



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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Thursday, 13 February 2025

Year 11 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 progress of Year 11. Alongside their hard work inside and outside of lessons, they have enjoyed a number of events including the Macbeth performance, the Well Me, Well World week, 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. Key dates and information
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 11 - 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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Thank you to the **Year 11 Prom Fundraising Team** for planning an amazing bake sale for Friday 14th February 2025. A lot of time and effort has gone into making this event a success.

Well done to **Julienne N, Akresina M, Kyla W, Millie G and Saira B** for demonstrating the Sydenham Characters and being invited to **Hot Chocolate Fridays**.

Year 11 students have also been invited to the **Postcard and Pastries** event led by the Senior Leadership Team in recognition of high number of merits in the year group. Well done to **Milly J, Eve O, Shakyrah P and Zuri D** for being nominated for this!

2. Attendance

Good attendance is the most important factor in exam success. Last year, our data shows the below outcomes for our Year 11 students:

Attendance	GCSE Outcomes
95%	Likely to achieve a number of Grade 6s and above
90 – 95%	Grade 5s and above
80-90%	Unlikely to achieve subjects at Grade 4
Below 80%	Unlikely to achieve any Grade 4s

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 academic year:

1st Place: 11S - 1922

2nd Place: 11M - 1620

3rd Place: 11D - 1540

Congratulations to the following students who have earned the highest number of merits this term: **Shakyrah P, Audrey A, Zuri D, Ami-Li C, Ren M, Milly J**

4. Year 11 Key Dates and Information

Our second series of mock examinations take place the week commencing 24th February 2025. Period 7 will not be running during this time, so the school day will end at 3.15 (unless they have an exam that finishes later).



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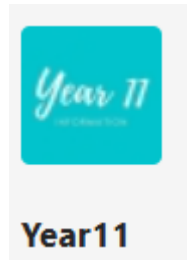
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So that students better understand what makes for **effective** revision, all Year 11 students attended a **Revision Skills Workshop** earlier in the academic year. Students learnt about long and short-term memory, spacing and retrieval practice. They now need to put those ideas into action.

They will have been set **specific revision tasks** in each subject to complete over the half term that they can plan out over the week using their revision timetable. In particular, it's important that they complete some maths revision (provided by their maths teacher) each day.

Alongside this, Year 11 have been directed to access **revision resources** through Teams (the Year 11 channel – Image of the teams icon is below). If your child needs anything else in advance of the half term, please speak with their tutor and subject teachers who will be able to support.



Our **Sixth Form SFH6 interviews** took place earlier this half term. Students will have now received an offer letter if they were successful in gaining a place. Please contact sfh6applications@outlook.com if you have any questions about this.

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week. For Year 11, the students had an assembly hosted by the **Mental Health School Team (MHST)** which focused on exam anxiety and how to manage this throughout revision and exam periods. We ran activities including yoga and board games through the week to promote the importance of taking care of yourself during this time.

Our **Year 11 Prom** takes place on 19th June – save the date! Further details have been sent out to parents and tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay.

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.



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- 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

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



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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.

9. 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,

Sinead Shirfield

Head of Year 11

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