



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 18th December 2025

Dear Families,

RE: Year 9 End of Half Term Letter

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a very busy term for Year 9, who have worked extremely hard and should be very proud of all their achievements.

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. **Other opportunities**
6. **Parent Pay and Catering**
7. **Uniform**
8. **Praise and Rewards**
9. **Safeguarding**
10. **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.



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Well done to all our students who have joined the **Prefect team**! It is an amazing student leadership opportunity which will help them develop holistically. Their work will contribute to the growth of the school, and we are fortunate to have a great group of year 9 students as an integral part of this..



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Well done to all the students who have begun their **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award** programme. The students have shown ambition and determination with how organised and intentional they have been around their volunteer work.

Well done to all the students who were selected to attend the **Hot Chocolate celebrations** this half term. The students were selected for showing ambition, determination and respect around their attendance, behaviour and conduct towards staff and peers. The students are: **Poppy B, Joya Y, Freya T, Isabel C, Mattie S, Elora L, Alyssa Y, Gulsoom S, Millie M, Danielle S, Mary O, Stella C, Lovia AG, Shanice S, Zoe L, Skye B, Alexandra U, Sheyla G, Azra K, Rachael A, India P, Cynthia K, Mandipa D, India H, Oria K, Sofia A, Amara M, Wendy W, Elani D, Zainab Q, Ava-Rae M, Gabrielle K, Violet B, Milan B, Nelly DR, Robyn H, Ivy DP.**

We look forward to celebrating more students next half term!

Well done to the following students who have been awarded the Head of Year, Deputy Head of Year and Pastoral manager awards around Ambition, Determination and respect! **The students are: Head of Year award- Mandipa D, Deputy Head of Year award- Elani D Pastoral manager award- Azra K, SLT Aim high- Amara M.**

Well done to the talented Year 9's who put on a spectacular show in the winter concert. The talent in the year group is immense, and this was just a testament to their hard work in music. The students are: **Robyn LN, Clementine D, River M, Alice P, Evelyn D, Edith W, Muna W, Alexandra U, Alice G,**

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.

3. Merits Update



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

1st Place: 9Y 4117
2nd Place: 9A 3510
3rd Place: 9N 3072

Congratulations to the following students who have earned the highest number of merits this term: **Amy E 665, Mattie S 609, Chloe L 591, Evelyn D 573, Iris S 562, Freiya B 558**

4. Year group specific information and key dates

- Parents' Evening: **Thursday 26th February 2026**
- Assessment Weeks: Year 9 assessment window: **Monday 12th January 2026- Friday 23rd January 2026**
- There is still an opportunity for students who did not apply this half term to become prefect. If your child is interested, please see the link here: [Prefect Application 2025 - 2026](#)
- **Other Opportunities**

DOE: Reminder to all DofE participants that there is a training day on **Saturday 10th January from 9:30am-2:30pm at Sydenham school**. Students should wear their own clothes that they will be comfortable putting on a tent in and should bring a packed lunch.

Horniman: The Horniman have a range of activities for families over the break. Please see here: [What's On - Horniman Museum and Gardens](#)

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 £2.78
- The Free School Meal allowance is £2.78 per day – this is credited to your child's account when they make their selection at lunchtime. Please note that this does not include an allowance for breaktime snacks.



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6. Uniform – Reminders

At Sydenham School we believe that high standards of uniform contribute to an orderly and purposeful school environment. Please note that our Winter Dress Code means that students can wear a navy or black coat but must remove them inside the school building. Blazers are still compulsory (teachers will allow students to take them off during lessons.)

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.
Shirts	White reverse collar shirts
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.
Scarves	Plain black, dark blue to grey only. Must not be worn inside the school building
Hoodies	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.
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 can be collected after one week.

When students arrive at school, the following will happen:

- Uniform will be checked at the gate
- Students not wearing correct uniform will be directed to a member of staff

Infringement	Action
Trainers / boots / other inappropriate footwear	Student given school-issue plimsoles to change into
White, patterned or Nike socks	Student removes socks and is given school-issue black socks
Jewellery (apart from watch and small studs) can be removed at the gate	Student removes jewellery before entering school. If Jewellery is seen in school it is confiscated until the end of the half term.
No blazer	Student given school-issue blazer for the day
Incorrect school bag	Student given school-issue bag for the day

7. 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.

8. Pastoral Manager

Unfortunately, Ms Ahmed will be leaving the pastoral manager role at the end of this half term. We want to thank Ms Ahmed for her care, support and intention with students and parents. We will all miss her and wish her best for the future. Here is a message from Ms Ahmed:

I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers. It has truly been a privilege to work alongside such a supportive, understanding and welcoming community. I am incredibly grateful for the trust you have placed in me and for the open communication and kindness you have shown throughout my time here.

Working together has allowed us to support our students in the best way possible, and I am so proud of the progress, resilience and growth I have seen in them. With the continued care, guidance and encouragement they receive from both at home and school, I am confident that all of our students will continue to thrive and prosper, not just in their learning but in who they are becoming.

Thank you once again for your support and for making my time at Sydenham School so meaningful. I will carry these experiences with me and wish every student and family continued success and happiness for the future.

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 are uncertain of the borough the child resides in, please contact the NSPCC: [Report child abuse | NSPCC](#)

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.



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We would also like to remind all families that Kooth will be available for your child to over the Winter break. 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 link ([Home - Kooth](#)) for more information about Kooth's support.

10. Term Dates

Please see below for the term dates for the next this academic year:

[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 5th January 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Nkrumah

Head of Year 9

Telephone: [020 8699 6731](tel:02086996731)

Email: F.nkrumah@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk