



19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School closure and important information about the children of key workers and vulnerable students

As we shared on our website last night, yesterday evening the government issued new instructions for schools about the coronavirus.

From the end of school on Friday 20th March, all schools in England will be closed until further notice. Schools will continue to make provision (which may be for limited hours) for the following students:

1. The **children of key workers**. We are awaiting confirmation from the Cabinet Office about who these groups are, but we believe these will be defined by the government as:

Definitely:

NHS staff
Police officers
Delivery drivers

Possibly:

Ambulance staff
Fire Service
School staff
Military services
Carers for the elderly or vulnerable

2. **Vulnerable children** (those with a **Social Worker** and those with an **EHCP**).

If one or more parent or carer in your family is in one of the named key worker groups, please complete the form found at this [link](#) immediately. This is of vital importance to enable us to finalise our arrangements for students in these groups. Please complete the form by 9am on Friday 20th March (tomorrow).

Plans for the remainder of this week and learning continuity:

Sydenham School will continue to be open until the end of the school day on Friday 20th March for Years 11, 12 and 13 students. Please continue to follow the advice issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus. **Any student in Years 11, 12 or 13 who is showing symptoms of either a new persistent cough or a temperature should stay at home. The 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>

Thank you to parents and carers of students in Years 7-10 who have ensured that their children are continuing learning from home. All students in these year groups should continue to study at home and complete the work that can be accessed via this link.

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

Our staff are working hard to ensure that this work is kept up to date and that learning continues whilst the main school is closed.

If your child is unable to log into the school email system, **please email your child's full name and tutor group to passwordreset@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk**. 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. You can do this by emailing updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk or calling our school Reception.

Free school meals:

The government has announced that support will be provided for students who are eligible for Free School Meals. When we have more details of this, we will provide you with further information. In the meantime, for the remainder of this week we look forward to sharing lunch time with students who are eligible for Free School Meals at the following times:

Years 7-8: 1.40pm-2.30pm

Years 9-10: 12.50pm-1.40pm.

We are working very hard behind the scenes to establish how we can best support the wider school community during this very difficult time. Please do contact us if you require any clarification or have any suggestions. You can do this by emailing updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk. We will, of course, remain in contact with you and update you as we have further, helpful information.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher