



Update from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Landi Muca, and I am excited to be writing to you as the new Interim Executive Headteacher. Although I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you

already, I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those I may not have had the chance to meet yet.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, we've been working hard to make positive changes to the curriculum, ensuring it's both exciting and challenging for all our students. Along with this, we've introduced a variety of new enrichment programmes, including horse riding, combat training and outdoor learning (which we call "Nuclear"). These activities give our students the chance to try new things, develop different skills and enjoy themselves in the process!

In addition to these exciting programmes, we've also focused on rewards and trips, as we believe in celebrating our students' hard work and achievements. There are now more opportunities for them to earn rewards and participate in educational and fun trips, helping them stay motivated and engaged in their learning.

As we approach the Easter break, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support. We are so grateful for the partnership we have with you in ensuring the best experience for our students. It's also important to acknowledge the incredible dedication of our staff. Their hard work and commitment to our students is truly inspiring and we couldn't have made these positive changes without their support.

I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter and that it gives you a sense of the exciting developments here at school. I wish you and your families a restful and happy Easter break, and I look forward to the many wonderful things we will continue to achieve together.

Warm regards

Landi Muca

Interim Executive Headteacher

Rainbow Class – Primary

Rainbow class have been focusing their English lessons around the ocean and the animals that live there. Students have had the opportunity to build knowledge around a variety of creatures from whales to jellyfish to seahorses. In ICT, they have had the opportunity to use Scratch to make a storyboard about how pollution affects the animals and their habitat. There was some fantastic ideas and facts used across both subjects and the students have engaged well with a topic they are keen to know more about.

Rainbow have continued working with White Rose Maths and enjoy the structure of the lessons delivered. Focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division this half term, students are understanding new methods within the subject and are keen to complete the worksheets involved.

Rainbow have benefitted from the learning opportunities outside the classroom as well this term with most students taking part in the horse-riding visits. These trips allow the students to build their knowledge around animals and how to look after them, as well as building their own skills such as self-confidence, improving their gross motor skills and socialising with other students in a new environment. The response



has been very positive with both the animals and the students responding well to the visits.

Rainbow Class – Art

This half term the pupils have been focussing on the theme: Under the sea, to incorporate this into art the children have experienced lots of different mediums, including paint, soft pastels, oil pastels, ripping tissue paper and making their own scratch art papers.

Rainbow – Food Technology



This is the first half term that Rainbow class have been able to engage in cooking, it has been a big success. The pupils have not only made some yummy food but have also been working on their motor control and hand strength. I know that they enjoyed creating a big mess while making bread and pastry!

Rainbow – Humanities

Rainbow class have been learning about their locality in Humanities this half term, they enjoyed looking at different maps and trying to find the UK.



They have seen images of some of the most well-known human made and natural structures in the UK and matched them to where they are.

Rainbow – PE

In RE, the children have been learning about community, the communities they belong to and what that means. In doing this, they have also learnt more about one another, building their relationships in the process.

Rainbow – Science

In Science, the children have been learning about different types of animals, from mammals and fish to carnivores and herbivores. They understand why creatures are categorized the way they are and know which features to look for to be able to identify the type of animal. Science has been a huge hit with Rainbow, all the children enjoy these lessons and always have lots of questions. They have been able to use this knowledge during their weekly visits to the farm.

Star Class – Primary



Star class have been very busy this term and have been working very hard! Pupils have been working on their social skills and how to be a good friend, we have been using Lego therapy in class to support them with this.

They have also been learning all about Volcanoes and finding out some fun facts and have even started to make their own Volcanoes to watch them erupt! They have written instructions on how to make them and have really enjoyed learning all about Volcanoes. In Maths they have been focusing on the practical aspects of measuring with a ruler and calculating perimeter. They have also been able to go on some amazing school trips this half term, including Combat, The Farm and even Colchester Zoo!



Star Class – Art



Star class have been working on our top-secret Waddle on Sea project as well as learning how to create animations both digitally and in a flick book format.

Phonics

Our pupils have been working very hard with their Phonics this term, we have been using a carousel of activities based around Phonics and reading and this is helping our pupils to improve with their reading and writing for all subjects. We have seen great progress made with their sound and reading knowledge, so a big well done to our pupils!

Reach Out



In English we have been learning about different language techniques, editing and improving our work and punctuation. We investigated inventions from Wallace and Gromit and wrote non-fiction texts. We had fun creating our own salt dough dogs (or cat), pet friendly ice cream and investigated an advisory text written by a vet and

created our own non-chronological reports. We have identified some of the techniques in texts and analysed how the different authors have used these to describe travel destinations. We have also used formal language to write letters using descriptive techniques to argue our opinions about topics, such as 'Why markets are important in our local area.' In Maths, the children have been learning about fractions and applied multiplication and division to solve problems. We also



have been revising GCSE topics in preparation for the upcoming Y11 exams.

In History, we have enjoyed learning about the Tudors. Our research has been

about the social hierarchy, food, entertainment and clothes. We had fun cooking a Yeoman's pudding as we learned about the different foodstuff rich and poor Tudors ate. We researched Tudor jewellery then followed instructions to make a Tudor pouch. For Mother's Day, we made cultured pearl bracelets during activity passport. This was in response to our History topic. We also researched the history of candy floss which also originated in the 1800s and had fun when staff as well as pupils from other classes joined in.



In Art we are doing the Bronze Award B – being a participant. We researched the playwright William Shakespeare and made replicas of the Globe Theatre. We learned about the play, Macbeth and created our own plot summaries.

After watching his play Macbeth online, we completed audience member reviews. We also created our own Macbeth-inspired artwork using different sketching techniques. In RSHE we discussed biased and unbiased news and how to be vigilant on social media and not believe false news.

Reach Plus

This half term, Reach plus have been focusing on a range of engaging activities which include groupwork and discussing a range of topics.

In activity passport, students produced a treasure map and added pictures, key words and places of interest to support their ideas.



In History, we have been watching educational video clips based on the Great Fire of London, completing multiple choice quizzes and using our mini whiteboards to share ideas.



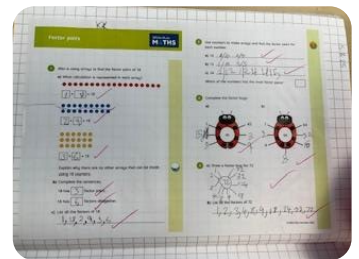
In Science, our focus was light and shadows. Here students have had the opportunity to investigate light and go outside in the sun to draw their own shadows.

In Maths, we have been completing a range of bar models to represent fractions and using correct units to measure a range of objects.

In English, we have produced a full diary entry using examples of previous diaries based on famous people. Students have added their own events and used some excellent key words to support their ideas. Well done Reach Plus!

Maths

During the spring term, pupils have been enhancing their knowledge around different areas of learning. KS3 have been converting units, linking this knowledge to real life situations such as measuring speed in miles per hour and kilometres per hour. Some KS3 pupils have been learning about factors and multiples.



KS4A have studied fractions, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. KS4B have been focussing on fractions, revisiting knowledge on basic

fractions initially and now using fraction, decimal and percentage equivalents. Year 11 have been working really hard in preparing for their exams. Many have now achieved functional skills qualifications in maths,

this will support their applications moving into the next stage of their learning.

English

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic work our students have been doing in their English lessons and share some of the exciting activities and learning opportunities they have been involved in.

English – World Book Day

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day, with both students and staff dressing up as their favourite literary characters. The day was a great success, fostering a love for reading and storytelling. Students received book tokens and took part in a variety of book-related activities, including quizzes and creative writing competitions, with prizes awarded to our enthusiastic participants.



KS3 English – Heroes and Villains

Our Key Stage 3 students are currently exploring the theme of Heroes and Villains in literature. This topic allows them to engage with characters from different backgrounds, cultures, and time periods, helping them to develop their analytical skills and deepen their understanding of morality and character development. The study also encourages thoughtful discussions about the qualities that define a hero or a villain, fostering critical thinking and empathy.

KS4 English – Gothic Horror

Key Stage 4 students have been diving into the Gothic Horror genre, which enhances their ability to analyse literary techniques such as suspense, atmosphere and symbolism. Exploring classics from this genre helps students improve their comprehension skills and their ability to interpret complex themes—both of which are essential for their upcoming exams. This genre also provides a fascinating insight into historical and cultural fears, enriching their understanding of literature's evolution.

Year 11 English – GCSE Language Preparation

Our Year 11 students are working hard as they have recently sat their Functional Skills exams and now

prepare for their GCSE Language exams. To support them further, we are offering additional after-school revision sessions (Tuesday and Thursday). During study leave, we will also be running extra support sessions upon request to ensure that every student feels confident going into their exams. If you would like your child to access these sessions, please get in touch.

Enrichment



At Sutton House Academy, we love celebrating students who go above and beyond, which is why we've been running weekly reward trips to Oxygen Jump throughout this half term! Each week, the top 10 pupils on Sleuth—those who consistently demonstrate outstanding effort, attitude, and behaviour—are rewarded with an exciting trip to the trampoline park.

This initiative has been a fantastic success, giving students a well-earned break while motivating everyone to strive for their best. The trips have created a real buzz around the school, with pupils eager to see if they've made the list each week!

A huge well done to all those who have earned a place so far. Keep up the great work, and you could be jumping for joy at Oxygen soon!

Combat Academy

Our Combat Academy (Boxing) interventions continue to make a real difference, supporting both primary and secondary students each week. This half term pupils have shown increased confidence, focus and self-discipline.



Improvements have been seen in behaviour, resilience and teamwork, with many students applying the discipline and determination learned in boxing to their schoolwork and daily interactions. For some, the sessions have provided a valuable outlet to channel their energy positively, leading to better engagement in class and improved well-being.

We're proud to see so many pupils benefiting from this intervention and look forward to continuing its success in the weeks ahead!

Nuclear Races



We believe in pushing boundaries, building resilience, and fostering teamwork—and what better way to do that than through the Nuclear Races? Each week, our pupils take on muddy obstacles, water challenges and tough terrain; testing their strength, determination, and problem-solving skills.

These sessions provide more than just physical activity; they help pupils develop perseverance, self-confidence, and teamwork, all while having a fantastic time! Over the weeks, we've seen students overcome fears, support each other, and grow in resilience, proving that they can tackle any challenge—both on the course and in life.

A huge well done to all our participants who continue to embrace the challenge each week. Keep pushing forward—we can't wait to see what you achieve next!

Behaviour Expectations

Students are continuing to benefit from the long-standing Sleuth Points system, which reinforces positive behaviour and helps them work towards exciting reward trips.

The system, which has been in place for some time, encourages students to follow the school's Code of Conduct by:

- ✓ Doing their best in all tasks
- ✓ Following instructions
- ✓ Listening carefully
- ✓ Staying safe at all times
- ✓ Showing respect to others

Teachers have seen the impact of this approach, with students consistently demonstrating good behaviour in and out of the classroom. It's a simple but effective way to keep expectations clear and reward those who meet them.

With reward trips on the horizon, students are motivated to keep earning Sleuth Points and uphold the school's values every day. Keep up the great work!

Science

During this half term, the Key Stage 4 and Year 11 students have enjoyed exploring electrical circuits. This has been an engaging and practical topic for our students who have enjoyed exploring the different components on offer.



Students began by building series circuits with lightbulbs before extending their understanding onto parallel circuits. By using the classroom lighting as an example, students were able to discuss how circuits are used in everyday settings, with the switch, wires and lights all working together and the current that travels through the circuit.

Materials were also discussed to build student knowledge around conductors and insulators of electricity and how these materials are chosen in everyday life to maximise the energy being used, especially within houses and buildings.

Horse Riding



Primary students have enjoyed the opportunity this term to travel to Ramblers Farm. This has allowed them the freedom to work with several different animals ranging from sheep, Guinea pigs, sheep and horses. Students have helped to 'muck out' the newly born

lamb and goat pens, groomed horses and even cleaned the horseshoes!

Students have engaged in riding the horses within the paddock, being led by trainers. With several students being nervous initially, by the size of the animals, students responded well and grew in confidence week by week. The benefits of riding help the students with motor skills and balance and this has been seen as they have gained more experience throughout the term.

Students have been seen to have different interests within this trip, with some preferring to help clean the animals, some having favourite horses and others helping bottle feed the new members of the farm.

Students and staff are all looking forward to continuing with these activities as we enter the summer term.

Art KS3 & KS4

The artist Victor Nunes has been the topic for this half term, the pupils have enjoyed using their imaginations to combine everyday objects with simple drawings to create interesting and amusing images. Of course, they have also been working on the top-secret Waddle on Sea project.



Food Technology



We have developed cooking skills, patience and reliance by making a variety of dishes and desserts with the students this term. We made pineapple upside down cake which gave them experience creaming

butter and sugar as well as making fantastic fruit designs on the cake tin base. We have developed knife skills by making fruit salad and ensuring safe handling techniques. We also made some lovely Mother's Day short bread which the student's hand moulded or cut into heart, flower and star shapes and then decorated with icing, chocolate and even edible glitter. To finish the term, we have made hot cross buns glazed with apricot jam which gave them experience proving and icing with piping bags. We have also been working with our Year 11s to finish of their NCFE coursework.

Strengthening Minds

Our Personal Development Programme, Strengthening Minds is helping our pupils grow intellectual and emotional intelligence. We are building self-efficacy and resilience through reflection. We are using Check-in challenges to write about and using facts and emotive vocabulary to consider our feelings and how we meet individual and whole class



targets. Through Interactive games we acquire new ways to talk about different ways to understand emotions, related behaviours and consider the consequences. The Power of Positivity Unit as enabled us to think about positive elements

about our personalities and we watched positive cinema clips to review our favourite acts of kindness. We enjoyed reflecting on what we have done in the past to be kind and set ourselves targets to think and act positive in future. We also related our emotions to feeling anxious, how to recognise the feelings and the possible consequences.

Dog Therapy



We have been very lucky this term that we have been able to introduce dog therapy into Sutton House. Dougie has been visiting weekly to see pupils and to help reduce pupil's anxieties whilst in school. Pupils have been very caring and thoroughly enjoy having Dougie around!

Physical Education

This half term in PE, our pupils have been working hard on fitness testing, showing fantastic dedication and enthusiasm each week. Through a variety of activities, including endurance runs, strength challenges, and agility tests, they have been pushing themselves to improve their personal bests. Pupils have also taken part in exciting challenges set by the PE staff, with each class competing to beat each other's records. A fan favourite was the timed plank, where pupils put themselves to the test, showing incredible perseverance requesting to finish lessons early to be able to have more attempts. As a result, many have been inspired to attend Combat Academy to further develop their skills and fitness. Well done to everyone for their hard work and commitment!

SEN

We are passionate about making sure that Sutton House is meeting the needs of all our pupils and staff have been working very hard to ensure that they are setting smart targets for our pupils to achieve and working with our pupils to make sure they know what their targets are and using strategies to achieve them.

We want to thank all of the parents that have attended their child's annual review so far, this academic year, this gives parents and tutors a chance to make sure that their EHCPs are up to date and also a brilliant time to discuss the progress of your child. We hope you have found them as useful as we have!

Staff are in the process of being trained on a new system called Verbo, this will help to identify any Speech and Language concerns and help us with targets to focus on key aspects of your child's speech and language skills. Staff have also had many training opportunities this term, focusing on different SEN needs and strategies to support all our pupils.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's SEN needs, then please do not hesitate to get in contact with your child's class teacher/tutor or our SENCo.

Exams & Functional Skills

It has been a busy term this half term with both Functional Skills in English and Maths and then GCSE mock week being completed. The students are maturing with the exam expectations and have responded well to the challenge of the exams. 60% of our students achieved their Functional Skill Level 1 English writing, and we have seen an improvement in the number of students successfully achieving in their Maths. It has been a big effort from all staff involved to help the students recognise and begin to achieve their potential and also thank you to the staff who have offered tutoring after school for our older students.

The GCSE mock week was completed with several successes. Most students who completed all papers were able to achieve a GCSE in English, with results varying from 1 through to 5. All students who attempted the Maths papers achieved a GCSE again varying from 1 through to 5. Again, students have responded well to the challenge of these exams and have taken the feedback on board with the upcoming exams in the summer. With continued hard work and engagement, our Year 11 cohort have the ability to produce successful outcomes in the summer. The GCSE exam dates are attached below.

Thursday 15th May 2025

Maths non-calculator paper

Friday 23rd May 2025

English Language Paper 1

Wednesday 4th June 2025

Maths Calculator Paper 2

Friday 6th June 2025

English language Paper 2

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Maths Calculator Paper 3

The next month is a crucial part as we head towards the end of the coursework-based subjects and focus on the upcoming exams. It is a busy period for our Year 11's but with a mature and focused attitude, they can achieve their potential.

Quality Of Education – Curriculum

Spring 2 saw many changes across our academy for the benefit of our pupils. One of these changes was the timetable. The main changes to note are:

Six 40-minute lessons per day rather than five 50-minute lessons.

The introductions of additional extra-curricular activities for pupils, such as Nuclear, horse riding, combat and farm visits.

Strengthening minds lessons have been introduced to support pupils SEMH needs. Please visit the website if you would like more information: www.strengtheningminds.co.uk

The whole school now have access to PSHE and Art lessons to support a broad and balanced curriculum.

In a recent pupil voice meeting pupils were positive about the changes to the timetable and the curriculum. Positive feedback was also received from parents and pupils during the recent surveys.

If you have any questions about the timetable, please discuss this with your child's tutor.

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.

Attendance

Attending school regularly is crucial for your academic success and personal growth. Each class builds on previous lessons, and being present ensures you are not missing important information you will need for future assessments. It also has a huge role in our points system for accessing our rewards trips throughout the term.

School is the place to develop social skills, interact with peers and grow as a well round individual. Remember, every day at school is a chance to learn and achieve your goals and aspirations.

Children that attend full time education are less likely to become isolated from peers and less likely to be drawn towards potential threats in society.

Safeguarding

Ensuring your child's safety and well-being at Sutton House Academy is of utmost importance to us. We aim to create a secure environment, where students can focus on learning without fear of harm. Sutton House works closely with the community policing team and family support teams to guide families and staff to better protect children from trending concerns.

As parents and guardians, it is vital to maintain open communication with the school to address any concerns and support efforts to create a safe space for all students. Together, we can work to ensure that your child has a positive and secure experience on their learning path.

Key Dates

Last day of Spring Term

Friday 4th April 2025

Easter Break

Monday, 7th April to Monday, 21st April 2025

Friday day of Summer Term

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025

