

# NEWSLETTER

## Sutton Park School



## Academic Year 2008 - 2009

### Message from Michael Moretta, Head of School

I trust that you are all thoroughly refreshed and that you managed to escape the ravages of our summer season this year. No doubt your sons and daughters will be looking forward to school and, as the last day of the holidays fade into memory I know you are all thinking about the new academic term.

The first week of the new school year is always fraught with tension and characterised by frenetic activity. Please do not panic if you are concerned about books and equipment - these issues are best resolved by the students taking to their form teachers.

For the new students there is a great deal of information to absorb and it takes a few days to finally sort out courses and option choices.

Throughout the Summer at Sutton Park the school has often resembled a huge building site. Certain areas of the school have been completely refurbished and developed. Considerable alterations have been made to the Science labs, the Georgian House and the English area. We have completed all the work to schedule, but as anyone knows who has had builders into their homes, tidying and clearing up requires a great deal of time. It is inevitable that the teachers will need time to setting up their teaching areas. I hope you will bear with us and understand that after extensive refurbishment the new facilities will take time to bed down.

We are also very much at the mercy of the companies that distribute whiteboards and are responsible for cabling, so again I would ask you to be patient if all the ICT developments are not immediately in place.

### New Staff

Another feature of the new school year is the appointment of new staff. All divisions of the school have new teachers and there are details of the new appointment in every section of this newsletter.

In the Senior School Ms C. Byrne, replaces Ms O'Hare in the P.E Department. Ms Byrne will also be one of our First Year Form Teachers. Mr D. Bohan joins the English Department and will be a Second Year Form Teacher. I have also asked Mr Bohan to be responsible for Lates and Absences and he will take a lead role in our preparations for the ECIS Inspection.

Mr D.O'Neill has replaced Mr Bramich as our I.T Coordinator and is responsible for all the computers in the School.

I know you will join me in welcoming all our new teachers and staff to the school and I am sure they will all make a significant contribution to the educational experience of the students.

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# 2008 Academic Results

Congratulations to the class of 2008

Not all aspects of a Principal's role are enjoyable or fulfilling, but it is one of the undoubted pleasures of the job to celebrate the publication of the Leaving Certificate results with the students.

Yesterday was one of the highlights of my teaching career because I was privileged to be part of celebrating an exceptional set of results with a wonderful group of young men and women. Of course there were nerves and plenty of evidence of anxiety, but the dominating emotion was the sheer joy and well-earned satisfaction that beamed from each face as the results were handed out.

The headline figures will be sufficient to give you a flavour of the depth and extent of the achievement of the Class of 2008:

- Those students who gained 500+ points was 31%. Last year close to 18% achieved the highest grades.
- 46% of students gained 450 + points – last year 36% of students achieved this score.
- Nearly 60% of students scored 400 points or more and 70% achieved a points score of 350 or more.

No student failed Maths or English at any level and Sutton Park averaged 413 points, well above the 397 we achieved last year. It is worth noting that last year's results were a significant improvement from 2006. The national average points is something in the region of 300. What all this data means is that by any measure the students in the class of 2008 have significantly raised the bar of achievement and laid down a marker for future years as to what can and will be expected.

I am confident that these students will have their choice of college courses considerably enhanced. With the press reporting that national results are likely to remain at or close to last year's figures, they are in an extremely enviable position when the first round of CAO choices begin next week. I can already report that Yusuf Bhujwalla has secured his place at Cambridge University and I hope that this bodes well for all those who are looking to access some of the most difficult courses.

I could mention every subject area and applaud the quality of teaching and the level of achievement in each, but you will forgive me if I focus on Maths in this brief summary of our performance. The concern regarding achievement in Maths country-wide was after all the headline in many news reports. The Irish Times ran the headline, "More than 5,000 Leaving Certificate Pupils fail Maths", yesterday morning. The article reported that only 6,600 students gained an "honour" [Grade C3 or better] in higher maths and noted that only 17% of Leaving Cert students opted for the Higher Level papers in this subject.

At Sutton Park this year 44% of the year sat Maths at Hons level and 88% of our students gained an A or a B. This can be measured against a national average of 45%. Indeed, 94% of Sutton Park students gained A-C grades at honours Maths while the national average was 78%.

Of course we should not be compared with national averages and I would expect us to perform well above the majority of schools. Nevertheless, the extent and depth of our performance is way above expectations – a point made in our recent Maths Inspection.

I want to thank all the students, their parents and of course all our teachers for the hard work and dedication that has made such results possible. This year, in the week of the Debs, I hope as many of the students as possible will return for our Prize Giving, when we can celebrate individual performances and achievements in front of a wide audience. There are many impressive stories to tell.

Sutton Park quite rightly enjoys a reputation for producing rounded, well-adjusted and confident young men and women who are not solely interested in the narrow pursuit of points. Nevertheless, I hope these results demolish the myth that we are not an academic school. I do not mean in the sense that we only cater for bright students. We have many very bright students and this year they all performed at or above their potential. No, I mean that we can provide pathways to the best Third Level courses for all our students. Some of the class of 2008 had severe learning difficulties when younger, some were in danger of drifting off the rails and some, on occasions, simply lost self-confidence. To see the tears of joy and sheer delight at overcoming problems and recognising that hard work is rewarded is something I most value about teaching. Anything is possible if you are in the right environment and have the best kind of support. All the students can be proud of their achievements and it gives me enormous pleasure to celebrate their success in these few words.

**WELL DONE**

# Uniforms & Booklists

## Uniforms

Please note that senior school uniforms are available to order from Ms Fitzgerald. You may download an order form from our website [www.suttonparkschool.com](http://www.suttonparkschool.com)

Please send in your order form with a cheque for the relevant amount to Ms Fitzgerald where she will be happy to look after you and have your items ready for collection on Monday & Tuesday 25th & 26th August at the school. Please refer to the collection times stated on the order form.

Junior School Uniforms and ALL sports wear are available to purchase at the usual outlet - Pat O'Farrell Uniform Shop, Strand Road, Portmarnock, Co Dublin - Tel: +353 1 8463512 or Fax: +353 1 8463127

## Booklists

Booklists for Senior School students are available to download from our website [www.suttonparkschool.com](http://www.suttonparkschool.com)  
Please note that it is not urgent at this stage to order books for option subjects as all students options will be arranged when they Start school in the new year.

There are various sources to order books from e.g [www.schoolbooks.ie](http://www.schoolbooks.ie) / [www.books.ie](http://www.books.ie) / [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) or from the local book shop based in Sutton Cross called The Open Book Company who have relevant books in store.

Please note that all books are provided by the school for Junior and Intermediate School students.

# Medications Dispensing

From time to time the nurse or designated members of staff are asked to dispense paracetamol or other over-the-counter remedies to Senior School students who have headaches, sore throats etc. On the advice of the School Safety Officer, we are making parents aware of this service and giving them the opportunity to **withhold permission** to issue non-prescription medications, or to limit or add to this service.

There are several options on the form which can be downloaded from our website [www.suttonparkschool.com](http://www.suttonparkschool.com), including a space where special conditions should be described, if necessary. It is in everyone's interest that you return a completed form to the Main Office as soon as possible. A copy of this will be given to our school nurse for her records.

**Please note that in the event that you do not return this form, we will assume that you HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION to dispense non-prescription medications.**

# Information Handbook

A copy of the School Information Handbook is available to download from our website [www.suttonparkschool.com](http://www.suttonparkschool.com)

This handbook is reviewed regularly and there are possibilities of changes or additions etc to be made throughout the year.

# Instrumental Music Tuition

Individual tuition in piano, violin, guitar, cello, flute and recorder are available to students at Sutton Park School. Provided appropriate staff is available, we may also offer tuition in voice, and in clarinet and saxophone. Parents should enquire from the Main Office if tuition is available for a particular instrument.

Piano fees, as indicated on the current Fee List will be charged to your account each term. It is not permitted to pay on a part-term basis and we regret that, other than in exceptional circumstances, no credit will be given for absences. Normally a half term's notice is required if you wish to withdraw your child from Music tuition.

Fees for tuition in all other instruments are payable by arrangement with the individual teacher concerned.

If you wish to have your child(ren) to be instructed in any of these instruments, please download the relevant form from our website [www.suttonparkschool.com](http://www.suttonparkschool.com) and return it to the Main Office at the beginning of Term. Please note that you should complete the form even if your child(ren) were being taught last year. The teacher concerned will contact you in due course.

# Current Contact Details

Sutton Park School should always have current contact details in case your child becomes ill or if there is an emergency. We update our parent lists annually and ask you to please complete the relevant form from our website and return to the School Office. In addition, if your details change during the year, please **advise Reception at +353 (0)1 839 9400**. We ask separated parents to give the details of the parent with whom the child(ren) normally resides with during the week, under Parent 1 of the Parent Contact Details Form.

# Absence Letter

Any Parent/Guardian of any student that will be absent from school for any reason must contact the school before school starts and inform reception of their absence, and the reason for this, so that the relevant teachers can be informed.

# Homework Diaries

All Junior School Students and Senior School students will be given a Homework Diary from their class/form teacher at the beginning of term. This diary must be used to record any homework given by their teachers.

## SENIOR SCHOOL

# Arrangements for the First Week in Senior School

### MONDAY 25th AUGUST

The first morning will be taken up by a full meeting of the Staff in the Senior School.

On Monday afternoon from 2.00 - 3.30pm we have our NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION AFTERNOON. All students (including those Grade 6 pupils in our Junior School last year moving up to first year seniors) need to attend this important induction afternoon. They will spend time with their Form Teachers, meet key administrators and be given lockers etc during this time.

A team of prefects will meet the students at the main entrance from 1.45pm. The students will then be escorted to the library. We have 51 new first years and some 28 new students in all other year groups.

This year I have divided the new first year into three form groups designated 1H, 1S & 1M (for Malahide). Each form has an even distribution of boys and girls and will number 17 in each class.

### TUESDAY 26th AUGUST

All Senior school staff will be involved in a major in service day on Anti-bullying ran by the Department of Education.

### WEDNESDAY 27th AUGUST

ALL students return to school. This is a half day for students. All Senior school students will be expected to arrive in good time for registration. Can I suggest no later than 8.40am since the traffic on the roads will increase considerably once all the schools open. After registration all classes will have a form period where timetables and Homework Diaries are distributed. They will have a full assembly and then normal lessons until lunchtime. Please note, the canteen will not be open on Wednesday and school finishes at 1.00pm.

I have made arrangements for the Malahide bus to collect our students at 1.15pm approximately.

### THURSDAY 28th AUGUST

This is the first full day of school for all students. Evening Study and Prep will begin on Monday 1st September. This will give us the time to organise all our lists.

# Supervised Evening Study

Sutton Park School offers Senior School pupils the option to attend Supervised Evening Study from 5.30 pm to 8.45 pm, Monday to Friday during Term time. Pupils may also avail of an Evening Meal provided in the Dining Rooms. Please inform the Canteen at morning break on the day of your Evening Study if you require an evening meal, payment must be made to the Canteen at this time.

The Timetable will normally run as follows:-

From end of Prep/Games – 5.00 pm	Break
5.00 pm – 5.30 pm	Evening Meal / Break
5.30 pm – 6.30 pm	First Study Period
6.30 pm – 6.45 pm	Break
6.45 pm – 7.45 pm	Second Study Period
7.45 pm – 8.00 pm	Break
8.00 pm – 8.45 pm	Third Study Period

Pupils who wish to attend must be prepared to work quietly and diligently during each study period. To avoid disruption, we regret that, other than in exceptional circumstances, we cannot allow pupils to attend on a casual basis.

## Afternoon Prep

Attendance at Afternoon Prep from Monday to Thursday is compulsory for students from First to Third Year, unless a parent letter excusing the student for one or all afternoons is submitted to the Deputy Principal. Please note that if a student is excused from Afternoon Prep, it is expected that their homework record will be satisfactory; otherwise they may be required to attend Afternoon Prep.

The completion of homework assignments plays a very important role in helping students to understand and to absorb the concepts learned in class. The school offers students a period of Afternoon Prep on **Monday to Friday from 3.40 pm to 4.40 pm**. One hour is not sufficient to complete homework and revision so students are expected to continue at home.

On Friday afternoons, attendance at Afternoon Prep is not compulsory; but you must tick the Friday box if you wish your son/daughter to stay.

Your son /daughter may have games practices at Prep time so please state on the form when you know the afternoons games are taking place.

The attendance schedules are available to download from our website in the “Back to School” section. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this attendance schedule, which should be given to the form teacher one week after the start of the new term.

# INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

First of all I am happy to inform you that Mr Burns has successfully and with as little stress as possible moved to Dublin with his family and is really looking forward to meet you all on the first day of school.

Mr Burns will be working with his team of teachers on Monday and Tuesday in order to ensure that the Intermediate school is ready to open as smoothly as possible on the first day of the school year on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

He has asked me to inform you that all students in the new grades 4,5 and 6 are to meet in The Gym at 8:45 on the first morning for an assembly. He will greet you at the front entrance of the Gym and then after the Assembly the teachers will escort the children to the new classrooms and begin preparations for the year.

This summer we said goodbye to Ms Beardsley who has gained a permanent position in a National School near her home. Ms Beardsley was with us two years and I am sure you all join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

Last week Ms McGuire and I interviewed 10 prospective candidates for positions in the school and I am happy to report that Ms E Noone has been appointed Class 4 teacher for next year. She has her Graduate Diploma in Primary Education from St Patrick's College, is qualified to teach Irish and has spent a year studying French at a French University. I know she will be an extremely productive member of our team and I am sure you will enjoy working with her.

The teachers therefore are:

Grade 4 - Ms Noone

Grade 5 - Ms O'Brien

Grade 6 - Ms Reynolds

Mr Burns will be supporting the other teachers and is responsible for putting together the timetables and allocating Clubs and so forth. The team will spend Monday and Tuesday getting all the materials together and Mr Burns will provide you with all the information you require.

I have made arrangements for the Grade 6 students to work with Mr Timmons in the Graphical Design room and we will be running classes in French, Irish, Music, PE and IT along the lines I laid out in my last communication with you.

I am sure your sons and daughters will have a wonderful time in this new division of the school. Mr Burns will keep you informed on a regular basis.

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Welcome Message from Junior School Principal Ms Geraldine McGuire

It has been a lovely summer for those who had the opportunity to enjoy the limited sunshine. I hope you had many opportunities to enjoy the company of friends and family during the long summer days. The new school year approaches and I am sure that both you and the children are ready to return to school and its structured day.

We will be welcoming a number of new students who I know will be made to feel at home very quickly.

Our teachers for Junior School are as follows:-

Junior Infants	Ms Karen Sweeney
Senior Infants	Ms Joan Sherlock
Grade 1	Ms Jane Cullen
Grade 2	Ms Deirdre Hurley
Grade 3	Ms Christine Ellickson

# Message from Geraldine McGuire Con't...

The school day is from 8.45am - 2.45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. On Wednesday, all classes finish at 1.15pm.

Children of **Junior Infants** will finish school at 1.15 pm each day until the end of October. When we return to school after the half-term holiday on November 3rd, their school day will continue until 2.45 pm (for those who wish to avail of the longer day).

For the first three days of the new school year, the children of **Senior Infants** will finish school at 1.15 pm. From Monday September 1st, their school day will continue until 2.45 pm.

During the first week of the term, the class teachers will write to you giving details of **PE times** and other relevant information.

Please ensure that we have your **current mobile phone numbers**, as this is the most efficient way of ensuring easy and speedy contact with all parents.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday August 29th. Please note that all classes will **finish at 12.30 pm** on this day.

Ms Geraldine McGuire

**JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**



# Sutton School of Dance

18<sup>TH</sup> SEP - 11<sup>TH</sup> DEC

Sutton Park School  
St Fintan's Road  
Sutton

Thursdays

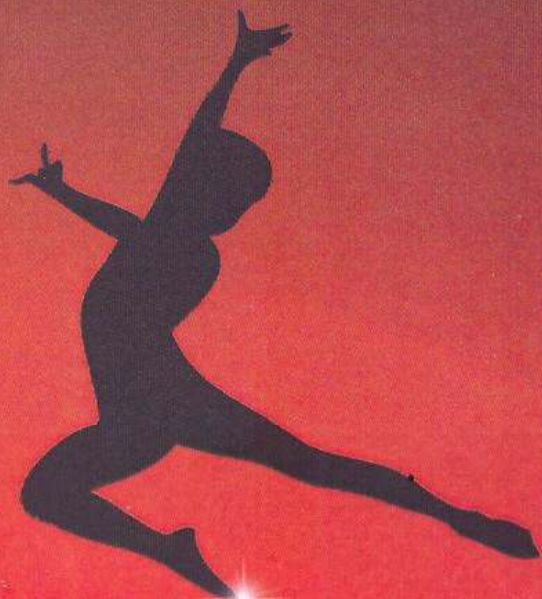
4 - 7 yrs 3:00 General

8 - 12 yrs 3:45 Ballet

8 - 12 yrs 4:30 Jazz

Fridays

2:45 - 3:30 Boys Only



Classes welcome 4 -12 yrs.  
Beginners to advanced dancers,  
Encouraging great co ordination,  
Posture and creativity of skills  
Working towards choreographed  
Dance routines.

Register Now

Contact

Gill Grueber 086 8396985  
suttonschoolofdance@gmail.com