



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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Thursday, 13 February 2025

Year 9 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 and to prepare for their first round of assessments in Year 9. Beyond the classroom they have experienced a wide range of extracurricular activities and enjoyed school events. Most of Year 9 have also got started on their Duke of Edinburgh Award, good luck to all of you. It has been a great term with events like the Well Me, Well World week, safer internet day and the amazing 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 9 - 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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An extra special well done to:

- Nevedah G, Elise G, Aniqah L, Kadiey-Rae N, Amelia PB, Amelia S, Sadie S, Catalina SC, Lily O, Tekifah M, Riya R, Anabelle H, Isabella H and Nina O for their fantastic performances in 'For the Love of Dance'.
- Flo D, Aya H, Esme RT, Elodie K, Aamiah, Rosie MF and Rebecca MC for their great work in Art.
- Heyman A, Tali C, Magda Z, Kiana S, Eloise VL, Julya M, Diana O-O, Sumayah L, Heyman A, Bella R and Sienna S for showing Ambition, Determination and Resilience in their maths lessons this half term.
- Edit B, Gracie M, Molly P, Emilia S, Amelie S, Cara TM, Tilly R and Isabella H for their efforts in Product Design.
- And for their success in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge: Gold - Edith B; Silver - Clem C, Flo D, Elodie K, Ava Jean M, Milly S, Alyssa S, Aurelia W, Abby W; Bronze - Robyn A, Iden D, Alexia F, Maggie G, Edith H, Anabelle H, Adora J, Ivy K-F, Gracie M, Faith O, Saoirse P, Molly P, Haia R, Abigail T-C, and Daisy W

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. Over 170 Year 9 students had 100% attendance to school this half term We will be celebrating those students who maintain a perfect attendance record in assemblies.

3. Merits Update

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

1st Place: 9Y

2nd Place: 9N

3rd Place: 9A

Congratulations to the following students who have earned the highest number of merits this term: Alexia F, Aniqah L, Olivia T, Ivy KF and Esme R



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4. Year group specific information and key dates

- DoE Parental Information Evening Wednesday 26th February 1730
The presentation will be emailed to all families after the event so if you are unable to attend you will still receive the information.
- World Book Day Thursday 6th March
- International Women's Day Friday 7th March
- Year 9 Parents Evening, Thursday 8th May

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



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- 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

7. Praise and Rewards

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.

8. 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 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 wellbeing without fear of judgement. Please do review these [resources](#) and this [video](#) for more information.

9. Term Dates

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

[Term Dates 24-25](#)

[Term Dates 25-26](#)



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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,

Nabeel Husain

Head of Year 9

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Email: n.husain@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk