



Date: 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to start this letter to you by acknowledging what a challenging time this has been for all our families at Sydenham, for the staff and for our students.

Thank you so much to all our families for supporting your children with their learning at home. You have had to support your children with remote learning as well as manage the multiple needs of your own work, home and other children or family that you may have to care for. We are aware that some of you are also doing this whilst suffering from illness or loss within your own family or/and struggling due to financial hardship.

The priority of the school and us as Governors at lockdown was to ensure that all our students had a home learning provision alongside the ability to access remote learning and we continue to work with the Senior Leadership Team to focus on this.

This is of course an apt moment in this letter to thank school staff for providing home learning resources. Many of them have also had to create a home learning environment for their own children.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the PTA for their extraordinary work and time given in fundraising over £11,000 for students who need access to technology and data. If you are a family who does not have the necessary IT provision for your child at Sydenham School or if you are finding it hard to provide the basic needs of your family then please contact Ms Wijnberg, Deputy Headteacher in order to discuss your individual situation. Ms Wijnberg can be contacted at e.wijnberg@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Next week sees the wider opening of Sydenham School to Years 10 and 12 as per Government guidelines and the welcoming back of these students into our school buildings. The Governors have been working alongside the school leadership team, who themselves have been working closely with the staff Trade Unions, to ensure that the opening of the school is safe for all students and staff.

There may be mixed feelings amongst the students and families of these years, excitement and trepidation, but we want to reassure you that the actions that have been put into place are thorough, well thought out and most importantly will protect our school community. However, it is paramount, that the students and their families read and abide by the new school rules to ensure that the safety of everyone is maintained. These can be accessed [here](#).

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1591363252/sydenhamlewishamschuk/et9sbckc9adjw2hgkdv/StudentPreOpeningBriefing.pdf>



These rules are essential for everyone's safety. Rest assured when your child enters the school again they will be welcomed back into our community with warmth and care.

On behalf of you all, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who we don't always see in a normal school day who will be working extra hard to ensure the safety of your children. Thank you so much to all of the support staff in the school who have worked so hard 'behind the scenes' – our own wonderful key workers.

As Governors we now continue to work with the school on the plans for a further opening next term and how we can take this step whilst continuing to keep all students and staff safe. Whilst our current focus has and continues to be on how we can support and work with the school on the learning provision and health and safety of students, including students mental wellbeing during this unprecedented time, we continue to work together remotely to progress other key objectives and our over-arching goal which is to ensure every student is able to learn to the very best of their ability within a safe and secure school environment.

We welcome communication from parents and carers and you can do this by emailing our Chair of Governors, Sarah Armstrong. The email address can be found on the school Website in the Governing Board section.

Yours sincerely

Sydenham Governors