



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Important Update: Year 9 to return to school on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

We have been very appreciative of the understanding shown by parents and carers following the situation in which Year 9 students were sent home from school yesterday. The situation has been a complex one, in which we have sought to make decisions in liaison with the Department for Education that protect the entire school community.

We are writing to inform you that we have now received further information, which leaves us clear that there has not been a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 within Year 9. We have discussed the matter further with the Department for Education today.

It is now the case that all students in Year 9 should return to school, as normal, on Thursday 24 September at 8.40am. The only exception to this is students who are self-isolating because either:

- They, or a household member, has symptoms of Covid-19 or is awaiting a test result, or
- A household member has tested positive for Covid-19.

This situation highlights the importance of timely information being provided to the school about any Covid-19 related symptoms within households. We recognise that the current national challenges with the testing system make this situation complicated and frustrating for families.

Schools do not have access to the NHS Test and Trace database. It is therefore imperative that information conveyed to the school is truthful, accurate and clear, enabling the school to have the full information to act in the best interests of the school community. It is also essential that all families frequently check emails and phone messages from the school. If contacting the school about Covid-19 symptoms an accurate phone number, at which a family member with parental responsibility can be reached at all times, must be provided to the school. This is the only way in which the school can be sure it can take any necessary action in the swiftest and most fully informed way possible. With this in mind, if you need to update your details on the school system, please do so this evening by emailing [info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk).



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



High  
Performance  
Learning

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We look forward to greeting Year 9 back to school on Thursday 24 September. We are sure many of you share our frustration at this situation and we are very sorry for any inconvenience that has been caused by the decision to send the year group home. If you have any questions, please contact [e.odriscoll@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:e.odriscoll@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) who will arrange for a member of our senior team to contact you and discuss any matters further. We are pleased that your child will no longer need to be away from school over the next week and will be able to continue to benefit from the direct, expert teaching that our teachers are able to provide.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe

Headteacher