



1st June 2020

Dear Families

Weekly Update: 1st June 2020

Welcome back to the final half term of the summer term. It seems an increasingly long time since we were in school together. We are very much missing having all of our students and staff together in the school building.

In this letter there is information on the following:

1. Plans for the phased reopening of schools
2. Home learning
3. Ongoing provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students
4. Digital Theatre Resources
5. Living Under Lockdown 3 – the latest newsletter from our Student Leadership Team
6. Staffing update.

1. Plans for the phased reopening of schools

Over half term, the government confirmed that the phased reopening of secondary schools for Years 10 and 12 will begin on June 15th. The guidance stipulates that only one quarter of each year group can be present on the school site at any one point in time.

We have been working very hard over the holidays on finalising the risk assessments based upon this new guidance. We will write to parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 12 by the end of this week to confirm the arrangements from June 15th onwards. If you are a parent or carer of a child in either of these two year groups and have not yet completed the survey linked to the reopening, please do so as soon as possible. The surveys can be accessed via this [letter](#) from Ms Pooley and Ms Gostling.

By the end of this week, students in these year groups will receive a 'Pre-Opening Briefing' via email. This will outline the Covid-Safe amendments to the Code of Conduct and details of how school will operate when students return. It is essential that all Years 10 and 12 students complete the survey included in that briefing by midday on Tuesday 9th June. We very much



appreciate your support in helping to check that your child has read the briefing and submitted the survey by that deadline.

2. Home Learning

The advice for students and parents or carers on home learning continues to be found at these links:

[Information for Parents and Carers](#)

[Information for Students](#)

The Education Endowment Foundation has conducted some very useful research into 'remote learning' that we are using to inform our practice. A key finding is that teaching quality is more important than the mechanism via which lessons are delivered. Delivering a lesson through Power Point with recorded teacher explanation or pre-recorded video has been found to be just as effective as 'live' lessons. We are continuing to develop our expertise in these areas through our weekly staff training programme. The report also emphasises the importance of peer interaction and so we have been looking at ways to provide opportunities for students to collaborate as part of our remote learning offer.

3. Ongoing provision for the children of critical key workers and vulnerable students

Increasing numbers of families are using our provision for the children of critical key workers and vulnerable students. Sydenham School is open every weekday between 10am and 2pm for these students. Booking takes place on a fortnightly basis; booking for 8th - 18th June will be distributed at the end of this week. The list of critical key workers, as defined by the Department for Education, can be found at this [link](#). If you are a critical key worker but do not receive the fortnightly booking reminders, and would like to start receiving them, please contact Ms Gostling at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

4. Digital Theatre Resources



Ms Durban emailed during the holidays about our school access to two excellent online theatre resources (Digital Theatre Plus and the National Theatre Collection). The log in details can be found in our fact sheets downloadable from these links:

[Information for Parents and Carers](#)

[Information for Students](#)

5. Living Under Lockdown 3 – The latest newsletter from our Student Leadership Team

The latest edition of Living Under Lockdown was published at the very end of last half term. Please do encourage your child to read the Newsletter, which you can access via this [link](#). If you think that your child would like to contribute to the Newsletter, they should contact Ms Morrison at s.morrison@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

6. Staffing update

Today is the first day in post for three members of staff:

Ms Fay Nkrumah (f.nkrumah@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) – Ms Nkrumah is stepping up into the position of Year Learning Coordinator for Year 8 following the beginning of Ms Wilson's maternity leave.

Ms Rachel Wylie (r.wylie@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) - Ms Wylie is joining us as our new Curriculum Leader for Humanities.

Ms Hediye Altinock (h.altinock@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) - Ms Altinock is taking up the position of the Deputy Year Learning Coordinator for Year 8.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing each of these staff well in their new roles.

We are also delighted to welcome back *Ms Hannah Bornstein*, our Curriculum Leader for English and Media, who has returned from her maternity leave. We also want to offer a huge thank you to Ms Charlotte Johnson who has been covering her post over the past year.

Since lockdown began, we have also been working hard on our recruitment of teaching staff for September. We are really pleased that we have now filled each of our vacancies and are currently fully staffed for the start of the Autumn Term. This has been a significant task, given the challenges of running interviews remotely. We are extremely grateful to all of our



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



High
Performance
Learning

Headteacher: Gloria Lowe, MA, NPQH
Dartmouth Road, London SE26 4RD
Tel: 020 8699 6731

Website: www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
E-mail: info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

support and teaching staff who have helped ensure our recruitment hasn't been unduly affected by Covid-19.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school via updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any feedback or require any clarification about something in this letter. We wish you and your families the very best for the week ahead.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher