

SUA Newsletter

July 2022

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Welcome

Welcome to our final newsletter of what has been an incredibly busy term, and year. We have been so proud of how our students have conducted themselves throughout the academic year and collectively they have made excellent progress. We are pleased to be able to share with you just some of the brilliant things that have been going on at SUA over the last 12 weeks and we hope you all have a lovely, restful summer.

SUA celebrates its evidence informed culture in style!

On Monday 27th June, Team SUA celebrated the hard work of staff in their second annual research showcase. Colleagues from across SUAT, including a member of the Trust Board and the interim-CEO, came along to see some of the excellent work that has been undertaken. All staff at SUA (teaching, non-teaching, business and site) complete an evidence informed research project in an area of their choice to help them to self-improve within their role. Some of the topics covered this year were staff wellbeing, curriculum conversations, SEN, SEMH support, motivating millennials, cost efficiency, site improvements and many, many more.

Staff were treated to two keynote speakers, Jonathan Peach from The Art of Brilliance, who shared top tips for staff wellbeing and 'Mental Wealth'. The second keynote speaker was Ross Morrison-McGill, who is better known as @TeacherToolkit, sharing ideas around embedding evidence informed culture. Ross is ranked number one across all social media platforms nationally for teaching pedagogy and he had some amazing feedback to share:

It's on to Staffordshire University Academy today! Mind blowing 🤯 staff culture rippling throughout the school... This is a school I'd like to work in! #SLTchat



This is probably one of the most powerful documents I've seen published by any school in my teaching career! It's phenomenal ✨ I can't share the full details of this yet, but I will (with permission) in due course... #Culture



Learning Talk

In the spirit of Team SUA students have been taking part in weekly sessions during tutor time called 'Learning Talk'. This is our opportunity to share with students the strategies that teachers are using to help increase their brain productivity within a lesson. During the spring term students learned about memory and strategies that we can deploy to help our memory. These sessions included lots of activities to show the students how to improve their memory and these are mirrored in activities in lessons.

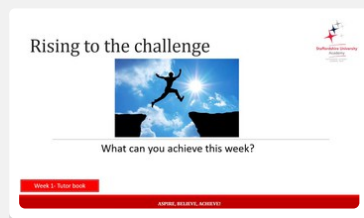
Getting the best from our memory



WHY DO WE HAVE TO RECAP WHAT WE LEARN?

During the first half of the summer term students completed a series of sessions on 'Challenge' and why this is so important to help us learn and progress. If we only ever practise what we can already do we will never make any progress. Here at SUA we believe that lessons should be challenging and that this will enable our students to thrive.

This half term we have shared all our questioning strategies with our students. Questioning underpins all of our teaching and learning and students have been learning about different types of questions in lessons, when these are used and how they help us to learn.



Rewards Day



This half term brought us the day that we had been waiting all year for: Rewards Day! On Thursday 30th June, all students at the academy had the option to either go to Alton Towers theme park (as chosen by the students) or take part in a range of activities at the academy to say a big well done for all of their hard work and achievements throughout this year.

Almost 400 students and staff boarded the 8 coaches and headed to Alton to 'unleash the power of the towers'! Both staff and students had a great time, with everyone taking advantage of the good weather (before the rain) to explore everything that the park had to offer! At the academy, the remaining students took part in a variety of activities in the morning such as science experiments and mathematical artistry. In the afternoon, students then had the option to go to the SUA cinema to watch 'Spiderman: No Way Home' with popcorn and drinks, or take part in a range of sporting activities. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to have a day of creativity and fun!

Overall, a fabulous day was had by all and we are looking forward to next year's Rewards Day already!



Junior UKMT Maths Challenge



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

This term all Year 7 and 8 students' were entered into the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Mathematics Challenge that encourages the student's interest in mathematics and develops their skills. The students sat the 60 minute multiple choice challenge online at the end of April with the results finally being revealed later in the term to discover SUA's highest number of students receiving a placed certificate to date!

Congratulations to Year 7 student Lilly-Anne Peach for attaining a silver award certificate and for the following Year 7 students receiving a bronze award certificate: Lucy Ray, Lily Talbot, Phoebe Gray, Logan-Cole Peaty, Jayden Cairns, Olivia Loydon, Zak Smith, Isabelle Lloyd, Sky Jones, Abbie Alcock and Darcy-Mae Birch.

Congratulations to Year 8 student Layla Sproston for attaining a silver award certificate and for the following Year 8 students receiving a bronze award certificate: Joshua Mabbley, Max Edginton, Austin Metcalfe and Mia Collins-Hodgetts.

All of the students that took part received a certificate of participation from UKMT to recognise their amazing effort tackling the problem-solving questions. Well done!

We look forward to giving students the opportunity next academic year to take part in either the Junior, Intermediate or Senior Maths Challenges. There are a vast number of benefits to students taking part in the challenges such as learning to work quickly in terms of reading a problem, understanding what to do and executing the solution all within a few minutes (and without a calculator, thus developing mental arithmetic skills), however, just entering and having a go shows great ambition.

For more information and practise questions have a look at the UKMT website

<https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

Year 5 Activity Day

Thank you to all of the primary schools who attend the Year 5 activity day at SUA on Thursday 7th July.

The day was attended by 150 Year 5 primary school pupils from Redhill, Pye Green and Littleton Green.

There was a large range of workshops provided throughout the day which included:

Maths - Mocktail making - ratio

Science - Harry Potter - creating spells

DT - Selfie pin board

Catering - A healthy way to start the day - smoothie making - The components of nutrients

Music - technology

PE - mini Commonwealth festival.

The day was filled with new ideas of learning, experiments, creativeness, ambition, challenge and most of all fun!

All pupils had a surprise visit from the academy's dog as well as a summer treat from the ice-cream man.

Some students quoted:

"I've made a new best friend"

"A well organised event. I'm definitely coming to SUA"

"Science was so exciting because we made different colour flames and I've never done an experiment before."

"I found catering very interesting because of the nutrients in smoothie making"

"I enjoyed everything, definitely the sport and mocktail making in maths"

Thank you to everyone involved in making the day a very well organised primary event from "Team SUA"



Staffordshire University Academy

Yr 5 Activity Days

7th and 8th July
9:30 - 14:30

Find out what secondary school is like

There will be lots of fun-filled sessions to take part in.
Join "Team SUA" for the day!





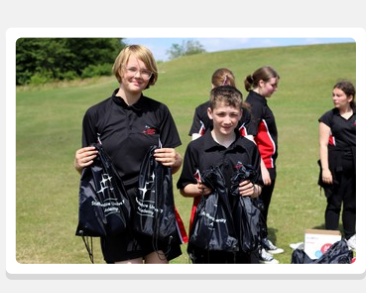



- ✓ Cookery Skills
- ✓ Scientific experiments
- ✓ Creative crafts
- ✓ Castle creations
- ✓ Sporting events



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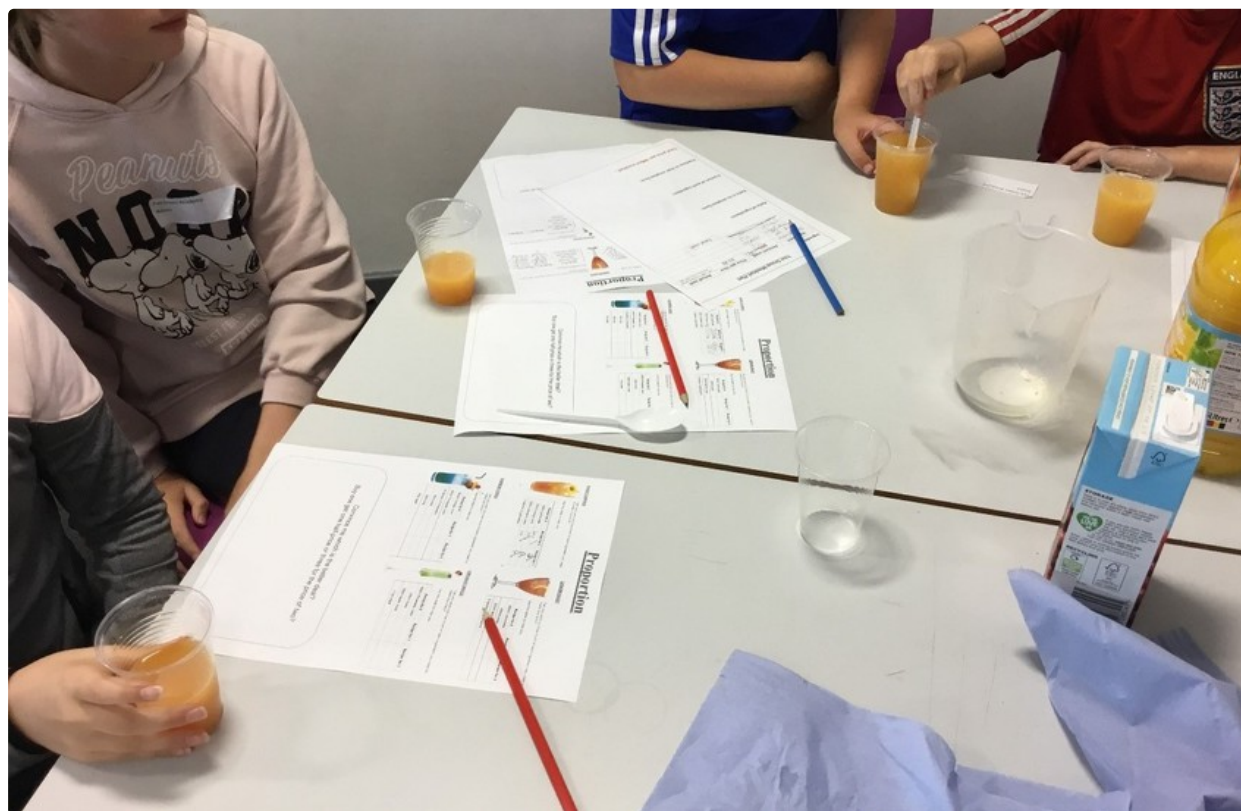
Year 5 Activity Day: Mathematical Mocktails

As part of the Year 5 Activity Day the maths team welcomed over 100 primary school pupils from local schools to a session on ratio and proportion which included them designing and creating their own mocktails. The pupils had a great time and the SUA maths staff were really impressed with the students' positive attitude and great effort in applying their skills to a series of challenges and their ability to work well in teams.

The pupils were asked to design, make and work out the cost of their own mocktail when given some ingredients to use and the prices of each ingredient. The pupils were also asked to name their mocktail. Some excellent and tasty drinks with some flamboyant names were the result of the pupils efforts!

Mr Kirk and Mrs Pedley would like to thank the staff of all the primary schools for bringing the pupils to join the event and the students themselves for engaging so positively in the day's activities.

We look forward to seeing them again in the academy soon!



KS3/4 Leadership - Sport

The Key Stage 3 and 4 sports leaders have been extremely busy this term working closely with our School Games Organiser and local primary schools. We have hosted a variety of events such as sports hall athletics and netball where our students assisted professional coaches in delivering sessions to local primary school pupils. The sports leaders were also heavily involved with the Year 5 and 6 activity days to ensure the primary school pupils were made to feel welcome and motivated throughout the day. The sports leaders have showed excellent dedication throughout the whole of this year and are looking forward to hosting more events in September. We will also be looking to increase our sports leadership team from September so keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent School Games Summer Festival

Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent School Games Summer Festival on Friday 24th June at Keele University Sports Centre.

Year 10 sport students were involved within the planning stages of this event and had the opportunity vote on the activities involved and the incentives for the event through a student consultation. The boys took part in basketball, boxing, football and tennis sessions and the girls basketball, boxing, netball and rugby sessions.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony. There were dance performances from local school children and an inspirational talk from Jenny Wallwork. Jenny is a former international badminton player, mentor and an inspiration to so many people.



The Year 8 boys competed in the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent dodgeball tournament and came 8th overall. They played really well even though they were up against some very talented other teams.

School Games

School Games have finished the year with a busy term giving children a range of opportunities to engage in sport. Eighty two primary and secondary children were involved in the mountain biking at Cannock Chase as they enjoyed the chance to spend time with a British cycling coach and practise on some of the new trails created for the Commonwealth Games at Cannock Chase. In addition to this, the primary schools have continued to engage in further Commonwealth Games events by taking part in festivals trying sports including judo, archery, wheelchair basketball, triathlon, tennis and netball, where SUA leaders also got involved with the coaching and skills sessions. Well done to all of the children who have engaged in School Games this year with over one thousand, one hundred children taking part in twenty four events with over forty SUA leaders.

White Water Writers 2022

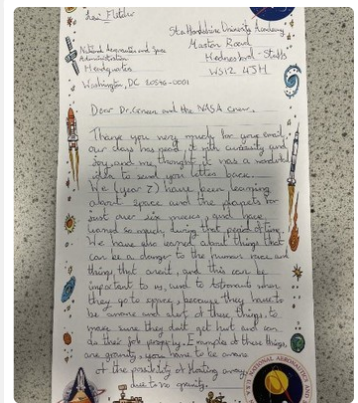
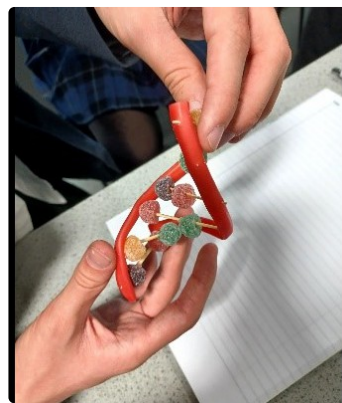
On the 18th July 2022 Staffordshire University Academy welcomed back Richard Seymour to a very special book presentation and signing event. The event was organised to celebrate students of past and present that have worked with Richard and have produced their very own novel; we had in attendance students from the most recent camp, students from camps up to 4 years ago and students representing their siblings. The event was a great success and all students left with a copy of their very own novel! A massive congratulations to all involved, watch this space for the next White-Water Writers camp in November 2022!

Jack Dunne (Year 9): *'Whilst writing with White Waster Writers, me and the others went off timetable for a week and were given full creative freedom. I found it to be an amazing experience, due to how peaceful it was in the zone. Me and my group were able to write a book called 'The Book Case'. We were able to come up with all of our ideas on our own and were able to decide each one as a team. Overall, I really enjoyed being part of this experience'*



Science News

Science have had a busy year with lots of exciting topics and practicals in lessons. Students have been engaged and curious while developing their practical skills. Students from all year groups have produced some excellent work. Here are a few pictures to show some of the fantastic work that has taken place this year.



"CURIOSITY UNLEASHED"

After School



We Welcome Everyone!

Sponsored by the **PTSA**

STEM club students have also been busy this year. Students have extracted DNA from a kiwi fruit, made catapults from lolly pop sticks, made fruit batteries and investigated current, made slime, terrariums and a hydroponic system to name but a few!

STEM club is a great way for students to come along and enhance their science practical skills through fun and engaging activities. STEM club will be running again next year.



Next academic year the science team want science to be bigger and better than ever, so watch this space for exciting science competitions and challenges.

We hope you have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you back in September.

The Science team.

Year 8 STEM event

On Friday 24th June Year 8 had an amazing opportunity to work with Andy Bruno from 'The SmallPeice Trust'. He delivered a session to all Year 8 based around HS2 and the designing of train stations and tunnels. Students had to work in small teams and design the strongest tunnel for a train to pass through. All the teams were very competitive and some excellent tunnels were produced.



Year 10 Work Experience

It has been wonderful this academic year to reintroduce work experience placements for our Year 10 students. The placements took place during the week beginning 4th July 2022. Students had the opportunity to work in a variety of placements, including car maintenance, tree surgery, taxi ranks, hairdressers, nurseries and local primary schools. It gave the students a real insight into the world of work and their potential future careers. Students developed their independent skills by finding their placements to secure their experiences and organising their transport.

We managed to secure placements for 90% of the year group and we have received some excellent feedback on how successful our students have been. A number of students have even secured summer or part time jobs through their placements. Well done Year 10!!

Year 11 Leavers' assembly

On 25th June 2022 we said our goodbyes to Year 11 in traditional SUA style with our leavers' assembly. We reminisced on the 5 years since Year 11 joined SUA and how both they and the academy have changed in that time. Both staff and students read farewell messages, received awards and feasted on pizza.

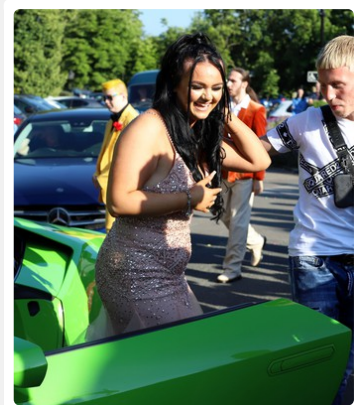
It has been an absolute pleasure to see Year 11 grow into polite, thoughtful mature young adults. We look forwards to seeing many of you return to us in Year 12!



Year 11 Prom

On Thursday 7th of July the class of 2022 attended their very glamorous prom at the Moat House, Acton Trussell. Our students definitely dressed to impress, arriving in some luxurious cars from vintage Cadillacs to Lamborghinis! Students had a fantastic time celebrating with friends, dancing the night away and creating memories that will last a lifetime. The students and staff alike had a fantastic time.

Congratulations class of 2022!



Year 7 REP trip

Over the last term Year 7 have been working with The Birmingham Repertory Theatre to produce a piece of theatre that celebrates the opening of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Students have learned all about the Commonwealth and have explored the history and future of it

through drama. With the help of Natalie Hart, students produced their own world and performed their piece based on the motto, rules and citizens that they had created.

This creation process accumulated in all of Year 7 performing in the main hall at the academy which was a great success! On the back of these performances, 7 Purple were voted for by their peers to appear at the official performance in Birmingham. The students were professional and confident in their performance and presentation in Birmingham and their performance was fantastic! They should all be incredibly proud of themselves, what an achievement to be able to tell their friends and family. We are beyond proud of each student, it was a career highlight watching them perform in a 800 seat auditorium - Well done to all!

- Mr Lockett



Matilda

A phenomenal return to the stage, after a 3-year hiatus, saw our students take on Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical.

All students were exceptional and as audience numbers grew each night, so did their dedication, passion, and performance quality! A true example of Team SUA and a showcase of the immense talent we have here at our academy.





September – the plan for the new academic year

Please carefully note the start times for your children in September. During their first day back at the academy all students will have an assembly and all students will have time with their form tutor in order to receive their planners and timetables. By 11.25am on Wednesday 7th September, **ALL** students will be into their regular timetabled lessons.

	Tuesday 6 th September	Wednesday 7 th September	
Year 7	Arrive at 8.45am – to the academy hall	Arrive at 11.25am – straight into period 3	
Year 8	NOT IN	Arrive at 9.45am – to the canteen	
Year 9	NOT IN	Arrive at 9.15am – to the canteen	
Year 10	NOT IN	Arrive at 8.45am – to the canteen	
Year 11	Arrive at 9.30am – to the canteen	Arrive at 11.25am – straight into period 3	
Year 12	Arrive at 9.30am – to form rooms	Arrive at 11.25am – straight into period 3	
Year 13	NOT IN	Arrive at 10.30am – to the academy hall	
Years 7, 11 & 12	Begin regular timetabled lessons from period 3 through to the end of the academy day	Years 7 – 13	All students begin regular timetabled lessons from period 3 through to the end of the academy day

NB: If you plan on using the academy's coach service, you will receive further communication about the arrangements for the first couple of days of the new term prior to the end of this term.

Academy day timings – 2022 to 2023

Academy day	Key Stage 3 (Y7, Y8 and Y9)	Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 (Y10, Y11 and SUA6)
8.15 – 8.45	Breakfast Club	
8.45 – 9.45	Period One	
9.45 – 10.45	Period Two	
10.45 – 11.05	Break – Canteen, Canopies	Tutor/Assembly
11.05 – 11.25	Tutor/Assembly	Break – Canteen, Canopies
11.25 – 12.25	Period Three	
12.25 – 13.25	Period Four	
13.25 – 13.55	Lunch – Canteen, Hall, Canopies	
13.55 – 14.55	Period Five	
14.55 – 15.55	Period Six: Tuition, Intervention, Homework Clubs and Extracurricular activities	

Key dates for next term

Date	Event
6 th -7 th Sept	Staggered start for students (<i>details overleaf</i>)
12 th Sept	Whole academy photograph
19 th Sept	Individual student photographs
26 th Sept	Academy Open Evening: 5.30-8pm (<i>for prospective families</i>)
30 th Sept	Macmillan coffee morning fundraiser
3-7 th Oct	Academy Open Mornings: 9-10.30am
3 rd Oct	Teaching and Learning afternoon; students leave at 12.25pm
11 th Oct	Year 7 Settling-in Parents' Evening: 4-6pm
21 st Oct	Break up for half term holiday: 2.55pm
31 st Oct	Academy reopens for all students
31 st Oct	Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams begin (<i>for 2 weeks</i>)
10 th Nov	Year 13 Parents' Evening: 4-6.30pm
16 th Nov	Teaching and Learning afternoon; students leave at 12.25pm
17 th Nov	SUA6 (<i>sixth form</i>) Open Evening: 6-7.30pm
18 th Nov	Children in Need fundraiser (<i>details TBC</i>)
1 st Dec	Year 8 Parents' Evening: 4-6.30pm
2 nd Dec	INSET: academy closed for students
8 th Dec	TBC Year 11 and Year 13 Awards Evening
12 th Dec	Christmas concert (<i>timings TBC</i>)
16 th Dec	End of the autumn term – students finish at 12pm
3 rd Jan	Spring term begins with a Teaching and Learning morning; students arrive at 11.25am

* There are always additional activities that will run throughout the term but you will be kept fully informed as and when these plans are finalised.

Thank you from all the staff at Team SUA

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates!

