



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the festive season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information regarding the end of the Autumn Term and to thank you, as parents and carers, for your considerable support and commitment so far this year.

We have achieved a great deal in our first term here at The Suthers School and our superb students and staff have created some magical moments over the last few months. From our fantastic Year 7 transition to our amazing charity events organised by our very own SAVE charity group in school. The latest event being our Christmas Jumper day which was extremely successful raising £210 for Save the Children; we are extremely proud of every member of our school community. Many of these memorable experiences, along with the multitude of school trips and sports fixtures can be found on our social media Twitter and Instagram.

We continually strive to ensure that we provide parents and carers with the highest standard of communication possible and remain committed to further strengthening the excellent partnerships that exist between home and school. As a result of our parent survey last year and from conversations early in the term with parents and carers, we have now appointed another receptionist to ensure we are continuously responding to our school email account [contact@thesuthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@thesuthersschool.co.uk) as well as answering the telephone. Our MCAS programme has made a significant difference to many families; parents and carers tell us that they are very appreciative of the opportunities to view their child's ATOL reports via this method. We are always keen to receive feedback to help with this significant agenda. If you would like to discuss any aspect of our communication strategy, then please feel free to contact the school. As always, please do follow us on Twitter (@SuthersSchool) for up to date communication along with our school website [www.thesuthersschool.co.uk](http://www.thesuthersschool.co.uk) which contains parental letters and key dates for the year ahead.

I am grateful to all parents and carers who signed up for our Parent Forum; I am disappointed we had to cancel due to the recent announcements but I have every intention in meeting as many of you as possible once circumstances allow. The Parent Forum group will enable you to contribute to the development of our school agenda items moving forward so if you haven't expressed an interest already and wish to be involved in our school improvement then please do get in touch with the school office.

Nearing the end of term, I'd like to update you on our final day arrangements. The school will break for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021** at **12.45pm** which is earlier than our usual finish.

Students will be expected to attend periods 1 to 3, where normal lessons will take place followed by a short tutor period where they will have some Christmas celebrations and a Christmas quiz prior to being dismissed. This session will also allow tutors to provide some key messages in readiness for the

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

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new term, including testing arrangements. Our refectory will offer a selection of cold sandwiches and baguettes along with the usual cake and drinks on their departure if students wish to use this lunch service. Students will then be dismissed from school in a calm and orderly manner at 12.45pm. All local travel companies have been informed of our decision to finish the term earlier than usual and the bus services will be adjusted to ensure all students are able to travel home in the usual way.

Arrangements can be made to supervise students in the afternoon should parents wish to but this must be communicated directly with your child's Form Tutor by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** to ensure that arrangements are securely in place for the end of the day.

### Return to School

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support and understanding with the recent announcement of additional testing for students after the Christmas break. We will now welcome all students back after Christmas on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 which is an amendment from previous communication. After correspondence from the Government we now have to test students prior to their return to school after the Christmas break and therefore will be implementing a staggered start for students as we have done previously.

The Government strongly encourage staff, pupils and students to continue regular LFT testing and to report their results. We will therefore be giving every student LFTs on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December so they can follow the recommended guidance of twice weekly testing before they return to school in January.

In addition, the wearing of masks is strongly advised in communal areas within the building. I would therefore ask for your continued support in ensuring all students arrive to school with a mask and wear it at all times in corridors and communal spaces.

Please see below the testing schedule in preparation for January return:

	On-site Lateral Flow Test Date:	On-site Lateral Flow Test Time Slot:	Return to School Date:
<b>Year 11</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am-12noon	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 8.25am
<b>Year 10</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	12.30-3.30pm	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 8.25am
<b>Year 9</b>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am-12noon	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 8.25am
<b>Year 8</b>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	12.30-2pm	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 8.25am
<b>Year 7</b>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	2pm-3.30pm	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 8.25am

Time slots will be confirmed by the end of the week for all students who have already submitted consent for previous in school testing.

Further communication will be sent to Year 11 students and parents this week, as they will be returning to school on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January for a bespoke timetable which has been devised to allow them additional time with staff across a number of subjects. After recent mock examinations, teachers will be working with Year 11 students on areas which they need to develop and secure before the summer examinations. We are all incredibly proud of how our year 11 students approached their recent mock exams and their behaviour and ATOLs are demonstrating true dedication and commitment to their studies.

I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Nic Watkin  
Head of School

Key Dates for your diary: Spring term

19<sup>th</sup> January Year 11 Achievement Evening via Parent Booking

2<sup>nd</sup> February Year 7 Achievement Evening via Parent Booking

8<sup>th</sup> February Year 7 Achievement Evening via Parent Booking

More information regarding these evenings will follow in January.