



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Year 7 Families,

A warm welcome to all of you at the start of this new academic year at Sydenham School. We understand that many of the new Year 7s have been away from school for several months and have missed out on some of the end-of-year celebrations in Year 6. We, therefore, want to make this academic year a safe and enjoyable learning experience for all of our students. This letter details the main points that Year 7 students and their families need to know for a smooth start.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is vitally important that Year 7 students get back into the habit of attending school everyday on time. In this way, they can fully engage with their learning and the extra-curricular activities that will soon be on offer. Our school day begins at 8:40am for Year 7s and ends at 3:10pm. In the unlikely event of your child arriving late to school, they will sit a detention after school on the same day. In the long term, students who maintain 98% attendance or more, have a greater chance of achieving the best GCSE results.

We understand that it will take time for our new Year 7 students to find their way around the school building. If they get lost or anxious, they can speak to the nearest member of staff or even ask for help from one of our older students.

### **Behaviour**

We expect all of our Year 7 students to behave in a sensible and considerate manner whilst in school and during their journeys to and from school. We want to emphasise the importance of showing kindness to others and will be promoting this in tutor time and in assemblies. We will be encouraging our Year 7 students to build their confidence by taking up leadership roles when they arise. We will soon start voting for our student leaders to take up a number of roles including class captain and year council representatives.

### **Curriculum**

Within tutor time (8:50-9:10am), Year 7 students will be following a pastoral curriculum designed to support their social, cultural, moral and spiritual development. Activities will include learning new skills, celebrating diversity, supporting mental wellbeing and developing physical fitness via the Mile Run. We will also look at current affairs. Our High Performance Learning framework encourages students to be curious, ready to learn, to think of others and work hard.

### **Uniform**

A big thanks to all of you for supporting our school's uniform policies by sending your children in with the correct items. All students must continue to wear the correct uniform, including their blazer, as listed on the school website. Please note that extra piercings, hoodies and dyed hair are not permitted. Trainers are also not allowed and the Sydenham School bag must be worn. Students will have non-uniform items confiscated and parents contacted by the school. Your child may only wear their PE or Dance kit to school on the days that they have these subjects.



## Organisation and Planners

Moving from primary school to a large secondary school like ours can take some getting used to. Your children will have different teachers for different subjects. They will sometimes have to travel to different classrooms for their various subjects although they will remain in the same classroom for most of their lessons. The vast majority of Year 7s also sign up for extra clubs. This involves being organised, so to help with this, children have their school planners. These contain useful learning pages for a range of subjects but can be used to write notes and reminders. Lesson timetables are also kept in the planners. Homework is set via the Show My Homework app.

## Contact

As a Year 7 parent/carer you can expect to be contacted via the usual methods. Please check that your contact details are up to date on our system and contact the school office if there are any changes. If you want to contact the school about other matters, the first port of call is your child's form tutor. You can write a note in your child's planner or email the tutors using the contact details below.

**Tutors are the first port of call** if you have any questions or comments. Below are their email addresses.

Tutor Group	Tutor(s)	Email addresses
7S	Mr G Ranson	<a href="mailto:g.ranson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">g.ranson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7Y	Ms Y Arteaga Jimenez	<a href="mailto:y.jimenez@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">y.jimenez@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7D	Ms E Durban(Mon-Thurs)/ Mr M Freaks (Fri)	<a href="mailto:e.durban@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">e.durban@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:m.freaks@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">m.freaks@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7E	Ms A Bauer	<a href="mailto:a.bauer@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">a.bauer@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7N	Ms S Furlong	<a href="mailto:s.furlong@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">s.furlong@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7H	Ms G McQuade	<a href="mailto:g.mcquade@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">g.mcquade@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7A	Ms K Abbs	<a href="mailto:k.abbs@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">k.abbs@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>
7M	Mr P West	<a href="mailto:p.west@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk">p.west@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk</a>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours Faithfully,

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