



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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

Website: www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
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Thursday 18th December 2025

Dear Families,

RE: Year 10 End of Half Term Letter

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a very busy term for Year 10, 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 10 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 have had a busy half term interviewing for our Senior Prefect Team! A huge congratulations to everyone who was appointed. A special shout out to our Head Prefects – **Ivy K-F and Faith O!** We know you will do an amazing job leading and working with the rest of the Senior Prefect team:



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Ethos and Culture Team

- Deputy Head Prefects – Riya R and Madison R
- Assistant Head Prefect – Adora J
- Specialist Lead – Amarachi O

Well-being Team

- Deputy Head Prefects – Molly D and Paris Y
- Assistant Head Prefect – Khimarni SF
- Specialist Lead – Kezia J

Learning Team

- Deputy Head Prefects – Edith B and Diana O-O
- Assistant Head Prefects – Ava Jean M and Shevoni RM
- Specialist Lead – Harriet C-S

Environment Team

- Deputy Head Prefects – Nancy S and Alba M
- Assistant Head Prefect – Abby W
- Specialist Lead – Robyn A

Congratulations to all of the students this half term who have been awarded 'Star of the Week' by their tutors. All received 'shout outs' in assembly and praise postcards:

10S – Sarah, Marlana, Tali, Iden

10Y – Edith, Divine, Aniqah, Jenny

10D – Maja, Heyman, Esther, Sylvia

10E – Scarlett, Izzy, Ria, Diana

10N – Tilly, Abby, Nancy, Ava Jean, Tekifah

10H – Anjana, Favour B, Riley C, Savanna

10A – Melicia, Olivia, Iris, Daisy, Emilia

10M – Kiana, Edith H, Hannah, Molly, Nevedah, Sumayah, Itzel

Subject shout outs:

"[Well done to] 10B Photography for their recent work on their creative booklets! Fantastic creative effort from all students, with a shout out to Maja, Izzy, Hania, Izel and Tianna for being the most organised in meeting the deadline." - Ms Hall-Wright



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"10C German were excellent this morning! I shall be giving Aniqah and Khimani (who were especially good and very helpful) postcards." - Mr Harris

A huge well done to **all** Year 10 students for their fantastic work on Employability Day! The visitors were truly blown away by you all – especially in the mock interviews. You took the opportunity seriously and gave fantastic answers – well done!

Well done to all the students who have been invited to our regular 'praise' events this half term – Hot Chocolate treats during tutor time, and 'Pastries and Postcards' on Fridays at break time:

Hot Chocolate Students – Flo, Alexia, Diana, Scarlett T, Clem, Sienna, Rebecca, Madison R.
Pastries and Postcards – Maria F, Tali C, Riya R, Bea M-O, Petra, Tekifah

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

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

1st Place: 10M - 7111

2nd Place: 10A – 7020

3rd Place: 10S 6142



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Congratulations to the following students who have earned the highest number of merits this half term:

Name	TG	Merits earned this half term
Tekifah	10N	199
Petra	10A	179
Emilia	10A	176
Ava Jean	10N	173
Rebecca	10E	171
Eleanor	10N	163
Olivia	10A	158
Maria	10E	156
Nevedah	10M	156
Poppy	10A	154
Phoenix	10A	150
Amelia	10M	149
Mathilda	10N	148
Florence	10E	147
Nancy	10N	146
Amira	10H	145
Ava	10D	142
Divine	10Y	141
Lanaia	10M	141

4. Year group specific information and key dates

Year 10 Assessment week – Year 10 have just completed their assessments, and you will receive updated reports in the new year.

Work Experience – A reminder that the deadline for securing a Work Experience placement is **Friday 13th February**. The Christmas holidays are a great time for your child to devote time to applying for a placement if they have not already. All the relevant documents for Work Experience can be found here on our website: [Year Pages - Sydenham School](#). Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Mangal if you have questions or need support:
M.mangal@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Parents' Evening – This will take place on **Thursday 19th March** for Year 10 families. More information will be shared nearer the time.



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Duke of Edinburgh – A reminder to all DofE participants that there is a training day on **Saturday 10th January from 9:30am-2:30pm**. This is taking place on school site. Students should wear their own clothes that they will be comfortable putting up a tent in and should bring a packed lunch.

5. Other Opportunities

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge – On Thursday 15th January, all Year 10 students will be off timetable and taking part in a fantastic speaking and listening opportunity – the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Over the course of the day, students will work with delegates from the Jack Petchey Foundation to develop their oracy skills, build their confidence and enhance their speechwriting. Students will be given expert guidance and support to write, rehearse and perform a speech on a topic of their choice. Year 10 will need to be in full uniform and will be working in their English class groups for the whole day. The event takes place on site at the school.

More information about the event can be found on the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge website: <https://www.jpspeakoutchallenge.com/>

If you have any queries about this event, please contact Mr Hardman
t.hardman@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

6. 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.

7. 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.
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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

8. 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.

9. 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 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.

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 Johnson,

Head of Year 10

c.johnson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk