



22nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update: 22nd June 2020

We hope that your week has been manageable and that you are adjusting to the gradual reopening of a number of facilities and services. You may be aware that we welcomed back some of our Year 10 and 12 students to school at the start of this week. We were delighted to see them all and have been impressed with the way in which all of them focused upon the work at hand. Below are details about our 'blended offer' as we continue to also deliver on-line learning. You will see that this now includes live 'Office Hour' sessions and live online tutor sessions. We have also begun individual face to face sessions for invited students from today.

We await the next government announcement as to what schools should be planning for regarding our September return. I hope that this will enable the school to plan adequately for what is likely to be a complex scenario in September. We will of course keep you informed of any plans that we have.

I am pleased to say that we have continued to offer a range of experiences that have meant our students are able to connect with each other in a variety of ways. You will see more details of this later in this update, which includes information about:

1. The introduction of Show My Homework for Year 7
2. Home Learning: Online Live Tutor Sessions and Office Hours for Years 7, 8 and 9
3. Phased Reopening for Years 10 and Year 12
4. On-site face to face meetings for students
5. Ongoing provision for the children of critical key workers and vulnerable students
6. Student Newsletter – Living Under Lockdown Edition 4
7. National Sports Week: Saturday 20th June - Friday 26th June.
8. Sydenham School Virtual Sports Day: Monday 29th June - Thursday 2nd July
9. Debate Mate and BP Aspire Career Workshop
10. Sydenham School Virtual Art Show

The introduction of Show My Homework for Year 7

We are launching Show My Homework for Year 7 from today. Show My Homework is an online tool for managing home learning tasks; it will facilitate smoother communication between home and school and support students to keep organised. If you are a Year 7 parent



or carer, please check your email inboxes for a personal email containing your parental log in details.

More information can be found at these links:

[Show My Homework site for Sydenham School](#)

[Information pack about Show My Homework](#)

If you need technical help, please check help.showmyhomework.co.uk or call 0207 197 9550 to speak to someone from the Show My Homework Team

Please contact Mr Freakes at m.freakes@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any further questions about Show My Homework or feedback on how the system is operating.

Home Learning: Online Live Tutor Sessions and Office Hours for Years 7, 8 and 9

Following the start of our 'live' tutor sessions on TEAMS we are about to start offering 'live' subject 'Office Hours' sessions on TEAMS for Years 7 to 9. These will be held fortnightly according to the schedule on this [link](#).

These sessions are designed to provide an opportunity for students to ask their teachers questions about their learning. It will also be a chance for the teacher to explain anything that students have found difficult in the previous week or two and to provide some useful feedback to help students to continue to make progress with their learning.

Please check that your child is checking their email each day. The teacher leading the session will invite your child via Teams, which will automatically send a notification to their school email. Further details on the Office Hours Sessions can be found via this [letter](#) sent on Friday by Ms Pooley.

Phased Reopening for Years 10 and Year 12

It was a joy to see our Year 10 and 12 students back on site last week. Our staff were very impressed by the way they so sensibly responded to the changed protocols on the school site. We are restricted by the government to only 25 percent of students from each of these year groups on site at any time. Today we have welcomed our second and different group of students from Years 10 and 12 in. If you are a parent or carer of a child in Years 10 or 12 who is returning in one of the later weeks, please ensure your child is well prepared for the protocols for the return to the school site. The link for these protocols can be found here: [Pre-Opening Briefing](#).

On-site face to face meetings for students



We still await further guidance from the government about what any national plans are for schools opening even more widely in September. However, the government has slightly changed the guidance for between now and the end of term. This change means that we can invite some students back on site for individual face to face meetings with a member of staff. There are strict limits on the number of students we are able to have on site, but within these limits and our staff and classroom availability, we have begun these meetings this week. I am sure you will understand that we have to prioritise those students who have found it hardest to complete academic work during lock down or have encountered significant challenges to their wellbeing.

If your child is invited into school for one of these meetings, please ensure they are aware of the changed protocols on our school site which have been put into place to ensure that everyone can be kept as safe as possible. These 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 Years 10 and 12 students.

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](#).

If your child is attending the on-site provision, please be aware that the school Code of Conduct has changed. This is due to the arrangements that are in place for the wider opening of the school for Years 10 and 12. 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 Years 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.

Student Newsletter – Living Under Lockdown (LuL) Edition 4

We are very grateful to our Student Leadership Team and the contributors to the fourth edition of Living Under Lockdown which is available via this [link](#). This week's theme is 'Roots and Green Shoots' and has a focus upon the international response to the death of George Floyd. We hope that both you and your child find the time to read the thoughtful articles



within the newsletter. It has been excellent to hear the voice of students and we have received emails directly from students about the issue over the past two weeks. If your child would like to discuss any of the issues raised or has suggestions for ways the school could address these, please encourage them to fill in the survey in LuL or contact their Year Learning Coordinator.

National Sports Week: Saturday 20th June - Friday 26th June

Sydenham School has teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust to celebrate [National Sports Week](#). Last year, Sydenham School won this competition and we hope to do so again. The PE Team have compiled a variety of sports activities for students and staff to complete, with challenges released each day. Students upload their evidence through a Microsoft Form. The best challenges submitted will be uploaded onto the Sydenham School Twitter feed. You can find more details on a Sway through this [link](#).

Sydenham School Virtual Sports Day: Monday 29th June - Thursday 2nd July

Our [Virtual Sports Day](#) will take place during the week commencing 29th June. All students can participate to earn points for their tutor group. Students will perform three challenges across the week and provide evidence by uploading photos/videos to Teams. Students will also have the option of completing a 'Family Challenge' for bonus points. The challenges will be issued next week through Assignments on Teams.

Debate Mate and BP Aspire Career Workshop

On Wednesday 17th June our Year 10 Debate Mate students were involved in an incredible four hour marathon Zoom meeting with BP Aspire. They joined over 120 participants worldwide from countries such as Indonesia, USA, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica in debates between students and senior BP staff. Our team received this delightful feedback from BP:

'The BP participants were absolutely blown away by the students' confidence and charisma, and many of them described today's session as one of their highlights of lockdown. Your students were a real credit to both Sydenham and Debate Mate.'

Thank you to both our students and Ms Virgo-Furrs for her ongoing commitment to the teams. The next Debate Mate event that we are participating in is with Goldman Sachs. If you would like to find out more about Debate Mate, you can do so via this [link](#).

Sydenham School Virtual Art Show



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



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You may have seen some of the contributions to our [Virtual Art Show](#) on Twitter. Art work can still be submitted up until 20th June. You can purchase the artwork from 1st to 12th July for just £10.

Please do get in touch with the school if you feel that there is something that your child needs support with or that you would like to talk through. I do hope that the week ahead is a positive one for you all.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher



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High
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Learning

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