



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Headteacher Emma Wijnberg, BSc PGCE NPQH  
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Website: [www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)  
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Thursday, 3 April 2025

## Year 9 End of Half Term Letter

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we reach the end of our fourth half term, we wanted to update you on the wonderful news about our year group. They have worked hard during their recent assessment fortnight, experienced extracurricular activities and enjoyed school events. It has been a great term with events like World Book Day and our second celebration assembly of the academic year.

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 recognised students with very high numbers of merits in our next celebration assemblies and we look forward to the reward experiences in the summer term.





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Well done to:

- The students who have been selected for Hot Chocolate Fridays this half term: **Abigail T-C, Madison D, Olivia T and Ivy K-F.**
- The students selected for our Pastries and Postcards events: **Poppy H, Iden D, Alicia B and Shevoni RM.**
- Our Year 9 student council reps who work with staff to improve the school: **Jess O, Timera H, Adora J, Shevoni RM, Syliva W, Sumeya O, Izzy M, Maggie G, Tekifah M, Tia H, Aamiah-Faith B-M, Abigail T-C, Edie H, Ivy K-F, Kiana S and Amelia P-B.**
- Ms Bailey's Art group – she says you are a delight to teach, show great ambition and contribute wonderful ideas. Congratulations on your recent photoshoot – the pictures look fantastic!
- Our top 10 merit earners this half term:

Name	Total Positive Points
<b>Camila L</b>	255
<b>Nevedah G-E</b>	204
<b>Grace M</b>	182
<b>Edith B</b>	181
<b>Ava Jean M</b>	171
<b>Melicia P</b>	170
<b>Xaynee D</b>	156
<b>Hanna R</b>	155
<b>Magdalena Z</b>	143
<b>Jessica O</b>	142

## 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 academic year:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: 9N – 2295 Merits**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 9M – 2118 Merits**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 9A – 1951 Merits**



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## **4. Year group specific information and key dates**

You will receive your child's PP1 reports this week. Please take some time to read these reports with your child and ensure they know their strengths and areas of development in each subject. Please also discuss their positive and negative behaviour points with them, to ensure they have a successful end to Year 9 in the summer term.

Year 9 Parents' Evening is taking place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. You will receive a separate letter about this nearer the time so that you are able to book appointments with your child's subject teachers. The parents' evening will take place online via School Cloud.

## **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. As we move into the summer term, we wanted to remind you that blazers remain compulsory, however the school jumper is optional. (Teachers will allow students to take blazers off during lessons.) In the event of extreme temperatures, we will contact you directly to outline any adjustments.

<b>Blazers</b>	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.
<b>Shirts</b>	White reverse collar shirts
<b>School bag</b>	Sydenham School bag only.
<b>Socks</b>	Black socks or tights only.
<b>Jewellery</b>	One pair of studs (not hoops). No bracelets, necklaces (unless religious) or rings.
<b>Hair</b>	Students' hair should be their own natural colour (no hair dye or different coloured additions)
<b>Nails</b>	No acrylics or coloured nail polish.
<b>Scarves</b>	Plain black, dark blue to grey only.
<b>Hoodies</b>	Hoodies are to be worn for PE and Dance lessons only. Confiscated hoodies will be placed in reception until the end of the school, when they can be collected.
<b>Mobile Phones</b>	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 can be collected after one week.



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## 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](mailto: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](http://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 **Tuesday, 22 April 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Johnson  
Head of Year 9  
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