



17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Important Update: Staggered Start to Spring Term in January 2021

Today the Department for Education has announced the plans for how schools will manage Covid-19 from January. The plan includes a national strategy for testing in schools and a staggered start to the Spring Term for secondary schools. We wanted to write to you this evening with the details of what we know so far.

In the week commencing 4th January there will be a staggered start to the term as follows:

Year Groups	Plan for 4 th January – 8 th January
Years 7,8,9 and 10	Students will not attend school in person during this week. Remote learning will take place, with students following their normal timetable as much as possible. Most lessons will be live lessons via Microsoft Teams. Students who are the children of Critical Workers, those with a Social Worker and those with an EHCP will be eligible to come to school as normal.
Year 11	All students in this year group will attend school in person as normal.
Year 12	Remote learning will take place for the majority of students. The exception will be those students who have exams during that week. Students with a Social Worker or those with an EHCP will be eligible to come to school as normal.
Year 13	All students in this year group will attend school in person as normal.

If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 or 10 and you are a Critical Worker, it is essential that we know whether your child will be attending school in person in the first week of term. Please inform us of this by completing the booking form at this [link](#) by 5pm on Sunday 20th December. Please contact Ms Gostling at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any questions about this.

If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and has a Social Worker or an EHCP, we will contact you directly. Please contact Ms Quartey at e.quartey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk if you have any questions related to this provision.

Sydenham School will open fully to all year groups on Monday 11th January.



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



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We are sure you share our disappointment at the news of new disruption to schooling at the start of 2021. Our hope is that the strategy helps all schools to manage any cases of Covid-19 effectively.

Finally, please remember that **if your child tests positive for Covid-19 on or before December 23rd**, having developed symptoms during term time or within 48 hours of being in school (between Thursday 17th December 2.30pm and Saturday 19th December 2.30pm), the school should be alerted immediately. Please do this by email at covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk so that we can implement our contact tracing process.

Please continue to check your emails over the holiday for any further updates from us and the details of the remote learning. We wish you, and your families, a very happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher