

16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

**Re: Academy Improvement Work**

Welcome back to the summer term. I wanted to provide you with an update about the good work that continues to support our improvement journey before we embark upon the third term of this academic year.

- The first set of Knowledge Organisers were well received by parents and students last half term and, following feedback via our School Comms App and the Parents' Forum, we are confident improvements have been made to the newest Knowledge Organisers to be handed out to all students, Years 7 to 11, this week. Copies of these are also being posted onto our website following the drop-down link: Students, Knowledge Organisers
- Governors have all made visits during the last half term, as they have done for each half term this academic year, to find out about the developments in each department across the academy. Following these visits they have produced reports which are taken back to the Local Academy Council providing greater challenge and support for colleagues all working to continue to improve standards at SUA.
- Teaching and learning across the academy has been a constant foci for every teacher and member of the support team working alongside students. There has been increased challenge in lessons and teachers have received training and coaching to develop the mastery approach to learning. This alongside the Knowledge Organisers has seen a real improvement with our internal tracking of teaching standards. Teachers have been working as coaches to support each other and there have been real successes with this developmentally.
- Marking has also been a real focus and student books are regularly being discussed through training sessions and departmental meetings. In many subjects there is now a consistently good standard of marking. Areas where we have identified further improvement is required are receiving support to do so.
- The RESPECT code is now well established and upheld by all students. Every visitor we had last half term, all commented on how well behaved and polite the students have been. Through student panels and the Academy Council meetings students have also commented on their belief that behaviour has improved. Class Charts has been developed so that all low level disruption is being logged and Mr Plant and the pastoral team are working hard to ensure this is being monitored so that learning continues to not be interrupted.
- Almost 250 students set off for a rewards visit to Alton Towers a week before the Easter break. This was as a direct result of some intensive work that is being done to support improved behaviour and outstanding attendance. As a start, to what we hope continues into the future, students had a small window of time to demonstrate excellence in both of these areas. We recognise there were some teething problems and we have taken feedback on board from parents, but in essence during our inspection last year our attendance and the behaviour of our students was not good enough. We now have very clear data evidencing a significant improvement in both: rates of attendance to the academy and in improved behaviour.
- Years 7 and 8 have continued with their reading challenges and the competition has seen a positive impact on the reading ages of many students across each year group. Form breakfasts have been well received for the winning tutor group each half term and Mrs Haffie-Hobday will continue driving this initiative throughout the summer term.

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- Intervention classes have been carefully selected for Year 11 as the students rapidly approach their examinations. Period 6 lessons continue to run alongside a comprehensive Easter revision programme and many additional Saturdays on the run up to the examinations beginning.
- A well-attended event took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March for families of students in Year 10 to support them in the lead up to their GCSE English Literature examination. The feedback was very positive.
- Our students showed amazing talent, enthusiasm and support for our very first show to include such a large cast, crew and support team. Beauty and the Beast had standing ovations and some wonderful feedback from all involved including a great many of the children from other schools, families and other audience members in attendance. A huge triumph and a sign of the strength of our academy community. Special thanks to Miss Humpage for her commitment and dedication to seeing this project through.
- 47 students attended a 4 day break away to Paris this Easter holiday under Mrs Mays' leadership. The feedback from the visit has been incredibly positive and once again members of #TeamSUA represented us brilliantly over in France.
- Almost 50% of families are now regularly using our new School Comms app. If we haven't got an up-to-date email address for you, please do send this into the academy so we can add you to this great resource. The facility is incredibly useful, you can access your son/daughter's timetable and we can send all correspondence through the app. You can also access ParentPay through the app.

The above is just a flavour of the work that continues to take place across our academy to improve the outcomes for all of our students. There are clearly three important elements to us driving our improvements forward, the work we continue to facilitate here, student engagement and participation whilst at the academy every day and families working closely with us to underpin the process including your support and communication back to us.

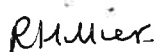
If you would like to join us at our next Parents' Forum event please add this into your diaries: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 6-7pm in the academy hall. If you would like an appointment to discuss the progress of your son/daughter please contact the relevant Head of Year through Mr Plant, Vice Principal [dplant@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:dplant@suacademy.co.uk)

**Dates for your diaries:**

Date	Event
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day: Academy Closed
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Forum meeting 6-7pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSE and A Level examinations begin
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 9 Pathways and Parents' Evening 4-7pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of half term. Full day, finish 2.55pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Academy reopens for the final half term

As always, your support and feedback is always welcomed. If you would like to discuss any of the work we are completing or would like to have an informal visit please contact the academy via our PA [lheelis@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:lheelis@suacademy.co.uk). I will provide a further update at the end of our next half term.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. R. Hillier  
Principal