



Friday, 14 July 2023

Dear Families,

Year 7 End of Term – July 2023

We hope you are well and looking forward to enjoying at least some of the summer break together as a family. It has been a full and productive year. We are proud of our students and staff and congratulate them on their hard work and focus.

A special 'congratulations' to all of the many Year 7 students who were involved in the recent school production of 'Matilda.' They were an absolute credit to the school and delivered some exceptional performances. Likewise, Year 7 really embraced 'Culture Day' and had a brilliant day last week – it was wonderful to see so many students dressed in clothes that reflected their cultural heritage. Finally, thank you to all the Year 7 students who performed in the end of year events.

This letter outlines the following important information about:

1. **Dates and Timings - Autumn Term 2023**
2. **Safeguarding over the summer holidays**
3. **Uniform and Mobile Phones**
4. **Changes to the Senior Leadership Team**
5. **Curriculum**
6. **Parents'/Carers' Evenings 2023-24.**

1. Dates and Timings – Autumn Term 2023

We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school for the autumn term during the week commencing Monday 5th September. We will have a staggered start to the school year in order to ensure that all students make a really positive start. Students will therefore be welcomed back as follows:

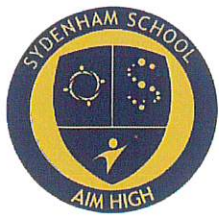
Details of when Year 7 students are back onsite on can be found here: [Start of Term](#)

2. Safeguarding over the summer holidays

If your family requires welfare or wellbeing support over the summer holidays, please refer to our safeguarding guide for a directory of services which can be found here:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1594294245/sydenhamlewishamschuk/mcbsf630z2ag8hrnsock/SummerSupportGuide.pdf>

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 are 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.

3. Uniform and Mobile Phones

Blazers	These will need to be worn at all times unless permission has been given by the class teacher in the classroom to take it off.
School bag	Sydenham School bag only.
Socks	Black socks or tights only.
Jewellery	One pair of studs (not hoops). No bracelets, necklaces (unless religious) or rings.
Hair	Students' hair should be their own natural colour (no hair dye or different coloured additions)
Nails	No acrylics or coloured nail polish.
Mobile Phones	Switched off and kept in the student's bag while they are on the school site. If the mobile phone is seen on site, it will be confiscated and will need to be collected by the parent/carer the next day.

4. Changes to the Senior Leadership Team

We say goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of this term and thank all of our colleagues for their sterling work throughout the year. We wish each of them every deserved success.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be reconfigured for September. The structure of these changes is outlined below.

Ms Pooley and Ms Emmanuel are both leaving at the end of this term. They are long standing members of staff (Ms Pooley 31 years and Ms Emmanuel 18 years) and both will be very much missed. We thank both colleagues for their excellent work at Sydenham School. Families are aware that I will be leaving at the end of this academic year and that Ms Wijnberg has been appointed as the new Headteacher from September 2023.

The new SLT structure will be as follows:

Ms Emma Wijnberg – Headteacher

Ms Hannah Coleridge - Deputy Headteacher



Ms Anna Siddell – Deputy Headteacher

Ms Eleanor George – Assistant Headteacher

Mr Mark Freakes – Assistant Headteacher

Ms Sarah Millar – Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms Sian Morrison – Assistant Headteacher

Ms Allie Smart – Assistant Headteacher.

5. Curriculum

During this year we have been reviewing our curriculum model and the incoming Year 7 students will be moving to a 3 year Key Stage 3 curriculum. These students will choose their Key Stage 4 options in Year 9 (instead of Year 8), providing them with more curriculum time to experience the broad range of subjects that we offer and supporting them with their KS4 option choices.

6. Parents'/Carers' Evenings 2023-24

Following the Parents'/Carers' Evenings 2023-24 Survey, all Parents'/Carers' Evenings will continue to take place remotely via Teams.

There will also be an opportunity for all families to meet their child's tutor face to face in September on **Wednesday 27th September**.

Some families will also be invited in for an additional meeting if their child requires additional support with their learning and these events will be referred to as 'Invited Parents'/Carers' Evenings – dates to be confirmed.

I hope that you have a lovely and enjoyable summer break together. Please do take the very best of care.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe
Headteacher