



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Headteacher Emma Wijnberg, BSc PGCE NPQH
Dartmouth Road, London, SE26 4RD
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Thursday 12th February 2026

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



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Lewisham Young Mayor – A huge congratulations to **Izzy M** 10E, who ran for Young Mayor of Lewisham recently. Over 10,000 young people across the borough voted. There were 42 candidates to choose from, so Izzy had fierce competition from other strong representatives. We are thrilled that she was appointed Deputy Young Mayor! Izzy has worked really hard in her campaign, and we are delighted at her success. We know she will be an excellent voice for young people in Lewisham.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge – earlier this half term, the entire year group was off timetable for the day to participate in a speaking and listening workshop, run by the Jack Petchey foundation. Each student wrote and performed a speech on a topic of their choice and a winner was selected from each class. These finalists then performed their speeches in assembly this week to the rest of year 10: **Riya R, Elizabeth V, Margot E-J, Clem C, Joanna L, Karma B, Lydia J, Edie H and Molly D**

A huge congratulations to **Lydia**, who was awarded first place and will go on to represent Sydenham at the regional finals. This is taking place on 16th April at St Mathews Academy – all welcome to attend and show their support. Well done as well to **Molly D**, who was awarded 1st runner up and **Clem C** who achieved 2nd runner up. You were all fantastic!

Sporting success – well done to our U15s Cricket team (which is predominantly made up of year 10 students) - **Agatha J, Tilly H, Rose D, Rosie MF, Freya B, Daisy W and Holly M** – who went to an indoor cricket competition this week and won all their games! This means the team will go on to the County Finals next month. Ms Sloman was so impressed with your dedication, teamwork and resilience – keep it up!

Pastries and Postcards – well done to the following students who have been invited to a special 'Pastries and Postcards' event this Friday: **Jelisa S, Poppy H, Daisy W, Milly G, Esme R-T, Ashleigh P, Maja S, Isla D, Iris M and Amelia P-B**. All these students have high numbers of merits and zero negative behaviour points.

Intermediate Maths Challenge – a huge well done to all the Year 10 students who recently participated in this. A special shout out to **Molly P** and **Edith B** (Best in Year) who both achieved the Gold Award. Certificates will be given out in Maths lessons.

Bronze Award – **Robyn A, Freya B, Tali C, Flo D, Milly G, Tilly H, Edith H, Iris M, Pearl M, Edie M, Olive O, Esme R-T, Catalina SC, Magdalena Z**

Silver Award – **Clem C, Iden D, Alexia F, Maggie G, Grace JB, Lydia J, Ivy K-F, Elodie K, Gracie M, Ava J-M, Muti M, Faith O, Saoirse P, Eleanor R, Hania R, Milly S, Alyssa S, Abby Walters**



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Year 10 Debate Mate Teams – well done to the Year 10 debating team, who recently won 3 out of 4 matches in Debate Mate Round 1. Keep up the excellent work!

Team A – Adora J, Ivy F-K, Cara T-M, Sylvia W, Izzy M, Jelisa S

Team B – Shakijah A-E, Karma B, Iden D, Riya R, Lujayn I, Ava Jean M

Reserves – Bea MO, Lila M, Bella R, Christabel S, Marlena T-D, Katy W, Nicole Z, Joanna L

Dance Show – a huge congratulations to all the year 10 students who participated in the recent Dance Show. You were all fantastic! **Anabelle H, Camden C, Tekifah M, Riya R, Kadiy-Rae N, Amelia S, Nevedah G, Diana O-O, Elise G, Alaana P, Lily O, Catalina S-C, Aniqah L, Amelia P-B**

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: 10A - 10,043

2nd Place: 10M – 9,536

3rd Place: 10S – 8,174

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

- Jelisa S
- Poppy H
- Josie G



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- Daisy W
- Ava Ri
- Anne T
- Milly G
- Emilia S
- Sumayah L
- Esme R-T

4. Year group specific information and key dates

Work Experience – a reminder that the deadline for securing a work experience placement and returning the paperwork to Ms Johnson or Ms Mangal is Friday 13th February. We can't wait to hear all about your experiences later this year!

RE Mock Exam – the final RE mock exam will take place on Monday 23rd February at 11.10am. Students should make their way promptly to the MUGA at the end of breaktime and line up in tutor groups. The exam will last 60 minutes. All students have been given their timetables and their allocated seats. All students have also been emailed revision checklists and knowledge organisers to help them prepare.

The public (real) RE exams will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 12th May at 9am.

Wednesday 20th May at 1.30pm

Monday 1st June at 1.30pm

Year 10 Parents' Evening – this will take place in person on **Thursday 19th March 2026**. Links to book appointments will go out nearer the time.

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:



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- 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.
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 plimsols 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



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	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

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](#)



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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**.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Johnson

Head of Year 10

Telephone: 0208 699 6731 ext. 457

Email: c.johnson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk