



31st August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

September 2021 Welcome Letter

We are delighted to be welcoming the school community back into Sydenham this September. Our staff have had a restful summer break and we hope that your family has had an enjoyable time together.

Earlier in the holidays we were delighted to have our Year 13 and 11 students in to collect their exam results. We are very proud of our students and would like to congratulate them, and their families, on these outcomes which will act as a springboard for the next stage of their learning. It is a delight to see so many of our Year 11 students joining our Sixth Form, where they will follow in the footsteps of the Year 13 students who achieved impressive results, including the 36 students who achieved 3 A/A*s grades or equivalent in every one of their subjects and the 7 students who successfully gained a place to study at Oxford and Cambridge.

After two academic years during which we have all been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, we very much hope that this academic year offers a return to more stability and predictability. This will also bring a return to a fuller range of clubs and extra-curricular activities and will mean that our younger year groups can go back to lessons in specialist rooms across the school.

This letter outlines includes reminders and details of:

1. Lateral Flow Testing for all returning students
2. Consent for testing
3. Home testing until the end of September 2021
4. NHS Test and Trace contact tracing for positive cases
5. Staggered start dates for each year groups
6. The timing of the school day
7. Uniform reminders
8. Communication with home - Class Charts and Show My Homework
9. Parent Information Evenings – important dates for September
10. Providing your child with a face covering and sanitiser.



1. Lateral flow testing for all returning students

All students in England will receive two lateral flow tests at their school at the start of term. This is to help identify any positive cases that have emerged over the summer to limit the spread in schools.

As explained in our letter in July, the details of the tests at Sydenham School are as follows:

Lateral Flow Test 1:

This will take place before your child returns to school. Students will come to school for their allocated time slot. Students will be on site for between 30 and 40 minutes maximum. They will then return home and not remain on site. All students in Years 7-11 should arrive for their tests in full school uniform.

The test time slots are as follows:

Thursday 2nd September – Years 7 and 12 (plus half of Year 13)

Tutor Group	Site Arrival Time (via Main Gate)
13S	8.40am
13Y	9am
13D	9.20am
7S	9.40am
7Y	10am
7D	10.20am
7E	11am
7N	11.20am
7H	11.40am
7A	12pm
7M	12.20pm

Our new Year 12 students have been given allocated time slots when they enrolled earlier in August.

Friday 3rd September – Years 8 and 11 (plus half of Year 13)

Tutor Group	Site Arrival Time (via the back school gate on Charlecote Grove, off Kirkdale)
8S	8.40am
8Y	8.55am
8D	9.10am



8E	9.25am
8N	9.40am
8H	9.55am
8A	10.10am
8M	10.25am
11S	11am
11Y	11.15am
11D	11.20am
11E	11.45am
11N	12pm
11H	12.15pm
13E	13.30pm
13N	13.45pm
13T	14.00pm
11A	14.30pm
11M	14.50pm

Monday 6th September – Years 9 and 10

Tutor Group	Site Arrive Time (via Main Gate)
9S	9.25am
9Y	9.40am
9D	9.55am
9E	10.10am
9N	10.25am
9H	11am
9A	11.15am
9M	11.30am
10S	12pm
10Y	12.15pm
10D	13.30pm
10E	13.45pm
10N	14.00pm
10H	14.15pm
10A	14.30pm
10M	14.50pm

Lateral Flow Test 2:

This will take place during lessons. We will coordinate the timing of this test internally.



2. Consent for testing

If you have not yet given consent for the lateral flow testing, this is now an urgent priority. The link for the consent form can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the lateral flow testing please contact Ms Gostling at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

The video in our [March SYD Newsletter](#) gives an insight into how lateral flow testing operates at Sydenham School. This [letter](#) includes the technical details about the testing and matters related to data protection.

3. Home testing until the end of September 2021

As with all schools in England, once the two lateral flow tests have been completed at school, students will continue to do home tests. These will be twice per week, using the kits provided by school. Current government guidance states that this will be reviewed at the end of September 2021.

We will write to you with the details of how to log your child's test results and how this links with NHS Test and Trace when we distribute the tests after the second on-site test has been completed.

4. NHS Test and Trace contact tracing for positive cases in schools

One of the key changes that took place with Step 4 of the national 'road map' from 19 July 2021 is that schools are no longer being asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will now identify close contacts and implement any next steps.

What you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms:

Stage 1: Self-isolating and taking a test:

A: If your child has symptoms:

- i. They and other members of your household should self-isolate.
- ii. Inform us at school via covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
- iii. Immediately order a PCR test:
 - a. *If the PCR result is negative*, they and other members of your household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).
 - b. *If the PCR result is positive*, they, other members of your household and any close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace, must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

B: If your child has a positive result from a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test:



They and other members of your household should self-isolate.

- i. Inform us at school via covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
- ii. Immediately order a confirmatory PCR test.
 - a. *If the confirmatory PCR test is taken within two days of the positive lateral flow test and the result is negative, they and other members of your household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).*
 - b. *If the PCR result is positive (or is taken more than two days after the lateral flow test), they, other members of your household and any close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the lateral flow test.*

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

Stage 2: Contact Tracing

1. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered with when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
2. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents, carers or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts:

From 16th August 2021, if the close contact is under 18, they do not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will need to take a PCR test immediately and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts.

5. Staggered start dates for different year groups

The government has allowed schools to stagger the start of term in September to ensure all students are tested before arrival. We are beginning testing before the start of term to minimise the delay to learning for students. We are also running our Year 7 Induction Day (postponed across Lewisham due to the Covid-19 pandemic) before the start of term.

Please check this table for a reminder of the details of the start of term for Years 7- 11.



Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Thursday 2nd Sept	Lateral Flow Test 1	At home	At home	At home	At home
Friday 3rd Sept	Induction Day 10am-2pm	Lateral Flow Test 1	At home	At home	Lateral Flow Test 1
Monday 6th Sept	In school from 8.40am	In school from 11am	Lateral Flow Test 1	Lateral Flow Test 1	In school from 11am
Tuesday 7th Sept	In school from 8.40am	In school from 10am	In school from 8.40am	In school from 8.40am	In school from 10am

6. The timing of the school day

We are delighted that we are able to go back to our normal timing of the day for all year groups. The timings of the school day for all year groups from Wednesday 8th September onwards will be as follows:

8.40am: Students arrive on site

8.50am: Registration

8.50am - 9.10am: Tutor Time/Assembly

9.10am - 10am: Period 1

10am - 10.50am: Period 2

10.50am - 11.10am: Break

11.10am - 12pm: Period 3

12pm - 12.50pm: Period 4

12.50pm - 1.40pm: Lunch

1.40pm - 2.30pm: Period 5

2.30pm - 3.20pm: Period 6.

7. Uniform

Please ensure that all students arrive to school in full school uniform worn correctly. Any additional piercings should be removed. If students have dyed their hair for the summer this needs to be washed out before they return.

We would be grateful if you could remind your child about the mobile phone rule. All mobile phones should be switched off and placed in their bag before entering through the school



gates. If the mobile phone is seen on site, it will be confiscated and returned after a meeting with myself or a member of the senior team.

8. Communication with home - Class Charts and Show My Homework

Class Charts

In response to feedback from families, staff and students, we are introducing a new system for tracking student's merits and behaviour. This system is called Class Charts and all parents and carers will be sent details of your log-ins for this system later this week.

This system will allow you to receive:

1. Notification of merits automatically into your email and the Class Charts Parent App to help reinforce positive messages at home.
2. Notification of any behaviour incidents and detentions automatically into your email and the Class Charts Parent App.

Please note that we will no longer text or phone home about detentions. Instead, all communication about detentions will go via Class Charts. Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address and that you log in to your Class Charts when the details are sent through.

Show My Homework

We will continue to use Show My Homework, as an online tool to help parents and carers keep track of their child's homework. For new Year 7 parents and carers, they will be provided with their login details for their personal account which will be linked to their child's homework calendar where they will be able to see their child's 'To-do List' detailing the homework that has been set and the relevant deadlines.

Once login details have been provided, parents/carers and students can keep up to date on the move by downloading the Show My Homework app to their mobile device. They will then be sent 'push' notifications to let them know what homework is due.

Students can access the app themselves using their school Office 365 account that they use for their school emails.

Further details of how to use the app can also be found on the Home Learning pages of the school website:

<https://sydenhamlewishamschuk.finalsite.com/curriculum/learning-from-home>

If you or your child have any questions about the service, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the team at Show My Homework, who are always happy to help. Just visit help.showmyhomework.co.uk or call 0207 197 9550.



9. Parent/Carer Information Evenings – important dates for September

Please make a note of these important dates for September. These events will take place via Microsoft Teams and joining details will be sent out to families in each individual year group separately.

Tuesday 7th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor and Study Skills Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm

Wednesday 8th September - Year 11 Study Skills Evening 4:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday 15th September Year 8 and 9 Meet the Tutor and Study Skills Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm

Wednesday 22nd September Year 10 Meet the Tutor and Study Skills Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm.

10. Providing your child with a face covering and sanitiser

Over the past 18 months the school has spent significantly large sums of money on sanitiser, enhanced cleaning and face coverings for students. This has, inevitably, reduced the amount that we have available to spend on other provision for students. With this in mind, we are therefore requesting the support of all families with providing the following for your child:

1. A bottle of sanitiser for your child to use during the school day.
2. A face covering, both for use on public transport and for use if we have to return to the use of face coverings in response to a significant outbreak.

Our staff will be back in school from September 2nd, during which they will be participating in Continuing Professional Development, supporting with lateral flow testing and running the Year 7 and 12 induction. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or YLC if you have any questions.

We look forward to working in continuing partnership with all of our families and to ensuring that every one of our students can excel in all areas. We wish you too the very best in the year ahead.

Your faithfully

Mrs Lowe

Headteacher