



15th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update: 15th June 2020

We hope that the last week has been a manageable one for you and your children. The world news has been full of many dramatic events that have taken place across including in the USA and the UK. I do hope that you have been able to find some quiet and reflective time to speak with your children about what is happening in the world. The next edition of our student magazine LuL (Life Under Lockdown), is designed to help your children understand the causes of some of these global issues and support them to find their own ways of expressing their feelings.

As you will see below, staff have been working hard to ensure that the school has been ready to receive our Year 10 and 12 students back into school, in small groups, over the next four weeks from today. This included a series of 'Pre-Opening Briefings' for staff on site so that they have been fully prepared. We continue to provide an on-site provision for students in all years who have parents/carers who are key workers or who are considered to be vulnerable.

Phased Reopening for Year 10 and Year 12

It has been wonderful today to welcome 25% of our Year 10 and 12 students back for face-to-face lessons. By now all students in Year 10 and 12 should know which week they have been invited in for and which group they will be in when they arrive. If you are a parent of a child in Year 10 or 12 who is returning in one of the later weeks, please ensure your child understands the protocols for the return to the site. We have been exceptionally impressed with how well our students have managed this today. The link for these protocols can be found here: [Pre-Opening Briefing](#).

If your child is coming to school via public transport, please ensure that they have a sealable plastic bag in which to store their face covering whilst on the school site. The government guidance on face coverings can be found at this [link](#). We have provided all of our students who have come by public transport today with a copy of this guidance.

When we have more information from the government about what any national plans are for schools opening even more widely in September, we will share these with you. We are working hard in the background to ensure that we are prepared for a range of different options.



You may have seen the [letter](#) from our Chair of Governors, Sarah Armstrong, sent on Friday, with further details about the ongoing situation.

Online Live Tutor Sessions and Home Learning

Online learning will carry on and we hope that your children have by now settled into good learning habits and routines. As a school we do appreciate all of the support that you have been giving to your children to ensure that they are able to continue to learn from home successfully. We also recognise the challenges of being with your children at home for what now amounts to several months.

Tutors have started to hold weekly 'live' tutor sessions on Teams. These last for 30 minutes and are an opportunity for some valuable tutor time. The protocols for these sessions can be found at this [link](#). Remote learning will continue to be very important for most students for the rest of this term and we have been very grateful for all the feedback from students and parents that has helped us to continue to make improvements.

Teachers will continue to set weekly work on Teams and to contact students via the weekly email schedule which you can find [here](#). Please check that your child is regularly accessing their emails. 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 let us know if there is anything that the school can do further to support you with your child's learning at home. Our subject teachers are very happy to help with questions about an individual subject, or you can contact your child's tutor if your questions are about a range of subjects.

Year 12 Futures Week Parent Zoom Session

Year 12 students have been engaged in our virtual 'Futures Week' which took place last week and we were delighted to see so many parents at the Zoom meeting on Thursday. If any Year 12 parent has not yet seen the UCAS presentation it can be accessed here <https://www.loom.com/share/c7ec75ef7bcd41f0a6b0da855c4b2892>. All Year 12 students can continue to access all the Futures Week resources in Teams.

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



Any families wishing to use our provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students must book their child in ahead of time using this [online booking form](#). This is relevant even if your child has attended from the start of lock down.

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 today. 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 and 12 students.

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.

Lewisham Trailblazer for the Department for Education Trailblazer for Mental Health Support Teams

Lewisham has been selected to be part of a 'Trailblazer' Department for Education pilot to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people in schools. Sydenham is one of the schools in the borough that is taking part in this initiative. This consists of Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) which aim to bridge the gap that exists to support the mental health of young people beneath the threshold for CAMHS.

Ms Quartey is the Senior Mental Health Lead for Sydenham School and we are looking forward to working closely with the team to further support the mental health and wellbeing of our school.

Our MHST is based in Altherney Primary but will come to Sydenham to work with students and staff on a regular basis from September. The team is currently offering weekly virtual coffee mornings for parents to support their own well-being, and that of their children. These take place every Thursday and Friday at 10am. Please see this [link](#) on our website for more information and email lewishammhst@slam.nhs.uk directly to book your place.

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:



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Specialist Science and Mathematics School



High
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Learning

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

Finally, we hope that you are making time to look after the mental health and well being of your family. Making time to go for a walk together for example, can help with a sense of well being and of course is also good exercise too.

We would like to thank all of those families who write to us weekly in order to express their appreciation of the work that the school continues to do on behalf of our students.

Yours faithfully

G. Lowe

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher



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