



Thursday, 20 October 2022

Dear Families,

## **Re: Year 8 Update – Autumn Half Term 1**

We are writing at the end of Year 8's first half-term back at school to provide you with some key information and updates.

This letter includes details about the following:

1. Clubs
2. Class Charts
3. Social Media
4. Key Dates
5. Uniform and Lockers
6. Safeguarding

We are extremely proud of how well the year group have settled back into the habits and routines for Year 8. The year group have 41,417 merits, with 8A leading the table at 7315.

The year group have recently moved back to the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) for break and lunch times. It has been fantastic seeing them fully use the space, including organising their own football games.

Thank you to Mary-Kate, Stacey, Shamiya, Rachel, Mercy and Gloria for their fantastic work on the Black History Month celebration. The students created their own tutor time resource and choreographed a dance routine to celebrate black culture.

Congratulations to Eve, Bobbie, Mali, Star, Ruby, Kloisa, and Lauren for their recent football match. They won 9-1 against Addey and Stanhope in the first round of the Blackheath Cup. It was great to see Year 8 and 9 playing together for the first time and being so supportive of each other.

### **1. Clubs**

It's been brilliant seeing students so excited to join clubs this year and to get involved in the wider school community. There were 50 students at the DebateMate sign up meeting, a huge increase on 20 the year before, and sports clubs are all operating waiting lists. We have a number of lunch and after school clubs running, which offer the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and contribute to overall pastoral development. Please encourage your child to sign up to at least one club, and to speak to their tutor for the list of clubs.

### **2. Class Charts**



We use Class Charts to record homework, detentions, and merits. Please continue to check your child's Class Charts regularly to ensure they are completing homework, and to discuss any behaviour incidents. If you have any queries about detentions, please contact the teacher who set it in the first instance. You can download the Class Charts app on Google Play for Android or the App Store for Apple. Your child's tutor will be able to send you the parent code should you need it.

### 3. Social Media

We have seen an increase in the number of incidents on social media and a rise in the use of phones inside the gates. Please continue to monitor your child's use of social media and flag anything concerning with the school. The age of use for most social media sites is 13. Phones should be powered off and in the bottom of students' bags before they come through the gates and until they leave the gates at 3:20pm. If phones are seen on site they are confiscated and held in the safe overnight.

### 4. Key dates

Year 8 assessment week: 28/11 – 02/12

Year 8 Options Evening: 01/02

Year 8 Parents' Evening: 08/02

### 5. Uniform and Lockers

Please ensure all students arrive to school in full school uniform worn correctly. If your child wears earrings, please ensure it is only one small pair of stud earrings in the lower ear lobe. Any additional piercings, either in the ear lobe or in the nose, are not allowed and will have to be removed before arrival to school. The same applies to false nails. Students should also only be using the Sydenham School backpack. Please see the link to our school uniform policy below:

<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/fs/resource-manager/view/a4c969d0-4e00-44e5-b5db-3bbbb4e7f0e1>

We appreciate that uniform can be very expensive and the link below directs you to Sydenham's upcycled Uniform site: <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/157>

It would be very helpful if you ensure all your child's items are labelled so that, if any items are mislaid, they are more likely to be returned promptly to the owner.

As mentioned in our Newsletter, the lockers are only available for students on the day they have PE to store their PE Kit. All items and padlocks should be removed from lockers at the end of the day. No other equipment should be stored in the lockers and no equipment should be left overnight.



Students were given until the end of the half-term to clear their lockers and remove any locks. During the half term break our Premises Team will be removing any remaining locks and appropriately disposing of any items that have been left behind.

If your child needs a locker for medical reasons, please speak to your child's tutor in the first instance.

## 6. Safeguarding

As part of our health and safety responsibilities, we are required to plan and practice for an 'emergency lockdown' scenario. This involves being prepared for a scenario in which a dangerous person/s have entered the school site with intent to harm students and/or staff. This is extremely unlikely to occur but, as a school, we have a responsibility to be prepared for this scenario.

Students and staff will be fully briefed in advance of the drill and will have the opportunity to ask questions about what will happen and voice any concerns.

If your family requires welfare or wellbeing support over half term, please refer to our safeguarding guide for a directory of services which can be found here: [Safeguarding Directory](#)

If you have a safeguarding concern about your child or any child who attends Sydenham School, please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for the borough in which the child resides. Lewisham MASH can be contacted on 0208 314 6660 or [MASHagency@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:MASHagency@lewisham.gov.uk).

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please contact the relevant emergency service. If you have an urgent medical problem and you're not sure what to do, go to [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or call 111. If you want to contact the police, ambulance or fire brigade, dial 999 in an emergency or 101 to report a concern or a crime.

Finally, we would like to thank all families who have provided us with such positive feedback over the first 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,

Ms Dunham

Head of Year 8

Ms Guiver

Deputy Head of Year 8



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