



8th June 2020

Dear Families

Weekly Update: 8th June 2020

We hope you have had a restful weekend and that the start to the second half of this summer term has been positive for your children. We are continuing to develop our on line learning provision as well as prepare to welcome back our Year 10 and 12 students according to government guidelines from the week beginning 15th June. Staff are working hard in order to ensure that the site is safe for the increased numbers that will be on site. Please see more details below.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with the school. Feedback is welcome and we will continue to endeavour to improve our provision wherever needed. We are also grateful to the many families who are in touch with the school to thank us for the support that we give to our students academically and emotionally. The best ways to contact school staff directly are outlined later on in this letter.

In this letter, there is information on the following:

1. Plans for the phased reopening of schools
2. Pilot of Online Live Tutor sessions
3. Home Learning
4. Ongoing provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students
5. The Sydenham School response to the death of George Floyd
6. Peripatetic music lessons
7. Sydenham School Virtual Art Show
8. Staffing update Year 9.

Plans for the phased reopening of schools

On Friday, we wrote to both the students and the parents and carers of students in Year 10 with the Pre-Opening Briefing in advance of the phased reopening from June 15th. Details for Year 12 will be sent home today. If you are a parent or carer of a student in Year 10, please



ensure your child has read the [Pre-Opening Briefing](#) and completed the student survey linked within the Briefing by midday on Tuesday 9th June.

If you are a parent or carer of a student in Years 7-9 or a student who might be joining our Year 12 or 7 in September, I am sure you are anxious about the longer-term plans for opening for these year groups. You may have seen some speculation about this in the media this weekend. This is understandably a complex issue for the Department for Education and we await further information from them. Once we have further guidance on which we can base our plans, we will share this with you.

Pilot of Online Live Tutor Sessions

Last week we ran a pilot of online tutor sessions. This was very helpful and taught us a lot about how these can operate effectively, along with the drawbacks of live sessions. We are continuing with this pilot on a broader scale this week.

The teacher leading the session will email your child the day before to inform them of the session and send a TEAMS invite to your child's email address by midday on the day of the session.

In advance of these sessions, we would be grateful if you could help us with the following:

1. Please ensure your child knows the time and details of the session by checking their email each day
2. Please check that your child has headphones (if you have them available in the house)
3. Please read through the safeguarding protocols at the end of this letter with your child.

If, following reading the safeguarding protocols below, you do not give your permission for your child to participate in the session, please complete this very short [form](#) so that we are aware. You do not need to complete the form if you are happy for your child to participate.

Finally, if you have any feedback after the session, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Learning Coordinator (YLC). This feedback will be vital as a way of helping us to refine our practice. The email addresses for our YLCs are as follows:

Year 7 - Ms Bailey: s.bailey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Year 8 – Ms Nkrumah: f.nkrumah@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Year 9 – Ms Pattie: l.pattie@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Year 10 – Ms Smart: a.smart@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



Year 12 – Ms Conway: s.conway@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

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](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's individual teachers if you have questions about an individual subject, or their tutor if your questions are about a range of subjects.

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

With the phased reopening of the school for Years 10 and 12 from next Monday, it is essential that any families wishing to use our provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students have booked their child in ahead of time using this [online booking form](#).

If your child is attending our provision, please be aware that the school Code of Conduct has changed. This is in preparation for the arrangements that need to be in place for the wider opening of the school for Years 10 and 12 from June 15th. All students will be asked to line up at the front of the school on arrival and follow the revised rules whilst on site.

Full details of these changes can be found in our [Pre-Opening Briefing](#) for Year 10 students. Please read this with your child. Please note, pages 1-3, 15 and 25 are only relevant to Year 10 students from June 15th.

If you are completing this form after the deadline, or your plans have changed, please email Ms Gostling directly at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.

The Sydenham School response to the death of George Floyd

I wrote to families at the end of last week about the school's thoughts about the death of George Floyd in America. This letter can be found [here](#) if you have not yet seen it. Over the next fortnight our Year Learning Coordinators are writing to their year groups about the issues that have emerged from this incident and our Student Leadership Team have chosen to dedicate the next issue of the Student Newsletter, 'LuL', to the subject. It is clear that this is a matter of great significance. If you have further suggestions as to how we might address it as a school, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please contact us via your child's Year Learning Coordinator or by calling our Main School Reception.



Peripatetic music lessons

Please see the linked [letter](#) from Ms Durban about our 'Peri' music lessons. This letter is for the parents or carers of:

- Students who currently have peripatetic music lessons
- Students who would like to take up peripatetic music lessons from September.

Sydenham School Virtual Art Show

This is an exciting fundraising initiative which we hope everyone will get involved in. Please see this link for further details:

<https://sydenhamlewishamschuk.finalsite.com/curriculum/subjects/visual-arts>

Staffing update Year 9

Parents and carers of students in Year 9 will be sorry to learn of the departure of Ms Pattie, our Year Learning Coordinator, who leaves the school on June 19th. Ms Pattie is relocating to South East Asia because of a change in her partner's job. She will be very much missed by both her year group and the students who have been taught by her in Business Studies as well as staff too.

Ms Pattie has written to the parents and carers in Year 9 to inform them of her departure and to announce that Ms Johnson will replace her. If you have not seen this letter, you can find it [here](#). Ms Johnson has been the Acting Curriculum Leader for English and Media for the past year and knows the year group well. She is delighted to be taking over the year group and we are very pleased that the students will be in such safe and capable hands.

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



Safeguarding Protocols for Online 'live' Lessons using Teams:

For Parents/Carers and Students

We have started to trial 'live' online tutor sessions and for this to be successful, it is important that students understand and follow the important protocols below:

Live lessons via Teams can be a very useful way to allow students to ask questions and to talk to their teachers directly. It is essential that all students follow our live lessons guidelines below:

1. Teachers will guide students in whether to have their video and audio on or just audio
2. A parent/carer must be able to hear the session (be in ear shot)
3. If only audio is turned on:
 - Students must have their microphones set to mute and only unmute when you ask to by their teacher.
 - Students can signal they have a question by writing 'question' in the comment box or by raising their hands using the raise hand icon
 - Students must speak in a respectful way and must stay on the topic of the session.
4. If audio and video are turned on, the following protocols must also be in place:
 - Students and any parent/carer in view must be in appropriate clothes and have a neutral and appropriate background (e.g. they must not be in a bedroom or have any siblings or other family members in the background).
5. If students are not following the protocol:
 - They may be 'muted' by their teachers and they may be removed from the classroom. If this happens, the YLC will be made aware and this incident will be recorded on SIMS and parents/carers will be notified.