



Thursday, 20 October 2022

Dear Families,

## Re: Year 10 Update – Autumn Half Term 1

On behalf of the Year 10 pastoral team, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new academic year and provide you with some key information and updates.

This letter includes details about the following:

1. The Pastoral Curriculum
2. Extracurricular Activities
3. Upcoming Dates
4. Uniform, Lockers and Mobile Phones
5. Safeguarding

The Year 10s have made an extremely positive start to what is a critical time in their GCSE journey. It is a pleasure to observe students in class being ready to learn and fully engaged, producing high quality work.

Subject teachers have made the following comments:

*'Year 10 have had a fantastic start to History. They have shown excellent analysis skills and an understanding of how important it is to begin revision early in the year. What has been wonderful to see is how supportive they are of each other in lessons.'*

*'Year 10 have really got to grips with the 19th Century Novel, 'A Christmas Carol' they are studying this term. They have already shown an excellent understanding of the characters and key quotations in the text. They have shown perseverance and resilience, comprehending the challenging Victorian syntax and vocabulary. They have been enquiring when exploring the Victorian context, particularly when learning about the Workhouses used at the time.'*

*'Year 10 have demonstrated resilience and determination to succeed in the variety of topics they have begun to study this half term in Maths. This attitude has been exemplified by the students attending Mr Freakes' Maths Clinic at lunchtime. They have demonstrated independence and an inspirational motivation to improve their skills.'*

Many thanks to the prefect team who continue to do a sterling job in representing the best of Sydenham School. They showed great leadership and maturity when guiding hundreds of families during our recent open days.

Congratulations to 10N and Ms Henderson for being at the top of the Class Charts 'leader board' having received over 3117 merits already and a special 'well done' to the top five students who have received the most merits this term:



- Laurelle H
- Paris A
- Tabitha E-J
- Fatou S
- Emily G

## **The Pastoral Curriculum**

The pastoral overview for this part of the term has focused on Ethos and Culture, The Power of Language, Safety in the Community, Black History Month and Student Leadership, as well as weekly structured literacy exercises to support skills development in GCSE English text analysis.

Given the fact that all Year 10 students will be completing a two-week-long work experience placement on Monday, 3 July 2023, there will be a large emphasis on employability skills next term. Through PHSE lessons and the Pastoral Curriculum, your child will construct and develop their CV, develop their employability skills, explore careers and learn about progression routes.

We will be launching the Work Experience programme (WEX) in November at which point you will receive further information. In the meantime, students and families are encouraged to start thinking about finding their own work placements. Speak to friends and relatives to see if there are any opportunities to be found within your community.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

The extracurricular activities for the new year are now up and running; ranging from Dance to Dungeons and Dragons, there is something for everyone. Please do encourage your child to participate in what the school has to offer.

There are also weekly 'clinics' and subject interventions running either at lunch or after school, such as Mr Freakes' Maths Clinic on Thursday lunch times and Art Catch-Up every Thursday and Friday after school. Use the link below for further Extra -Curricular information:

<https://sway.office.com/4AKWU0DPotFcSOGS?ref=Link&loc=play>

## **Upcoming Dates**

Year 10 Parents' Evening will be held on Wednesday, 2 November, between 4-7pm. This will be held remotely via video appointments. Please ensure that you have booked your slots. This is the link to access the booking form: <https://sydenhamschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

There will be a two-week period of assessments starting on Monday, 14 November. Please do encourage your child to use the half term to focus on revision. Use the link below to find Curriculum Information booklets and a revision guide:

<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/overview>

## **Uniform, Lockers and Mobile Phones**



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. 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.

Finally, please remind your child that their mobile phones must be switched off and inside bags at all times. Any phones seen on site will be confiscated.

## **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



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



Headteacher: Gloria Lowe, MA, NPQH  
Dartmouth Road, London SE26 4RD  
Tel: 020 8699 6731

Website: [www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)  
E-mail: [info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

want to contact the police, ambulance or fire brigade, dial 999 in an emergency or 101 to report a concern or a crime.

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 sincerely,

Ms Bailey

Head of Year 10

[s.bailey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:s.bailey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

0208 699 6731 ext. 432