



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Headteacher Emma Wijnberg, BSc PGCE NPQH
Dartmouth Road, London, SE26 4RD
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Website: www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk
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Thursday 12th February 2026

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 - Reminders**
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 new Sydenham Characteristics. Many students have received merit stickers and postcards to recognise their successes.



Dance show 2026



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Well done to the following students for putting on a fantastic performance in the Dance show 2026! It takes hard work and confidence to deliver such excellence. The students are: Irma W, Mary O, Mattie S, India P, Alice G, Sophie O, Halle-Louise H, Leila J, Hedva B, Elissa A, Zainab C, Chloe L, Jasmine B.

Intermediate Maths Challenge 2026

A big congratulations to the students in Year 9 who achieved awards for Bronze, Silver and Gold. Out of 163 students they were awarded. Well done to Matilda FP, Robyn H and Amy E who are through to the next round!

Bronze Award: Stella C, Maggie DP, Poppy F, Megan F, Lea G, India H, Hannah K, Aoife K, Chloe K, Laura O, Anala P, Zainab Q, Lisa W, Muna W, Lucy W, Sarah X

Silver Award: Abigail C, Julia M, Abigail S, Phrashika T, Dervlagh T, Alyssa Y

Gold Award: Amy E (Highest in the year), Matilda FP (Highest in the year) Robyn H and Alice M

Well done to the following students who were recognised and invited to the Hot Chocolate celebration this half term for showing Ambition, Determination and Respect. The students are: Bea R, Shayla GB, Irma W, Emily B, Mattie S, Sophia H, Leila J, Evie P, Amalia M, Jasmine B, Tianna-Leigh H, Christina C, Kadijah K, Roisin M, Stefanie N, Maud EP, Nada M, Rowena B, Tiger-lily M, Alice P, Lutfiyah R, Sophie O, River M,

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.



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3. Merits Update

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

1st Place: 9N 4113

2nd Place: 9D 3472

3rd Place: 9S 2985

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

Amy E- 228

Awa S- 225

Lovia AG- 222

Orla GM- 217

Naimot J- 199

4. Year group specific information and key dates

Year 9 Parents evening is **Thursday 26th February 2026 online**. The booking system is open for appointments.

5. Other Opportunities

There are a range of activities at the Horniman in the half term: [Voyage to the Deep - Underwater Adventures - Horniman Museum and Gardens](#)

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



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- 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.
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



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Incorrect school bag	Student given school-issue bag for the day
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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

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 23rd February 2026**.



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Yours sincerely,

Ms Nkrumah

Head of Year 9

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