



Thursday, 20 October 2022

Dear Families,

Re: Year 9 Update – Autumn Half Term 1

We are writing at the end of Year 9's first half term back at school to provide you with some key information and updates.

This letter includes details about the following:

1. Tutor Group Rewards
2. Celebration Stories
3. Duke of Edinburgh
4. Supporting your child with their learning
5. Enrichment
6. Uniform, Lockers and Mobile Phones
7. Safeguarding

Year 9 have had many new experiences this half term which allowed them to become more inquisitive, collaborative and resilient students of Sydenham School.

This year sees the start of GCSEs for the year group. For some students, GCSEs were daunting and massive step in their education, but Year 9 have been able to tackle these fears head on. Year 9 have really settled into their subject options well and this is clear from the feedback the year team receive on the overall behaviour and work ethic of the students.

Year 9 have also seen the opportunity of school leadership. Many of the students applied to be prefects for the school. Being a prefect is a great opportunity and allows the leadership team to support positive changes in the school.

This half term may have had some challenges for all the students as they re-adapted into school life, but Year 9 have really shown their confidence and perseverance into the next half term.

Tutor Group Rewards

The year team have been monitoring the merits appointed to each student. During assembly we celebrate the tutor groups that have been successful in achieving a high number of merits that week. As we come to the end of this half term, the merits for each tutor group are as follows:

- **9S – Mr Ranson – 2236**
- **9Y – Ms Arteaga – 2085**
- **9D – Ms Pavely – 2526**
- **9E – Ms Bauer – 2787**



- **9N – Ms Furlong – 1554**
- **9H – Ms McQuade – 2157**
- **9A – Ms Abbs – 2749**
- **9M – Mr West – 2609**

A massive well done to the whole year group for their personal and group achievements.

Celebration stories

Well done to Sasha M and Sara S, for their excellent efforts in Science. They have shown resilience and perseverance, completing work to a high standard. Keep up the hard work – *Ms Reuben*

Well done to Iqlas M, Flora B, Klara S, Lola I-H and Ellen F (9Y) for consistently presenting great work in History – *Ms Wylie*

Well done to Paige W, Hafsa H, Sarai W, Scarlett S, Tanesha L, Siham H, Priscilla C, Kyla W, May F-C and Kayla C for their excellent work in Spanish – *Ms Ossa*

Well done to Inaiyah C, Jenaya B, Harleigh S-M and Bailey G-M for continued focus in Geography – *Ms Dunham*

Well done to Sidney K, Sasha M, Cleo O’C, Lois A and Lulu P for outstanding individual and group work showing a great amount of creativity and collaboration in Sociology – *Ms Begum*

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to the students that have secured a place on the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme. Ms Bown is looking forward to supporting the Year 9s on this journey.

“60 students are embarking on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. They will be starting their volunteering, physical and skills sections imminently and then going on the expeditions in the summer term”

We wish the DofE group good luck as they start this incredible adventure.

Supporting your child with their learning

As year 9 have begun their GCSE journey, the year team have begun to implement learning habits to improve revision and reduce stress. On Wednesday 19th October, parents were invited into the Sydenham School for a Year 9 Transition and Study Skills event. This gave parents a chance to meet the curriculum leaders of the core GCSE’s as well as the year team (Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher).

The event provided parents with the scheme of learning for the core subjects and helpful tips to support your child’s learning. We also introduced effective learner habits and how parents can support in maintaining these positive habits. This included:



- Retrieval practice
- Spaced practice
- Interleaving
- Questioning and elaboration
- Concrete examples

You can access the Presentation on our website at the following link:

<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/year-9>

Parents can also have access to the Sydenham School Study Guide. This is also available on the school website or using this link: [Sydenham-School-Study-Guide-June-2018_1.pdf \(finalsite.net\)](#)

Enrichment

Sydenham School's weekly enrichment clubs are now up and running. This is a great opportunity for students to go beyond the curriculum and join in with activities they find fun.

The enrichment timetable is available on the school website.

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.

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 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.

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 Shirfield

Head of Year 9

s.shirfield@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

0208 699 6731 ext. 433