Sirius ACADEMY NORTH
WHERE STARS ARE BORN

Teaching and Learning Newsletter HT1

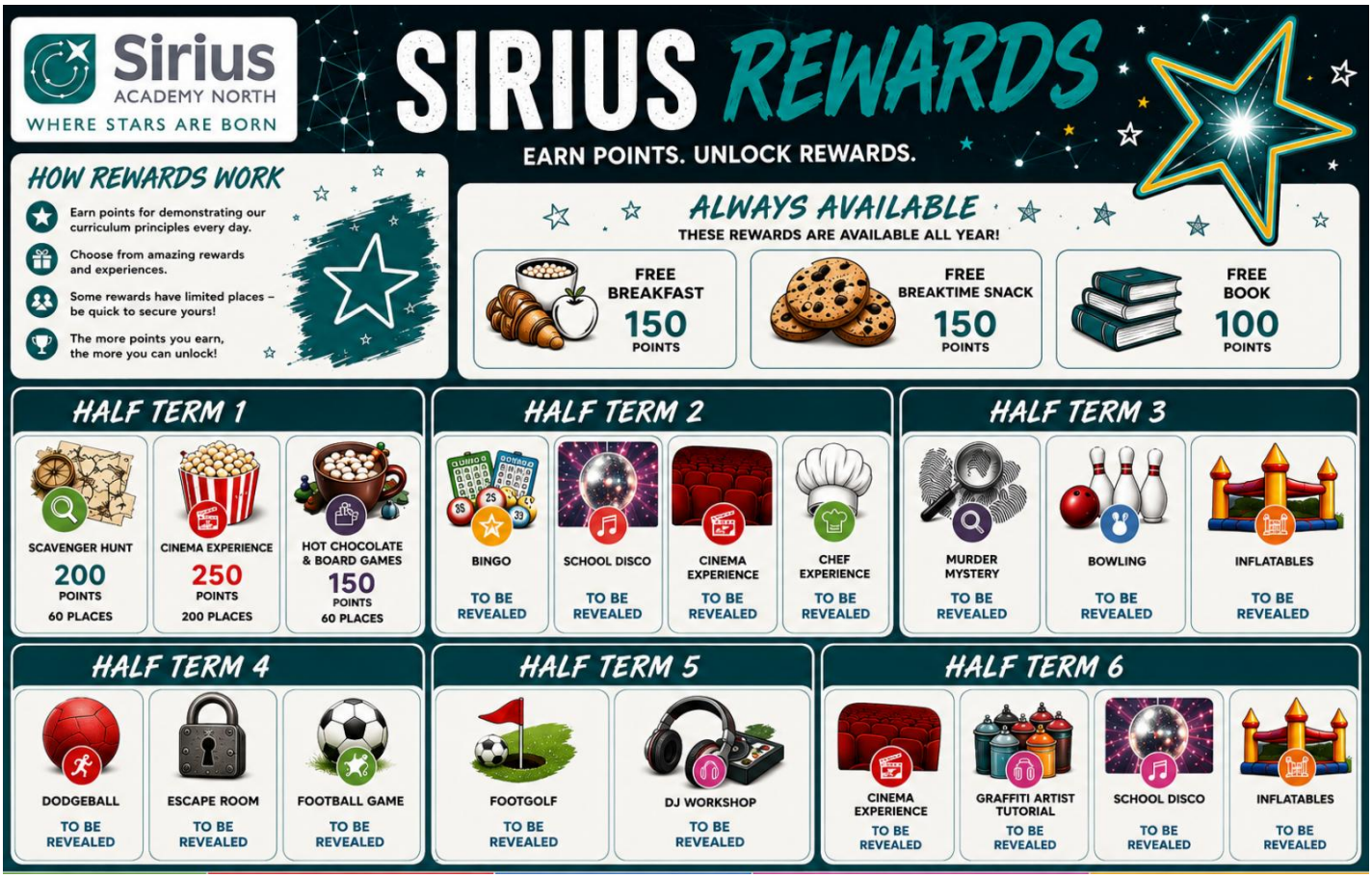
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our **Teaching and Learning Half Term 1 Newsletter**. This update shares what students have been learning, key rewards, personal development opportunities, and important whole-school messages.

What Students Are Learning This Half Term

	English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	RE	IT/Computing	Textiles	Food/Hospitality and catering	Art	Drama	Music	French	Citizenship	Engineering
Year 7	Journeys – a creative writing unit. Foundational Knowledge – The Last Bear.	Sequences, Algebraic notation, expressions and equations.	Solids, Liquids & Gases, Structure and function of living organisms.	Why is our earth dangerous?	Norman England	What is religion?	Digital Media	Romero Britto	The Eatwell Guide	Formal elements	Darkwood Manor	Musicla elelments on keyboard	My family	Managing change	Blockheads
Year 8	Novel Study – My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece.	Ratio, Proportion and Scale, Algebraic Notation.	Atoms, Elements, Compounds & Mixtures	Is our weather wild?	Industrial Britain	What is Judaism?	Inkscape	Ugly dolls	Nutrition	Hundertwasser	Genres	Samba	My town	Celebrating differences and identities	Mood lamp
Year 9	Animal Farm/Blood Brothers	Number, Percentages, Area and Volume	Cells, Structure of the Atom, Energy	How are river landscapes changing?	Medicine through time.	Philosophy and Ethics	Hardware and Software	Nature	Food safety	Formal elements – Project one	Characterisation	Composition	My school	Living together in the UK.	9 Engineering disciplines
Year 10	An Inspector Calls Language Paper 1	Algebraic manipulation, Equations, Inequalities, Quadratics	Particle Model of Matter, Infection & Control, Energy Changes	How are ecosystems managed?	Early Elizabethan England.		Searching algorithms	Architecture	H&C provision	Environments	Component 1 preparation	Composition	Free time	Democracy at work in the UK.	SI units
Year 11	Poetry Revision Language Paper 1	Ratio and proportion, Area and Volume, Similarity and Congruence.	Forces, Rates of Reaction, Homeostasis	What are the UK's challenges?	Early Elizabethan England.	Christianity	Sorting algorithms and object orientated programming	Portfolio final piece	Mock NEA	Portfolio	Component 2	Component one	Global issues	Taking Citizenship action.	Mock synoptic

NO LIMITS | RESPECT | SUPPORT | BROADENING HORIZONS | COMMUNITY



Teaching and Learning

As part of The North Way, this half term, a key Teaching and Learning focus across the Academy is the **Phases of Participation**. These strategies are designed to maximise pupil attention, increase thinking and ensure every student is actively involved in learning. A particular focus will be on **I Say, You Say** and **Choral Response**, which will be used consistently in classrooms to check listening, build participation and develop students' confidence in using subject-specific vocabulary. By ensuring all students are engaged and responding together, teachers can quickly check for understanding and maintain high levels of involvement throughout lessons.

When every student participates, every student learns.





Homework

Completing homework regularly is a vital part of academic success and helps students develop strong study habits, reinforce learning and prepare for future lessons.

The following homework tasks are **compulsory** for students:

- **Sparx Science** (all year groups)
  Set every Monday at **4.00pm** and due by **9.00pm the following Monday**.
- **English** (Years 10 and 11)
  Set every Tuesday.
- **Sparx Maths** (all year groups)
  Set every Wednesday at **4.00pm** and due by **9.00pm the following Monday**.

Whilst these are our core compulsory homework expectations, students will also receive homework from other subjects throughout the year. These tasks are equally important and play a crucial role in supporting progress across the curriculum.

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Attendance Transforms

Attendance: The Ultimate Aim
At Sirius Academy North, we know that attendance is one of the biggest factors in student success. Our Year 11 leavers have just achieved the best results in the academy's history, and the evidence is clear: students who attend school regularly achieve significantly better outcomes.
Last year's results showed that students with attendance above 95% were far more likely to achieve strong GCSE grades than those with lower attendance. Regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to access high-quality teaching, build knowledge over time and achieve their full potential.
When we say that attending every day has a huge impact on academic success, we genuinely mean it. Every lesson counts.

Attendance Rewards
To celebrate and encourage excellent attendance, students can take part in a range of rewards throughout the year.

Friday Prize Draw
Every student who achieves **100% attendance each week** is entered into our Friday Prize Draw, with the chance to win a sweet treat.

Attendance Leagues
Lesson 1 groups compete against each other to achieve the highest attendance. Winning groups will earn a reward trip of their choice, with previous ideas including bowling, cinema visits, football activities and Big Fun.

Year Group Takeover
Year groups will compete for the highest attendance across the academy. The winning year group will be rewarded with a non-uniform day and other exclusive privileges.

Attendance Boost
Selected students will take part in our Attendance Boost programme, where they are challenged to achieve **95%+ attendance over a five-week period**. Every student who meets their target will receive a prize.

Key Dates

- **Friday Prize Draw:** First draw takes place this Friday.
- **Attendance Leagues:** Begin on Monday 14 September, with the first reward trip taking place on Wednesday 12 November.
- **Attendance Takeover Day:** Launches in Half Term 2, with the first non-uniform day on Friday 11 December.
- **Attendance Boost:** Starts on Monday 14 September, with four students from each Lesson 1 group selected to take part.

The greatest rewards of excellent attendance are increased confidence, stronger academic progress and greater opportunities for the future.
Every day really does matter.

Attendance Transforms.

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your continued support of Sirius Academy North. A special welcome to all of our new Year 7 students and their families. We are delighted to have you join our community and look forward to seeing you thrive over the coming years.
As we begin this academic year, we do so with great pride following our **best ever GCSE results in 2026**, with more than half of our students achieving a Grade 5 or above in both English and Maths. These outstanding outcomes demonstrate what can be achieved through hard work, excellent attendance and our shared commitment to success. Together, there are **No Limits.** **Mr Anscombe, Assistant Headteacher.**