



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

### **Year 7 Half Term Letter**

It has been a pleasure welcoming your child to Sydenham School over the past half term. We are delighted that the year group has made such a good transition into secondary school life. Secondary school is very different from primary and we know that it will take some getting used to. Many students were nervous about their start and we hope we have been able to support your child during this period of change.

We are extremely proud of the year group. They have made an excellent start getting to school on time, looking immaculate in their uniforms and being equipped for learning. We have had extremely positive reports from their teachers about the progress they are making. The year group currently has the most merits in the school and we are working to maintain that position.

This letter includes details about the following:

1. Your child's transition report
2. Year 7 Assessment Fortnight – November 8<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>
3. Uniform
4. Organisation and school life
5. Homework and Class Charts

#### **1. Your child's transition report**

The transition report attached to the email from the school provides an overview of how your child has settled into learning here at Sydenham School. We hope that you find the report a useful first snapshot. When we return in November, we will be using the information from the reports to support students where required. We will write to you again in December with your child's first academic progress point report.

#### **2. Year 7 Assessment Fortnight – November 8<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>**

Your child will have a series of assessments in the fortnight starting November 8<sup>th</sup>. To help your child prepare for these assessments, they have access to revision materials in the Year 7 whole groups Teams area on Microsoft 365. Ms Dunham emailed details of where to access this from earlier this week, please refer them back to this email if they need a reminder.

This week students participated in a revision skills masterclass during which they were given the opportunity to explore different techniques for revising, such as making flash cards and mind maps. During tutor time they have been supported with how to create an effective revision timetable which they are being encouraged to complete and use at home.



Please see this [link](#) for an overview of these assessments, including what will be covered in the assessments and where to revise from. To help you support your child and reinforce the messages from their revision skills masterclass, you may wish to watch the videos in this [Sway](#), made by Sian Morrison who leads our Learning and Teaching Team, which helps give a practical overview of how to revise efficiently and effectively.

### **3. Uniform**

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

Our current Covid risk assessment measures mean that many classrooms have their windows open to improve ventilation. As we move into the colder months, we suggest that your child may wish to wear a warmer vest hidden beneath their shirts to help keep them warmer.

### **4. Organisation and school life**

Thank you for supporting your child with their organisation and completion of homework. We acknowledge that the volume of homework is substantial in comparison to primary school and some students will take some time to adjust. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns.

We expect each child to have an age-appropriate reading book with them at all times. Please encourage your child to read widely at home, and to develop a checking mechanism to ensure they always bring a book into school.

We have a wide range of extracurricular activities that your child can participate in. Some clubs are oversubscribed, and we encourage your child to try something new if they have not secured a place in the club of their choice. Their form tutor will be able to tell them more about this.

### **5. Homework**

When we return to school in November, we will be setting homework on Class Charts and switching from Show My Homework. We hope that this reduces the number of platforms that all stakeholders in the school need to access and makes life easier for everyone.

Your child should try logging on via the app during the half term to ensure they have access. Your child was given the log in details at the start of the academic year and these have recently been re-issued where required. If you require the Parent App details again, please contact Martin Brooks, our Data Manager, at [m.brooks@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:m.brooks@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk).



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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Finally, we'd like to thank all families who have provided us with such positive feedback over the past half term, it is very much appreciated. We hope everyone has a wonderful break. We will be encouraging our staff to turn on their out of office replies on their email inboxes over the holiday. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first week back.

Yours faithfully,

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