



13th September 2019

Dear Families,

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We were pleased to welcome the students back to school last week and we are looking forward to the year ahead.

Our exam results this year, at a time of nationally changing standards, reflect the hard work of the students and staff. Our exam results at post 16 were strong with students achieving some excellent outcomes. We were also very pleased with the University, Art School and Apprenticeship destinations for our SFH6 students including Maya M and Tom N who both gained a place at Cambridge to study Human, Social and Political Science (HSPS) and Joe P who has gained a place to study Geography at Oxford.

There were many notable successes at GCSE and we were pleased that the proportion of students achieving English and Maths at Grade 5 or above was 7% above the 2018 National Average. We are delighted for Maya P who was awarded seven Grade '9's, one Grade 8 and one Grade 7 in her GCSEs. There were strong outcomes in a range of subjects most notably in English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, Latin, RE, Music, PE, Art, Drama and Food Technology. As always, we would very much like to thank families for all of their support, which is so vital to the ongoing success of our students.

Students are expected to wear their uniform smartly at all times. Skirts should be at knee length, trousers should be loose fitting and shirts tucked in at the waistband. Jumpers should be worn covering the waistband of skirts/trousers. Socks or tights should be black and any accessories should be black or dark blue. The permitted style of shirt is the revere style collar. Shoes must be flat, black and leather. They should be polishable and no canvas shoes or boots of any sort are allowed. The only jewellery allowed is one small pair of stud earrings worn in the lower earlobe. Make-up, if worn, is only permitted in Key Stage 4 and should be discreet.

The only school bags that are allowed are the official Sydenham School bags which are sold at 'Wearabouts'. Mobile phones must be turned off and placed at the bottom of the school bag before students enter the school gates. Phones will be confiscated if they are in blazer pockets, seen, heard or used on site. A meeting with the Headteacher will need to be arranged with Ms Dar, my PA, for the phone to be returned.

We are committed to continuing to provide a wide-ranging extra-curricular offer. These opportunities are funded in part from the School Fund. We would like every student to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity as these support the development of technical and social skills. For each family, the school is asking for **a voluntary £40 annual contribution**. Should you feel able to donate more we would welcome this and equally we would be grateful for whatever donation you are able to make. We would prefer payment via ParentPay where possible. We will not be recording payments against the names of students. I would like to thank you in anticipation of your donation and for your ongoing support of Sydenham School.

Sydenham School is a World Class High Performance Learning (HPL) school and we will continue to use the HPL framework to ensure that students achieve highly in all areas. The new Year 7 students will be taking part in the 'Dare To Be Challenged' project and we will let families know more about this project during the **Year 7 Learning Journey Evening on September 27th**.

We expect students to arrive at school by 8.40 am, enabling them to get to their tutor rooms by 8.50 am ready for the class register to be taken promptly. Students will be rewarded for excellent attendance and punctuality (alongside excellent behaviour and effort) as part of the Gold Standard. Students who achieve the Gold Standard are celebrated in assemblies after each Progress (Data) Point.



Students who are late to school will receive an automatic thirty minute detention on the same day they arrive late to registration. We have the same high expectations for punctuality to lessons and students will now also receive an automatic 20 minute detention on the following day if they are late to a lesson. We believe that the Gold Standard will continue to reward and motivate students to do their very best and that the excellent levels of punctuality achieved across the school by the end of last academic year will continue.

Please can you make sure that your child crosses Dartmouth Road safely at the beginning and end of the school day. There is a set of traffic lights near the school gates which should be used or one further along the road outside Holy Trinity Primary School. **Please can you also make sure that you use the crossings whenever you drop your child off or when you collect your child after school and that you model safe behaviour as well.**

In assembly last week, we spoke with the students about the importance of 'Thinking of Others'. This includes both inside school and in the wider community. We want our students to act as positive ambassadors of the school at all times. As ever, we value working in partnership with you as families. Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details. You are able to update your information via the Learning Gateway or you can notify the school Administrative Office via an email to info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk or by letter.

As has become the tradition every year, there will be a 'Welcome Picnic' for **Year 7 families at the Horniman Museum Gardens (behind the bandstand) on Sunday 22nd September at 1.00pm**. This will be held by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and all new Year 7 families are welcome.

Here are some key dates for your diaries for the Autumn Term:

- Tuesday 24th September – **Year 12 New Parents' Evening** 6pm
- Wednesday 25th September – **Year 8 Learning Journey Evening** (Year 8 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Thursday 26th September – **Year 7 Learning Journey Evening** (Year 7 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Wednesday 20th November - **Year 9 Parents' Evening** 4pm-7pm.

We look forward to working in continuing partnership with you and would like to wish your daughter every success in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe
Headteacher