



17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Partial School Closure for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10: Wednesday 18th March to Friday 20th March inclusive.

I am writing to inform you that the school **will be closed to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday 18th March until the end of Friday 20th March in the first instance.** This is a result of an unsustainable level of staff shortage due to a significant number of staff self-isolating due to the changed government guidance issued yesterday evening.

In line with government guidance, we have worked hard to keep the school open for all students, but this is now no longer possible. This has been a difficult decision to make. We have prioritised keeping school open for students who are closest to their GCSE and A Level examinations. **All Year 11, 12 and 13 students are expected to continue to attend school as normal.** We will endeavor to keep the school open for the older year groups for as long as possible.

This is an unprecedented and ever-changing situation. We will keep you updated about next steps. Please regularly check the school website and Twitter for updates, along with your email and text messages.

Whilst at home over the next three days, students should focus on the work that is outlined on the school website. This will continue to be updated and refined over the coming weeks as required and the work should be accessed via this link:

<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/learning-and-teaching-continuity>

Students have been reissued with their school log in and email address. Please check that your child is able to log in **this evening**. If they have any difficulties with accessing the log in, or a password has been forgotten, **please email your child's full name and tutor group to passwordreset@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk**. Please do that this evening or as soon as possible tomorrow.

You should also contact us if your child does not have access to the internet at home so that we can make alternative arrangements for home learning. Please do this either by calling Main Reception or by emailing updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

Please continue to follow the advice issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus and ensure that your child is fully briefed on their responsibilities related to this. **Any student in Year 11, 12 or 13 who is showing symptoms of either a new persistent cough or a temperature should stay at home. The new guidance currently says that they should self-isolate along with all members of their household.** This can be found at this link and you should check this advice on a daily basis for further updates:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>



If your child is eligible for a free school meal, over the next three days they can come into school for their lunch time if you would like them to. All students should arrive in full school uniform and sign in and out at the school gate. The timings at which students should be on the school site if they would like to have their free school meal is as follows:

Years 7 and 8: 1.40pm to 2.30pm

Years 9 and 10: 12.50pm to 1.40pm.

If your child is self-isolating for any reason and is eligible for a free school meal, please contact the Main School Reception or email c.finch@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

Any student with a safeguarding concern can contact Ms Quartey, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, on 07908 277599 or via email at e.quartey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk. This number and email will be available for a response during school hours only. You may also use these contact details if you have a concern about your child or another child.

If your child requires any emotional support at this difficult time, they may access:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

<https://www.kooth.com/> (an online counselling service)

You may also find some of the links available through our website a useful source of information.

<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/information/parents-useful-links>

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any clarification about any matter in this letter. It would support the smooth running of the school if you could do this by contacting us via email at updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

Thank you, in advance, for your support for our continued efforts to manage the school during this very turbulent period. We send our very best wishes to all families in our local community and look forwards to sharing news of the school returning to normal opening as soon as we possibly can.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher