

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Dear Families,

As we draw to the close of an incredibly busy first term I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to a couple of colleagues from all of us here at Team SUA. Mr Massey leaves after eleven years at the academy to pursue a new challenge at the University of Wolverhampton. Mr Francis leaves, after just over five years, gaining employment at an academy in West Bromwich. Finally, Mrs Haffie-Hobday, who has also worked at SUA for just over five years, has secured a promotion as Deputy Headteacher at an Inclusion Centre in Walsall. You will all be missed—Good Luck with your new challenges.

This newsletter is packed once again with a snapshot of many of the activities that have taken place over this last seven week half term. Students have been brilliant! On every occasion, where they have represented the academy, they have made us all very proud. Fundraising activities have been incredibly successful, ending with 'Save the Children' on our final day of term. Thank you to families for your support with these events.

I hope everyone has a restful break over the Christmas holiday period and a very Happy New Year!

Best wishes

Mrs Hillier
Principal

Children in Need



Students across the academy held fundraising events including a non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need, raising an amazing £860. Activities ranged from glitter painting and tombola through to bake sales and 'Soak the Teacher', which proved particularly popular!. We are proud of the efforts our students put in to making this day a success and contributing to such a worthwhile cause.



Mr Williams, Director of Engagement



   Watch, follow and like us @suaupdates

SUA Awards Evening



Monday 17th December saw the annual SUA Awards Evening. This year we were delighted to be joined by a very special guest, Professor Carl Chinn. Professor Chinn, local historian and 'Peaky Blinders' expert, delivered an inspirational speech to our guests and returning students, who received a range of achievement and community awards. We are immensely proud of the achievements our students made and were pleased to be able to recognise this on what was a fantastic evening.

Mr Williams, Director of Engagement

Hednesford Christmas Lights



On Friday 7th December SUA's Samba Band did the academy proud by performing at the Hednesford Lights switch on. A large crowd gathered to hear the students perform and it was great to see fellow students coming to support their peers. The samba band performed two pieces and had even composed one themselves.

Miss Humpage, Director of Creative

Lewis Evans



Lewis Evans (Year 10) won the East Coast Championships during October half term in Skegness.

Lewis is 3rd in the National Points for the year, he has an award ceremony in January, he is doing amazingly well and we continue to watch in awe!

Mr Newton, Form Tutor

Staffordshire University Visit



As part of their preparations for their GCSE English Literature, a group of 14 KS4 students participated in a targeted skills session at Staffordshire University's Stoke Campus. Working with lecturers and tutors to fine-tune their analysis of poetry, students really focused their skills and knowledge in time for their end of year English Literature exam. Students demonstrated excellent discussion and analysis skills, as Lewis Askey (10 Red) stated "it helped us to see that what we have learned in school would prepare us for university study, and the lecturer seemed really impressed with us!". Thanks go to all those that attended, with special mention to Mr Handy for his support in transporting us, and Dr. Mark Brown (Staffordshire University) for making us feel both extremely welcome and suitably challenged.

Mr Newton, English

Ashley Causer



Ashley Causer (Year 9) participated in the GKR National Championship and took the top spot as the National Champion. Ashley won a gold medal

for kumite karate. Huge congratulations!

Miss Goodwin, Form Tutor

Geography Department Update

The geography department will be inviting students from all years to start an Eco Design project after school on Fridays after Christmas. This will be looking at the effect of plastic on the environment. Please speak to Miss Goodwin for further details.

Alfie White



Congratulations to Alfie White (Year 11) who recently competed in the golf European Junior Open in Andalucia, Spain, placing him amongst the top 100 junior players in Europe.

We look forward to seeing him on the PGA tour in the future!

Mr Mitchell, Head of Year

SUA6 Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch



Our sixth form students have once again been busy working within our community. After the success of

Macmillan in the first half of this term, expectations were high for our senior citizens' Christmas party. As always our students rose to meet the expectation, led expertly by our newly appointed student leadership team. The sixth form would like to thank the performers from across the academy and those people who donated prizes for the raffle for the guests. Keep an eye out for the next event! Well done all.

Mr Francis, Head of Sixth Form

Library



Congratulations to students and staff, not only has £165 been earned from our recent book fair, we were also a winner in the national 'James Patterson's Big Book Giveaway', receiving a further £312 to spend on new books for our library. Students have helped to select some of the new books that are already on display and we look forward to even more new arrivals in the new year. Be sure to visit the library when you are able to and see what we have on offer.

Dates for your diary; Spring book fair, Monday 1st to Friday 5th April – all books and stationery will be half price so save some of your Christmas money for this; World Book Day, Thursday 7th March – look out for more information about this exciting event.

Mrs Hodgkiss, Librarian

Year 11 Revision



Monday 5th November marked the start of a busy half term for Year 11 in terms of preparation for their summer examinations with the delivery of an exam workshop focusing on motivation and summer schools. This was followed by two weeks of mock examinations and for most students examinations in business studies and catering.

Tuesday 20th November saw the second of our exam countdown events with students receiving revision resources and tips on how to ensure they are as prepared as possible for next summer, followed by parents evening on Wednesday 5th December where students and parents were able to discuss progress with teachers.

Students are now entering a key period in their preparation for the summer and have been given a number of resources to help them organise their revision outside of school to achieve the recommended:

3 hours revision per school day, finishing no later than 9pm each day.

4 to 6 hours revision on one day each weekend with other day off to relax.

Mr Mitchell, Head of Year 11

Year 9 Novel Writing



What difference can one week really make? Well, between 10th and 14th December, 10 of our amazing Year 9 students wrote and delivered their first novel for publication! As part of SUA English department's continued aspirational partnership work with Higher Horizons, Year 9 students Billy Wilding, Ryan Franks, Adam Rathor, Missy Kirby, Aaron Rigby, Courtney Rawlins, Olivia Duffy, Jade Burgess, Amy Evans, Poppy Wilcox worked with the fantastic Richard Seymour (creative writing lecturer and project facilitator) to independently create their first literary masterpiece.

Richard had the following lovely words to say about both the students, and his time at the academy:

"I have been incredibly impressed by the attitude of the writers. They took ownership immediately and worked very well as a group. A project such as this one requires a good deal of resilience and they certainly showed that. As young people, also, they have been impeccably behaved, charming and funny! They're a credit to the school and, above all, themselves."

Mr Newton, English

Year 7 and 8 Birmingham Rep Project



Over the past 10 weeks SUA's Year 7 and 8 students have been busy taking part in a drama project. Expert directors from The Birmingham REP Theatre have been up skilling our students ready to perform on The Door Theatre at the REP in Birmingham. This was a massive achievement for our Year 7 and 8 students and as a reward they got to watch a professional production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. We are very proud of the way the students conducted themselves throughout the project.

Miss Humpage, Director of Creative

National Citizen Service (NCS)



As part of our continuing work around raising aspirations and achievement we are delighted to have been selected to take part in a pilot programme to deliver the National Citizens Service with our Year 11 students. The National Citizen Service programme is a chance for young people to get out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves, develop skills for employment and give back to their local community.

From Wednesday 12th to Sunday 16th December students took part in a residential at PGL Liddington. During this time students took part in outdoor and adventurous activities to develop their teamwork, problem solving and communication, as well as completing workshops on mental health, first aid and politics in action. As always students were a credit to the academy and took the opportunity to push themselves outside of their comfort zones while also receiving numerous compliments on their behaviour and attitude from the staff involved.

Mr Mitchell, Head of Year 11

Knowledge Organisers

From January we will expect that all students in Years 7 to 11 will bring their Knowledge Organisers into the academy each day as part of their required equipment. Currently these are used as a home-toolkit, but their importance has been recently raised through our Parents' Forum. To complement this, we will be incorporating the use of Knowledge Organisers into lessons and homework tasks to ensure they are being used as the important tool that they are. As a reminder students need to bring each day a school bag that contains:

- their planner
- a red pen
- a blue/black pen
- a pencil and a ruler
- the Knowledge Organiser of the current half term

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact your child's form tutor.

Mr Williams, Director of Engagement

Attendance Matters

Attendance for the academy this term is at 95.6%.

We have 147 students who have 100% attendance which is excellent and shows great resilience. All will have received a post card this week to congratulate them.

We know that at times students do get ill or there is an unfortunate event that requires the occasional day of absence. We are also impressed with the students who achieve the academy attendance target of 97% or above as this also shows resilience. There are 333 students on or above the 97% academy target. Parents will have received a text message this week to congratulate them.

I appreciate the communications and the good working relationship parents have built up with the academy to ensure that absences can be authorised and attendance is as good as it can be.

Reminder:

* It is necessary to contact the academy before 9 am to report a student absence.

* If we are concerned about your child's attendance then I know you will expect us to contact you. We have effective monitoring and tracking procedures in place and actions are taken when a student's attendance falls below the academy target of 97%.

* If students do have concerns which are preventing them from wanting to attend, then please contact me as the Attendance Intervention Manager. There is support which can be put in place to help remove barriers preventing students from attending school.

Shared Aim:

We will all have the same aim and goal in mind which is achieving excellent attendance for your child. Excellent attendance will help your child keep up with school work and friendship groups, achieve good grades and have good opportunities and choices for 6th form, college, university or work.

Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Ms Glackin, Attendance Intervention Manager

Year 7 & 8 Road Safety



Year 7 and 8 students received a road safety talk from Staffordshire County council. During the talk the students received important messages about

keeping safe at the road side, students were given reflective tags for their bags to use to help ensure they will be seen by drivers. It is a delight to see the students wearing these and making safety a priority.

Mrs Allsopp, Director of Humanities

Lower Drayton Farm



Since the 19th October, a small group of students have been attending C.A.R.E, a project which takes place at Lower Drayton Farm in Penkrige, for one day a week on a weekly basis. The project aims to help people develop their own potential, learn new skills, improve self-esteem, build friendships and develop independence. C.A.R.E provide a number of holistic activities in a safe, caring and friendly environment.

During the last few weeks the students have had lots of fun at the farm and have taken part in numerous activities such as, den building, fire making, archery, making bird feeders and creating a tidier environment for people to observe the birds and wildlife, by cleaning up the leaves and cutting back the trees in the surrounding areas. Students have also cleaned out and prepared food for a variety of animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, pigs and chickens enthusiastically, and took part in a range of arts and crafts projects.

Mr Thomas and Miss Paterson have been really impressed by the level of respect and enthusiasm which has been excellent for the duration of the provision. All students have demonstrated resilience, great team spirit through problem solving together and built new and supportive friendships along the way.

A special thanks to the volunteers at C.A.R.E for providing this provision for our students.

Miss Patterson, Teaching Assistant

CVSC Update

The academy are delighted to announce that the Steps To Work programme will be continuing in the new year in the relaxed environment of Chase View Support Centre. These weekly informal sessions are designed to give parents/carers the skills to return to work by developing confidence, develop self-esteem, creating CVs and improving employability skills.

Dates for your diaries: Mondays 9.15am - 12.15pm refreshment will be provided. Sessions will take place on 14th, 21st, 28th January and 4th, 11th, 18th February 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Jo Palmer, Chase View Manager by telephone on 01543 224671.

Residential



Hosted by Manor Adventure at Abernant Lake from Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th November 2018, 60 Year 7 and 8 students attended this exciting residential.

Students worked together in teams, developing their confidence and were provided the opportunity to recognise strengths and areas of development in a constructive way. Feedback was excellent and students enjoyed the full programme of activities in a safe, controlled and secure environment. The activities included climbing, abseiling, fencing, high ropes, orienteering, raft building to name a few. Well done everybody.

Mr Shepherd, Head of Year 7

Student Takeover



Our annual student takeover day proved a fantastic success once again this year. The event was bigger than ever with almost 70 students taking on the role of a member of staff in the academy for the day. The roles ranged from teachers and TAs through to the Business Manager and Principal. Students commented on how the day helped them to focus on their future careers aspirations and they enjoyed the chance to see how the school functions day-to-day.

Mr Williams, Director of Engagement

Walsall FC Match Visit



Students involved with the WFCPP project aimed at developing resilience, self esteem, numeracy and literacy skills came to an end this week. The 10 week project was capped off with a

visit to watch the super saddlers beat Coventry City 2-1 in the final moments. Students were presented with a signed Walsall FC shirt and ball - which will soon be presented in our reception for all to see. The next cohort of Year 7 students will be presented with the programme in January. Pictures can be found on the schools twitter feed.

Mr Shepherd, Head of Year 7

Christmas Concert



Throughout the year our students have been busy giving up break times, lunch times and after academy sessions to rehearse and get ready for the Christmas Concert. Students wowed the audience with dances, drama and musical performances. Groups included the Samba Band, SUA Voices, African Drummers, SUA Dance Troop and Year 9 drama group. We also had some solo and duets which showed the virtuosity of some of our students here at SUA. We had an audience of over 200 people and we thank parents, governors and staff for their support.

Miss Humpage, Director of Creative

MFL Department Update

All 110 places have now been filled for the visit to Paris (1st – 5th July 2019). More information will be coming out in January about this visit and there will be a meeting for parents a few weeks before we leave. A reminder that the final payment is due by Friday 29th March 2019.

The French department is also starting a Year 7 club on a Tuesday lunchtime for students to come along and practise French vocabulary playing games.

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!

Mrs Mays, Head of MFL

Remembrance Day



The history department commemorated Remembrance Day this year with Remembrance Rocks. Year 6 visitors to the school painted them alongside Melissa Cannon (Year 8) and Isabelle Thomson (Year 7). Year 11 students in the SUA Remembers Club led some research into forgotten soldiers so that they too were remembered at this time. Thanks to Lucy

Ankers, Megan Crutchley, Alana Rose, Mia O'Donnell and Alex O'Donnell.

Miss Turley, Head of History

Parent/Carer Parking

We ask for your support dropping off and collecting students during the mornings and afternoons from the academy. To ensure the safety of the students when arriving and leaving the academy and to be mindful of neighbouring businesses in the area, alternative parking for student drop offs and collections has been arranged at **Belt Road Victoria Working Men's Club** (opposite the Marston Road entrance). This car park can be used by parents/carers each day for dropping off and collecting students from the academy. Please do not use the main road or local business' carparks to collect or drop students off as this can cause disruption to local businesses and prevent students crossing the road safely.

We appreciate your continued support with this matter.

Team SUA

Key Dates

21st December 2018	Academy closes at 12pm for students
7th January 2019	Academy opens for students at 11.15am
15th January 2019	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
17th January 2019	November resit results
18th January 2019	Year 11 Art PPE
23rd January 2019	Parents' Forum 6-7pm
29th January 2019	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
4th February 2019	Year 11 Business VCert exam
7th February 2019	Careers Fair
15th February 2019	Academy closes for half term
25th February 2019	Academy opens for students at 8.45am