



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update – Partial Closure due to Coronavirus

I am writing to you with the first of what will be a weekly update from Sydenham School during our partial closure due to the coronavirus. The past week has been a time of tremendous upheaval for all students and their families in our community. It was with very heavy hearts that staff said farewell to our Year 11 and 13 students on Friday. Whilst closed, we will hugely miss the joy of working with your children on a daily basis and the inspiration that they offer us. We want to extend our best wishes to everyone in your family and let you know that you are constantly in our thoughts.

It is hard to know what the next few weeks or months may be like. We are very aware that this situation may have left your family in a very anxious position. As such a large institution, we will try our very best to ensure that Sydenham School is held firm and that we provide some measure of stability in such an uncertain period. The whole staff team hope that whilst we are physically closed, we can continue as much as we possibly can to be of support to all students and their families, and to ensure that learning can continue to happen.

Communication from Sydenham School:

We are aware that your email and phone inboxes may be getting clogged up by messages from many sources including Sydenham School. Therefore, we have decided to only write to you once each week, unless we have important and urgent messages to communicate.

In the meantime, we have developed a specific page of the website for parents and carers, which we will regularly keep up to date with answers to all the frequently asked questions we have been getting and suggestions of how to manage the new situation at home. Please access this [link](#) and keep it accessible in your favourites/bookmarks, so that you can access it throughout this period.

Home Learning:

Whilst we have some teachers and support staff who are on site supervising the children of essential key workers, we find ourselves in the position that all learning and teaching within the school has to be carried out remotely. This will obviously present new challenges within families, that I am sure none of us had anticipated.



Teachers have been working to make the learning materials for students more manageable. At the end of today we will stop using the original Learning and Teaching Continuity web page. Instead, teachers will be providing learning for students using online platforms such as Teams, Edmodo, MyMaths and Mathswatch. We have created a Learning from Home directory which details how learning will be continuing in each subject and this can be found [here](https://sydenhamlewishamschuk.finalsite.com/curriculum/learning-from-home) (<https://sydenhamlewishamschuk.finalsite.com/curriculum/learning-from-home>). You will also find some guidance on how to use Teams and Edmodo on this page.

If your child is unable to access their email please contact passwordreset@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

Safeguarding and support for students:

The school has contacted all families with a Social Worker directly and will be in regular contact with the Family and Children's Social Care Local Authority Team in order to ensure the safety of all vulnerable children during this time. If you have a safeguarding concern about your child or any child that attends Sydenham School please email our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Ms Quartey, on e.quartey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk or call her directly during school hours on 07908 277599.

Details of supporting your child's emotional wellbeing and encouraging e-safety can be found on our [Information for Parents](#) webpage.

Social Distancing and Stay at Home guidance:

As you will have seen on the news this weekend, in some parts of London people have not been following the strict social distancing expectations announced by the government. We have heard anecdotally of some Sydenham students who have continued to meet up in social situations with other students or young people.

Please ensure that your child is fully briefed on the rules for social distancing and the absolute importance that they fully follow these rules. It is important that all students understand that these rules are for the protection of other people in society, as well as their own health.

It goes without saying that your family should continue to follow the guidance issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus.

The rules on self-isolating if you or a member of your household has a new persistent cough or raised temperature can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874281/COVID-19_easy_read.pdf



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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High
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Learning

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We will be back in touch with you formally next week, unless we have some urgent news that we need to update you with. Please regularly check our Twitter account and keep up to date with our website.

We wish you and your family the very best for the coming week.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher