

Sutton House Academy News

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Autumn Term 2025

Update from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I want to thank you all for your ongoing support. We are very proud of the progress our pupils have made.

At Sutton House, progress can look different for each child and every step forward is valued.

We have seen pupils build confidence, try new things, develop friendships, and manage challenges with growing resilience. Thank you to parents, carers and families for the care and support you provide at home. Working together makes a real difference to our young people and helps them succeed.

Thank you also for taking the time to look through your child's work and celebrate their achievements. We hope you enjoyed seeing the activities they have taken part in and the effort they have shown throughout the term.

As we enter the Christmas break, we hope all our pupils enjoy a well-deserved rest. This time of year, looks different for everyone, and we recognise that each family has their own traditions, routines and ways of spending the holidays. We hope you are able to enjoy some quiet moments, some laughter, and some time together.

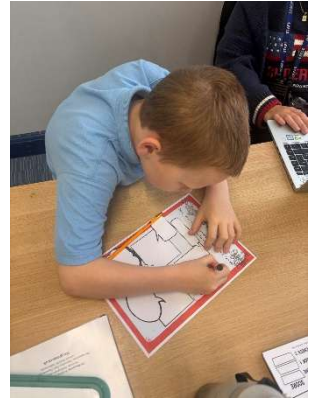
School will reopen on: Tuesday 6th January 2025 and we look forward to the new term and to continuing the positive work already started. We are excited to see pupils build on their progress, take new steps and show the strengths and talents they each have.

On behalf of everyone at Sutton House, I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break. Thank you for your support and for being part of our school community.

Warm wishes,
Mr E Muca

Star Class – Primary

This term, Star Class have been working exceptionally hard across all their learning. In English, pupils have been exploring poetry, experimenting with poetic techniques, and enjoying opportunities to perform and respond to different poems. They also delved into the story 'The 13-Storey Treehouse', where they investigated characters and plot, produced creative writing, and even wrote their own diary entries inspired by the text. In Maths, the children have been developing their confidence in multiplication and division, deepening their understanding of place value, and strengthening their addition and subtraction skills. In Science, Star Class have been busy grouping and classifying living things, carrying out simple data collection, and learning about states of matter. It has been a fantastic term of curiosity, creativity, and resilience!



Rainbow Class – Primary



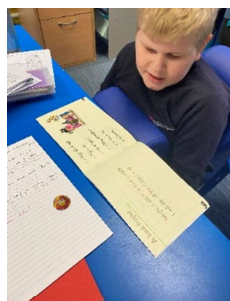
This term has been wonderfully busy and full of learning! In Science, the children explored different animals and investigated a variety of materials such as wood, cardboard and paper. In

Maths, we built on our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, and practised these skills through fun games like Uno and Snakes and Ladders. Our English lessons have focused on creating our own sentences and stories, remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces and some children have even begun extending their sentences beautifully! In RSHE, we have been thinking about positive thoughts and emotions, and how they help us

feel confident and happy. In Computing, the class enjoyed learning to use iPads and laptops, writing their names, drawing with different apps, and even having a go at coding in Scratch. Through our Activity Passport, we got hands-on with den building and went hunting for insects outdoors. We also had some fantastic experiences on our trips, including visiting a local farm to learn about animals and enjoy a horse ride, and challenging ourselves with an exciting session at Indi Rock Climbing. It's been a brilliant term full of curiosity, creativity and confidence!



Phonics



This term, pupils have shown excellent engagement in their phonics learning through the Read Write Inc and Fresh Start programmes. They have been busy consolidating their sound knowledge and developing key reading skills, including fluency and comprehension.

Pupils have also completed their end-of-term assessments and have demonstrated great progress in their phonics and reading development.

Next term, Read Write Inc reading books will be sent home to support reading at home, giving pupils the opportunity to practise and share their growing reading skills with their families.

SEND

This term, we have welcomed several new pupils to Sutton House and we are delighted to share that they have all settled in brilliantly. We extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families!

Staff have been working hard to create SMART targets to support pupils in achieving their EHCP outcomes. We have also been meeting with parents and carers for annual reviews to discuss progress and next steps.



We have been fortunate to run some VERBO interventions this half term, with support from Southend Local Authority. VERBO is a speech and language tool, and our Reach and Primary pupils have been taking part in sessions to support their communication skills. These interventions have been very successful, and we have received excellent feedback.

The Cubbie has also been used extensively this half term. Each pupil has their own code to access it, allowing us to monitor usage and understand the benefits. The Cubbie is an amazing resource, and our pupils have really benefited from having this additional support when needed.

If parents or carers require further support with SEND needs or advice regarding outside agencies, such as The Lighthouse, please contact Lauren, our SENCO, who will be happy to help.

REACH



This half term, our REACH students have been working really hard. In English, they have been learning about myths and legends and practising how to describe characters and explain their feelings. In Maths, they have

been focusing on fractions and learning how to solve them with more confidence. Each week, the class has also taken part in some debates on topics such as whether phones should be allowed in school, should games have age limits, and the dangers of AI. These debates have helped the pupils improve their turn-taking, listening, and speaking skills. We also had a great time at the President's Sports Lunch, where Riley proudly won a sports trophy - well done, Riley! It's been a fantastic half term, and we're excited to see what next term brings.

REACH Plus

This half term Reach plus have been focusing on a range of engaging activities which include groupwork, paired activities and making some tasty treats in Food Technology.

In Maths the students worked in pairs to analyse some 3D shape models then count both the edges and faces. Students also carried out a range of multiplications using a hundred square and Times Tables Rockstars to support them.

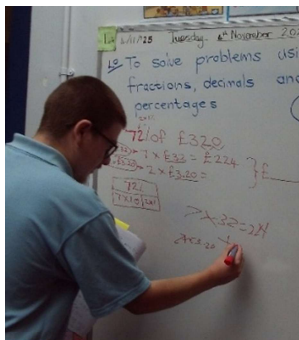
In English students have enjoyed the creative writing topic where they have used a range of pictures related to their hobbies to plan and write a story based on their chosen pictures.

As a run up to the festive period Reach Plus have prepared an operation Christmas child shoebox and filled it with a range of gifts that will be given to children in need around the world to make their Christmas day special.



REACH Out

Reach Out has enjoyed a busy academic and exciting Autumn Term with lots of learning and exciting enrichment opportunities. We not only purposefully prepared and sat Functional Skills exams with excellent concentration. We are immensely proud of our Reach Out pupils who work with such diligence and showed a mature attitude towards their education.



In English, our pupils also wrote, practised and formally delivered their Speaking and Listening speeches in exam conditions. All pupils who participated successfully passed. This is an excellent achievement that we

celebrated with a pizza party! We also revisited the effect of language techniques and varied punctuation to enhance writing. This supported us preparing for Functional Skills exams. In Maths we revised different maths skills to solve exam type problems using all 4 operations. We also practised for the Functional skills exams by visiting previous papers. It was fun to use our teamwork skills to compete who could build the tallest straw structure to carry a weight.

Humanities: In Geography, Reach Out investigated where and why do earthquakes occur? We researched the Earth's tectonic plates and had such fun with a talk partner building and testing seismographs using jelly for houses! We discovered earthquakes are measured using the Richter scale and



used it for our jelly-earthquake investigation. During Science, we researched types of energy. We not only built different circuits using batteries but also experimented using lemons to create electric currents! We tested the currents with Volt meters and the resistance with Amp meters. We also used a guitar and a Ukelele to test how soundwaves travel through air. We could see the ping-pong balls move without



touching the strings. In Activity Passport, we learned to play a new card game called King's Corner. You need to be quick to recognise number patterns to win this game! We had a fabulous feast decorating Caramel Rice Cakes with sweets turning them into Halloween faces. For Christmas, we used candy canes to make cards, sending season greetings.

Merry Christmas everyone, from all of us in Reach Out!

Art

This term has been a vibrant and creative one across all Art classes.

KS4, Reach Out, and Reach Classes

Students have begun working toward a new art qualification, focusing on drawing techniques and experimenting with materials like pencil, charcoal, ink, and pastels. This has helped them build confidence and make more intentional artistic choices.

KS3 and Reach+ Classes

Students have strengthened their core skills by studying the Seven Formal Elements of Art and exploring how famous artists use them. They then created their own inspired pieces, showing growing creativity and skill.

Primary Art

Primary students have created landscapes and cityscapes using paint, pastels, and charcoal. Inspired by Monet and van Gogh, they explored expressive colours and impressionistic techniques, producing beautiful work.

Across the school, students have shown excellent creativity and effort. We look forward to sharing more artwork in future newsletters.

English

Year 7/8

Year 7/8 have made a positive start to the year by focusing on key reading and literacy skills. Their work has included a range of reading, writing and grammar activities aimed at improving accuracy, understanding and vocabulary. These tasks help students strengthen the foundations they need for all future English learning, and it has been encouraging to see their growing focus and effort in lessons.

They have also completed comprehensive and functional application activities, which support their ability to use English skills in practical contexts. These tasks help students read for meaning, follow instructions and complete written activities with greater confidence. Over the term, many learners have shown improved stamina when working on longer tasks and a willingness to try new challenges.

As we move forward, Year 7/8 will continue building on the progress they have made so far. They will focus on developing stronger comprehension skills, improving sentence structure, and deepening their understanding of the texts they read. Overall, Year 7/8 should feel proud of their start to the year and the improvements they are beginning to show.

Year 9

An engaging term for those in Year 9 as they explore a variety of myths and legends, with a particular focus on Greek mythology. This topic has encouraged them to think about how stories are created and why certain tales continue to influence literature today. Studying mythology helps students develop key English skills such as identifying themes, analysing characters and understanding how writers structure ideas—all useful foundations for future study.

Throughout the term, students have completed a variety of comprehension activities linked to the texts we have read. These tasks help them practise retrieving information, interpreting meaning and explaining their ideas clearly in writing. Many students have shown real improvement in their ability to read carefully and respond thoughtfully.

Exploring ancient stories has also supported creative thinking. Students have begun making connections between traditional myths and modern books and films, helping them recognise how storytelling has evolved. This broader awareness encourages deeper

reading and supports their understanding of literature across different eras.

Year 9 have demonstrated curiosity and growing confidence in their written responses. Their progress this term has been promising, and they are developing important skills that will support their transition toward GCSE English.

Year 10



Year 10 have had a productive term studying texts linked to film and theatre, including *Jaws*, *Jojo Rabbit* and *Blood Brothers*. These texts were chosen to engage students with storytelling in

different forms and to help them understand how writers and directors use structure, character and visual elements to create meaning. This work has strengthened their analytical skills and encouraged thoughtful class discussion.

By exploring both written and filmed scenes, students have been able to compare storytelling techniques and consider how emotion and tension are built. This has supported their ability to explain ideas clearly and respond more confidently in writing. The variety of material has helped maintain strong engagement and interest throughout the term.

In addition, many Year 10 students recently sat their Functional Skills reading and writing exams. These assessments support the development of practical literacy skills that are valuable for life beyond school. Their achievements have been phenomenal, students should feel proud of their preparation and hard work whatever their results.

Overall, Year 10 have shown commitment and growing confidence. Their progress this term places them in a strong position as they move closer to their GCSE studies next year.

Year 11

Determination and application has been key for year 11 as they prepare for next year's GCSE English Language exam. This term has focused on Paper 1, particularly questions 1–5, which require close reading, language analysis and extended writing. Regular practice has helped students grow more confident in structuring their responses and explaining their ideas with clarity.

A key achievement this term has been the completion of their Speaking and Listening assessments. Most students have now achieved a pass, merit or distinction—an excellent reflection of their effort, preparation and growing communication skills. This success will support them not only in their GCSEs but also in everyday life and future education.

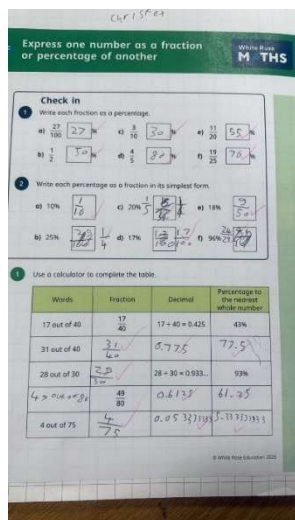
Mock exams were sat before Christmas, where students experienced the exam format and identified areas to develop further. Their attitude so far has been positive, and many are showing strong commitment to improving their reading and writing skills.



Year 11 have made encouraging progress, and their focused approach this term puts them in a strong position as they move toward their final year of exams.

Mathematics

This term, pupils across the academy have been busy developing their mathematical understanding through a wide range of topics. Our KS3 students have been exploring area and perimeter, fractions, place value, and multiplication and division, building strong foundational skills that support their progress across the curriculum.



Our KS4 pupils have continued to deepen their knowledge by revisiting place value and the four operations, while also engaging in more advanced work on algebra and percentages, preparing them for the demands of

their upcoming examinations. KS4 pupils have also recently sat functional skills exams and we have been astounded by their achievements. These exams will support their exam readiness for GCSE's but also provide them with an extra qualification in maths to support their further education opportunities.

Across all year groups, pupils have also enthusiastically taken part in our weekly numeracy challenges, designed to help them apply their skills in different

contexts and strengthen their confidence in everyday numeracy.

We are proud of the hard work and positive attitude shown by all pupils and look forward to continuing this progress throughout the academic year.

Functional Skills

In November, we had our biggest entry for exams that I have experienced whilst working at Sutton House Academy. We had over 30 students entered for exams from Entry Level papers through to Functional Skills Level 2 exams in both English and Maths. For many students, this was a first attempt at an exam, experiencing the exam conditions and the exam papers, which is valuable preparation for our students to reduce anxieties and nerves. Overall, students responded really well to the conditions and were willing to give the papers a go which is a huge step in the right direction.

From the results, we have recognised that responses to the reading papers have improved with writing being the area that needs more focus. Writing stamina is a skill that we will continue to work on and any support at home to explore practice papers and writing for fun would be beneficial to your child.

Individual results have been sent out to both students and parents, so all should be aware of the exam outcomes. If for any reason, you have not received the results or have any queries, please contact myself via email on jlee@suttonhouse.org.uk.

Food Technology

Year 11's, 10's and Reach Out are focusing on their Level 2 NCFE food and cookery skills qualification, working on our patience and resilience when managing difficult or advanced recipes.



They have made some absolutely amazing dishes including some starters, main courses and desserts - the roast dinners were particularly fabulous.

We have been learning about the different food groups and exploring various cuisines from cultures around the world! Part of this learning journey has been about discovering where different foods are grown, how they are produced, and what happens before they reach the supermarket.

Another part of exploring different dishes from across the world also meant that we did some cooking! Some of these dishes have included curries, shawarma, sausage rolls, and more.



We have been developing cooking skills, learning about health and safety in the kitchen. We have also been practicing hygiene in the kitchen to ensure that the food we cook remains uncontaminated!

Another side to health and safety, as we have been learning, is eating a balanced diet and staying hydrated! We have looked at how much water we need to drink to stay hydrated to ensure good health and how to manage the different food groups in each meal, to maintain a balanced diet!

Food technology has been a very informative and enjoyable experience for our students, giving them the skills to cook various dishes independently and stay healthy!

It has been a great term and everyone has worked super hard – wishing everyone a happy holiday! All the best.

Science

In Science this term, the Year 10's have begun their coursework focusing on the Biology module. Students have built knowledge around plant and animal cells, recognising what they look like, being able to label them and understanding their functions. Students have also explored the impact of global warming and understanding how human choices are having an impact on the planet around them.

Year 11's have been finishing off their Physics module which focuses on circuits and energy. Students have been able to draw their own circuits from recognising the symbols and understanding where circuits are used in the real world. We have discussed different forms of energy and how energy doesn't disappear but is transferred into a different energy. We have built rollercoaster tracks in the Science room to show the energy transfer and the use of forces in real life situations.

Students have responded well to the coursework aspect of Science and next term we will begin to focus on the practical elements which should be fun and exciting for our students to have a go at.

ICT

Since September, all our learners have been attending weekly ICT lessons as part of their regular timetable. These sessions have been designed to build confidence with essential computer skills, focusing especially on Microsoft Word and the basics of creating and formatting documents.

Over the past term, learners have been practising how to set out their work clearly using headings, paragraphs, and bullet points. Many have begun exploring additional features such as templates, which allow them to create well-structured documents quickly and easily. Others have learned how to insert images into their work to support their ideas and make their documents more engaging.

The main purpose of introducing word-processing skills at this stage is to support learners with their coursework. Knowing how to type, organise, and present their written work helps them become more independent and confident in completing assignments. Word processing also offers tools such as spell-check and grammar support, which can be particularly helpful for learners who find writing by hand challenging or who benefit from extra help with spelling.

However, the benefits of ICT go far beyond schoolwork. Digital skills are a vital part of everyday life. Whether filling in forms, writing a CV, creating presentations, or communicating online, the ability to use a computer safely and effectively will open doors for learners in the future. Almost every job today involves some level of digital literacy, and employers value applicants who can work confidently with technology.

By embedding ICT into the curriculum now, we aim to give every learner the foundation they need for later life—supporting them not only academically, but also in preparing for further education, employment, and the digital world around them.

If you have any questions about the ICT curriculum, please feel free to get in touch.

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice were excited to see their idea of 3G astro come to life when they returned after the summer break, and what a popular thing it has become. More students are engaging in sports and playing on the astro.

All pupils were invited to apply to become a member of Pupil Voice. From the applications, we are pleased to announce that this year's Pupil Voice representatives are Ava, Chris, Morgan, Mimi, Bradley, Riley C, Shamima and Cody.



This term, the group enjoyed a reward trip, choosing to visit McDonald's as an opportunity to socialise and begin planning for the year ahead. Pupil Voice has already held its first meeting and started sharing ideas — watch this space for exciting updates!

Sports Science

This term, our GCSE Sports Science students have begun Unit 5: Introduction to Healthy Exercise and Nutrition. The unit covers how physical activity and nutrition affect the body, including energy balance, the role of different food groups, and the benefits of regular exercise. Students will build a clear understanding of how healthy lifestyle choices support overall wellbeing. The students have shown, through their work, a great understanding of this unit, great work everyone.

Attendance

We are so proud of our students for their fantastic attendance this term! Many pupils have shown real dedication by being in school regularly, arriving on time, and making the most of every learning opportunity. Your hard work and commitment truly make a difference.

We also want to thank all our families for your continued support in helping children build positive routines and strong habits. Together, we can keep this momentum going and aim even higher next term—let's keep striving for excellence and making everyday count!

Safeguarding

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students, pupils have been taking part in regular learning around online safety and digital responsibility. Students have explored how to make safe and informed choices when using the internet, social media, and online gaming platforms. We have been extremely impressed with

their growing understanding of how to protect their personal information, how to interact respectfully online, and how to recognise warning signs if something doesn't feel right.

Importantly, students are being encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about anything they see or experience online, and they are becoming increasingly confident in knowing how to seek help. This work plays a vital role in helping young people stay safe in an ever-changing digital world, and we are proud of the mature and thoughtful way our students are engaging with these important messages.

A Reminder as Christmas Approaches

We are mindful that while the Christmas period can be a positive time for many families, it can also bring increased pressure, worry, or safeguarding concerns for some. Please be reassured that safeguarding remains our priority at all times, and support is available should you need it.

If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of your child or another child, or if you feel you need support during this time, please contact the school as soon as possible. Our safeguarding team is here to listen and to help.

For support outside of school hours, the following services are available:

Samaritans – 24/7 emotional support

116 123

SHOUT – 24/7 confidential text support

Text SHOUT to 85258

NHS 111 – Urgent mental health advice and support

111

Childline – Support for children and young people

0800

111

Careers

Careers meetings for our Year 11 students are now well underway. Following the successful Parent Information Session on 13th November, individual guidance meetings with students and their parents have been taking place every Thursday.

During these sessions, students have the opportunity to meet with our Careers Lead, Tracey Scott, to ask questions, discuss their aspirations, and explore the

wide range of further education pathways available to them. This has been a highly productive setup and is ensuring that Year 11 students feel confident and well prepared to complete their applications early next term.

Looking ahead, Year 10 students will also have the chance to take part in careers meetings later in the year. Dates for these will be shared with families in due course.

We look forward to supporting all our students as they plan for their next steps.

Progress

The Autumn term showed strong data across Sutton House Academy with 87% overall progress. Students have settled back into school well and responded positively to the new timetable that is now embedded in the school day. An increase in attendance has also meant that students are in school more, accessing their education which therefore allows more time to achieve progress across subjects.

The use of reflection and lunchtime catchup allows students who have struggled in class to still complete their tasks and offers the opportunity to progress. This change has allowed students to continue using their strategies where required to remain regulated whilst knowing they will have other opportunities to complete their tasks.

The number of subjects has also increased as students enter Key Stage 4, with a number of Vocational subjects now on offer. Vocational subjects allow students to complete coursework throughout both Year 10 and 11 to achieve qualifications before they focus on their GCSE exams in the summer. We have found this has benefitted our students and their outcomes as it helps to reduce anxieties around exam time. Subjects now include Science, Sports Science, Food Technology, Hair and Beauty, Childcare, Art and ICT meaning we have a wide choice of subjects available.

Progress across the school has been extremely positive and alongside the exam entries and results, we want to keep seeing this positive outcome as we continue into the new year.

Quality of Education

Curriculum

Our curriculum is carefully designed to help pupils build and retain key knowledge, with new learning planned to connect closely to what they have already covered. To support parents and carers, curriculum maps are available on the school website, providing an overview of what pupils are studying throughout the year.

Regular assessments play an important part in helping pupils embed their learning. Each pupil receives personalised targets in literacy, numeracy, and provision mapping, which are reviewed every half term to ensure they continue to make good progress.

We are also pleased to share that ICT has been introduced into the curriculum for 2025/26. Pupils have been engaging enthusiastically with the new subject and are already demonstrating strong progress.

Finally, pupils have settled well into their new tutor groups and are developing positive relationships with their peers and tutors, helping to create a supportive and welcoming learning environment.

Work Scrutiny

Work scrutiny is in place to quality assure the teaching and learning at Sutton House Academy. It is organised on a rota basis whereby teachers share their books with others to impart good practice.

The scrutiny focuses on the following areas; Personalised numeracy and literacy targets that are being met, The school curriculum is being followed, The curriculum is adapted to meet pupils needs, Evidence that staff check pupil understanding and address misconceptions, Evidence that reading is prioritised across the curriculum & Pupils develop detailed knowledge.

This is measured each half term and is evidencing good practice and good levels of pupil's progress within the academy.

The Autumn work scrutiny results were as follows:

Updated Literacy and Numeracy targets - 91% total shows strong consistency in setting and differentiating targets that meet pupils' needs.

Curriculum design and implementation - Evidence indicates 100% adherence in curriculum adaptation and ambition, suggesting well-structured curriculum intent and implementation.

Long-term memory and knowledge integration – 100% indicate progress.

Feedback and understanding - 99% show most staff provide effective feedback, but there's room to strengthen systematic checking for misconceptions.

Reading as a priority – 90% reflect strong prioritisation of reading but uneven evidence of its impact across subjects.

Pupil outcomes - 100% evidence that pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills, indicating strong impact of teaching and curriculum.

Exam Dates

For parents and carers of our Year 11 students, the GCSE exam dates are shown in the table below. As you can see the exam period will begin on the 14th May and the final exam will take place on the 10th June.

Thursday 14th May 2026

Maths Paper 1 Non-Calculator (Foundation)
Pearson Edexcel

Thursday 21st May 2026

English Language Paper 1
AQA

Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Maths Paper 2 Calculator (Foundation)
Pearson Edexcel

Friday 5th June 2026

English Language Paper 2
AQA

Wednesday 10th June 2026

Maths Paper 3 Calculator (Foundation)
Pearson Edexcel

I have included the exam boards that we use as it would be beneficial to look through past papers online at home in the build up to the exams. The website mathsgenie.co.uk is a fantastic resource that has example questions, videos and answers to take students through the whole process.

After school revision sessions will also begin in the new year and information will be provided at the beginning of next term.

Key Dates

Last Day of Autumn Term

Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Break

Sunday 20th December 2025 to Sunday 4th January 2026

Teachers Training Day

Monday 5th January 2026

First Day of Spring Term

Tuesday 6th January 2026