



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Headteacher Emma Wijnberg, BSc PGCE NPQH
Dartmouth Road, London, SE26 4RD
Tel: 020 8699 6731

Website: www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
Email: info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Thursday, 13 February 2025

Year 8 End of Half Term Letter

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we reach the end of our third half term, we wanted to update you on the wonderful news about our year group. They have worked hard in lessons, experienced extracurricular activities and enjoyed school events. It has been a great term with events like the Well Me, Well World week, safer internet day and the annual dance show.

This end of term letter includes details about the following:

1. Congratulations and Successes
2. Attendance
3. Merits update
4. Year group specific information and key dates
5. Parent Pay and Catering
6. Uniform
7. Praise and Rewards
8. Safeguarding
9. Term Dates

1. Congratulations and Successes

We have been delighted to see students in Year 8 - demonstrating Ambition, Determination and Respect this half term in line with our Sydenham Characteristics. Many students have received merit stickers and postcards to recognise their successes. We look forward to our next celebration assembly at the end of the next half term.





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Well done to:

The following students have been invited to the **Head of Year Hot chocolate celebration and Senior leadership team pastries and postcards celebration** this half term: **Halle-Louise H, India P, Tyanna-Monae HC, Maud EP, Zeldia TP and Alyssa H.**

Well done to all the talented Year 8's who put on a magnificent show at the Dance Show.

Well done to the following Students who represented Sydenham at the **U13's Kent Netball** competition. The students demonstrated all our Sydenham characteristics and excellent sportsmanship. The students are **Isadora H, Jasmine B, Fatima K, Poppy F, Jade S, Lily M, Ruth A, Nwarebea B, Rachael A.**

2. Attendance

Good attendance to school is essential for our students to gain the most out of their school experience and achieve their potential. Research undertaken by the Department of Education shows that attendance of 96% or more directly correlates to better outcomes.

Next half term, please do work with your child to help them attend school every day, because every day counts. We will be celebrating students with 100% attendance in assemblies.

3. Merits Update

Congratulations to the following tutor groups who have earned the highest number of merits to date this half term:

1st Place: 8E- 1066

2nd Place: 8Y 974

3rd Place: 8H 858

Congratulations to the following students who have earned the highest number of merits this half term: **Ella W (240) Sophie V (235) Alice M (234) Leila J (233)**

4. Year group specific information and key dates

World book day will be on Thursday 6th March. We are looking forward to seeing Year 8 dressed and representing characters from their favourite books/comics.

Parents' Evening date: Thursday 27th March 2025

Assessment Week: Monday 12th May- Friday 23rd May 2025

Year 8 should continue to engage in the activities in the Sydenham Charter. The Half term break presents a wonderful opportunity to do this. Please support the students to get stuck into the activities beyond the classroom and in the wider society.



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5. Parent Pay and Catering

Please ensure that your child's Parent Pay account is topped up regularly for the school catering system. A few reminders about catering:

- Free porridge is available in the dining hall every morning for all students.
- There is a meal deal available each day which is a main meal and a dessert – this costs £2.65.
- The Free School Meal allowance is £2.65 per day – this is credited to your child's account each morning. Please note that this does not include an allowance for breaktime snacks.

6. Uniform – Reminders

At Sydenham School we believe that high standards of uniform contribute to an orderly and purposeful school environment. Blazers are compulsory (teachers will allow students to take them off during lessons.)

We would like to remind families that all students are expected to wear the **Sydenham school bag**. Please ensure this is in place for the start of term 4. If students do not have the Sydenham school bag, they will be asked to swap their bag for a drawstring bag and return this to reception at the end of the day

7. Mobile Phone Policy

We would like to remind families about our mobile phone policy. If your child does bring a phone to school, please ensure that it is switched off and in the bottom of their bag.

If the phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated for 7 days. This policy also applies to headphones. There are no exceptions to this rule, and it includes instances where:

- it falls out of their bag or pocket
- you call them and it is switched on
- an alarm or notification goes off

If you have concerns about their safety, you may wish to purchase them a tracking device, which are widely available.

In the event of a student having their phone confiscated we can provide them with a basic mobile phone that will allow them to make phone calls and texts only. We appreciate your support in promoting responsible technology use and look forward to working together to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all our students

8. Praise and Rewards



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We have been delighted to see so many students this half term who have been rewarded through our school systems of postcards, stickers, Hot Chocolate Fridays and SLT-led Pastries and Postcards. This has been an opportunity to celebrate success and excellence across the school – well done to all students who have been recognised.

9. Safeguarding

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 would also like to remind all families that Kooth will be available for your child to over the half term. Kooth is a free online mental health and wellbeing service available to all young people in Lewisham aged 10-25. Kooth offers free support with no waiting lists and is a safe and anonymous space for young people to talk about their wellbeing without the fear of judgement. Please do review these [resources](#) and this [video](#) for more information about Kooth's support.

10. Term Dates

Please see below for the term dates for the next two academic years:

[Term Dates 24-25](#)

[Term Dates 25-26](#)

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first week back. A reminder that we return to school on **Monday, 24 February 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Nkrumah

Head of Year 8

Telephone: 02086996731 Extension 483

Email: F.Nkrumah@Sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



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