 pm
Tues	8.30 am	11.40 - 12.25 pm	12.30 - 1.15 pm	2.55 pm <i>4.00 pm Year 11</i>
Wed	8.30 am	11.40 - 12.25 pm	12.30 - 1.15 pm	2.55 pm <i>4.00 pm Year 11</i>
Thur	8.30 am	11.40 - 12.25 pm	12.30 - 1.15 pm	2.55 pm <i>4.00pm Year 11</i>
Friday	8.30 am	11.40 - 12.25 pm	12.30 - 1.15 pm	2.55 pm

Students in Years 7-10 will depart school daily at 2.55 pm. Bus services will remain the same as this last academic year with a pick-up of 3pm until October half term. Further information will be sent to Year 11 parents and carers regarding bus routes.

Finally, you may well be aware that schools have been asked to provide all secondary aged children with two lateral flow tests (LFT) prior to their return to lessons. We are therefore going to implement a staggered return to support this work. After the summer break, Year 7 students will return to school on Monday 6th September and all other years will return on Wednesday 8th September; these two additional days will allow for a staggered start for LFT testing and onboarding for students. Please see the LFT testing schedule below for the test date. An email will also be sent directly to your inbox to confirm the time slot for your child to attend on the day.



Year Group	LFT Test Day 1	LFT Test Day 2	Return to Lessons 8.25am arrival – 8.30am Tutor Time
7	Tuesday 31 st August	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
8	Wednesday 1 st September	Monday 6 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
9	Wednesday 1 st September	Monday 6 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
10	Thursday 2 nd September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
11	Thursday 2 nd September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September

** Appointments for your child's LFT will be sent through via email later this week*

Parents/carers who consent to their child receiving an LFT will need to ensure their child attends the allocated appointment slot. Those parents/carers who do not consent to LFT for their child can simply decline the appointment via return email.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I am keen to hear from parents and carers and will be scheduling 'Meet the Head' events and asking for interest in our Families Forum where you can ask questions and be inside future developments of the school. Please do get in touch if you are interested in being part of this group.

Further correspondence regarding curriculum and teaching and learning will be sent to you in the next few weeks of term.

Yours faithfully,

Nic Watkin
Head of School
The Suthers School