



Wednesday, 1 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

September 2021 Year 7 Welcome Letter

Now that September has arrived, our new students are fully enrolled on our system and we are able to send out our first letter to the whole Year 7 year group. We are delighted to be welcoming Year 7 into our school community this week. 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 includes details of:

1. Lateral Flow Testing slots reminder
2. Consent for testing
3. Home testing until the end of September 2021
4. NHS Test and Trace contact tracing for positive cases
5. Induction Day reminders
6. The timing of the school day
7. Uniform reminders
8. Communication with home - Class Charts and Show My Homework
9. Parent Information Evening – September 7th
10. Providing your child with a face covering and sanitiser
11. Extra-curricular clubs
11. Parent Pay cashless catering



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 for Year 7 for tomorrow are as follows:

Thursday 2nd September

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

Lateral Flow Test 2:

This will take place during lessons on Tuesday 7th September. 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 19th 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.

Please ensure you are aware of the full details of 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. Induction Day final reminders

Our Year 7 pastoral team, led by Ms Smart, are thrilled to be welcoming students for Induction Day this Friday. Students should arrive at our main gate for 10am and will be dismissed from there at 2pm.

Please ensure your child has a packed lunch and water for the day, as lunch will not be able to be purchased on site until September 6th.

Students should wear full school uniform and bring their bag with them. Please note, students will not need their PE kit on Friday and so these can be left at home.

6. The timing of the school day

For those parents and carers with other children at Sydenham, please note that we are reverting back to our normal timing of the day after a year of staggered starts due to Covid. The timing of the day is as follows:

8.40am: Students arrive on site (Year 7 students go directly to line ups)



- 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 your child arrives to school in full school uniform every day. Any additional piercings that your child might have got over the summer should be removed for school. If students have dyed their hair for the summer this needs to be washed out.

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 students' 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



At Sydenham we use Show My Homework as an online tool to help parents and carers keep track of their child's homework. Over the next ten days you will be provided with login details for your personal account which will be linked to your child's homework calendar. In this you will be able to see their 'To-do List' detailing the homework that has been set and the relevant deadlines.

Once login details have been provided, you and your child can keep up to date by downloading the Show My Homework app to your mobile devices. If you adjust your setting, you will be sent 'push' notifications to let you know what homework is due. Your child can also set this up on their own device.

Students can access the app themselves using their school Office 365 account that they use for their school emails. They will be provided with this in school.

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 once it has been set up, 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.

Please note that to help Year 7 students settle into secondary school and develop good study habits we will be phasing in homework at the start of the academic year. For the first three weeks of term students will receive weekly homework for Maths, English and Science and will focus on practicing key ideas in each of these subjects. From 27th September homework will then be set by all subjects. We will provide more information about homework at our Study Skills Evening.

9. Tuesday 7th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor and Study Skills Evening 4:30pm-6.30pm

On Monday you will be sent final joining details for this event which will be divided into two sections:

4.30-5.30pm – You will be sent details of log in arrangements for a 15 minute slot in which you can join with a small group of other parents and carers to meet your child's tutor and learn a bit about the role of the tutor at Sydenham.

5.40-6.30pm – An online Teams webinar led by our senior team and members of our learning and teaching team. This will explain our approach to learning and behaviour at Sydenham, details of sign up for clubs and how you can support your child with their learning.

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.

11. Extra curricular clubs

Our staff team are finalising the details of our Autumn Term clubs programme. We will circulate this to all families once the final version is complete. It is our expectation that all students participate in at least one extra-curricular activity at any point in the school year.

12. Cashless catering

ParentPay is our system used for cashless catering and also for any other payments you may need to make to school. We will give your child the details of your ParentPay account at the Induction Day on Friday. After that point, if you have any queries about ParentPay, please contact Ms Donna Gale at d.gale@sydenham.Lewisham.sch.uk.

Our teaching 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 Ms Smart if you have any questions.

We look forward to working in 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