



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School

Headteacher: Gloria Lowe, MA, NPQH  
Dartmouth Road, London SE26 4RD  
Tel: 020 8699 6731, Fax: 020 8699 7532

Website: [www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)  
E-mail: [info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

Dear Families,

September 2017

I hope that your summer break was both enjoyable and restful. It has been lovely to welcome students back to school and to hear all of their news from the holidays. Our **strong exam results** this year reflect the hard work of the students and staff. Our exam results at post 16 were excellent and the highest in the borough of Lewisham. We were also very pleased with the fantastic University, Art School and Apprenticeship destinations for SFH6 students including 3 students who gained a place at Oxford and 1 at Cambridge. There were many notable successes at GCSE, including in the gold standard of the English Baccalaureate. There were also excellent outcomes in a range of other subjects e.g. Dance, Art, Catering, Drama and Music. Our English Language and Literature outcomes were outstanding and many students were awarded Grade 9.

The Year 7s started school on Wednesday and look resplendent in the new **school uniform**. All students are expected to wear their uniform smartly at all times. Skirts should be at knee length, trousers should be loose fitting and shirts tucked in at the waistband. The only style of shirt permitted is the reverse style collar. Shoes must be flat, black and leather. They should be polishable and no canvas shoes or boots of any sort are allowed. The only jewellery allowed is one small pair of stud earrings worn in the lower earlobe. Make-up, if worn, is only permitted in Key Stage 4 and should not be heavily applied. Hair should be of the child's own natural colour. If your child's hair is long it should be worn tied back in the interest of hygiene. Students in Years 7-11 who come to school with unnaturally dyed hair or with coloured extensions may be sent home. The only school bags that are allowed are the official Sydenham School bags which are also sold at Wearabouts. Mobile phones must be turned off and placed at the bottom of the school bag before students enter the school gates. Phones will be confiscated if they are seen or used, and will only be returned to a parent/carer following a meeting with me which will need to be arranged via Mrs Lovelace, my PA.

The school site is now in full use by the students. It offers us opportunities to hire out the facilities outside of school hours. I am sure that you will be aware that the public sector has been affected by spending cuts. We are committed to continuing to provide a wide ranging **extra-curricular** offer but we will be increasingly only able to continue to fund these opportunities from the **School Fund with your support**. We would like every student to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity as they develop skills for life, often lead to new friendships and are an excellent way of getting involved in the wider life of the school. For each family, the school is asking for a voluntary £30 annual donation. Of course, should you feel able to donate more we would welcome that and equally we would be grateful for whatever donation you are able to make. We would prefer payment via ParentPay or by cash or cheque via the Finance Office. Please place any contributions into an envelope clearly marked "School Fund". We will not be recording payments against the names of the students. May I thank you in anticipation of your donation and for your ongoing support of Sydenham School.

This year, we will continue to focus on embedding the **'High Performance Learning' (HPL)** framework which increasingly informs learning and teaching across the school and is characterised by a set of values and concepts which include critical thinking, empathy and being hard working. We have launched a new project for Year 7 called 'Dare To Be Challenged', on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30pm-6.30pm we are holding a Year 7 Parents Meeting and Dare To Be Challenged Parent Launch**. This event is for Year 7 parents to come and meet with key staff at the school and also to have the opportunity to learn about the Dare To Be Challenged Project. The first meeting of the **Parents' Forum will also take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October and will begin at 6.30pm**. The focus will be on HPL. The session will offer ways in which you can actively support your child to be successful at school. We hope that you will put this date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of ensuring that your child comes to school every day and on time. We expect students to arrive by 8.40 am ready to get to their tutor rooms by 8.50 am, when the register will be taken promptly. Students will be rewarded for **excellent attendance and punctuality** (alongside **excellent behaviour and effort**) as part of the **Gold Standard**. Students who achieve the Gold Standard in all four of these areas receive badges and certificates, and are celebrated during Assemblies after each Progress (Data) Point. There will be detentions for those students who are late during the week, with students receiving an automatic thirty minute detention on the same day if they arrive late to registration. However, we believe that the Gold Standard will continue to reward and motivate students to do their very best and that the excellent levels of punctuality achieved across the school by the end of the last academic year will continue.

Please can you make sure that your child **crosses Dartmouth Road safely** at the beginning and end of the school day. There is a set of traffic lights near the school gate which should be used or one further along the road outside Holy Trinity Primary School. **Please can you also make sure that you use the crossings** whenever you drop your child off or when you collect your child after school, and model safe behaviour.

We continue to value working in **partnership with you as families**. Please can you ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details. You are able to update your information via the Learning Gateway or you can notify the school Administrative Office via an email to [info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or by letter. **You should expect to receive an information letter from the school every half term and the school Newsletter, SYD, by email once every other week**. The first Newsletter will be emailed to you on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Finally, there will be a **'Welcome Picnic' for Year 7 families at the Horniman Museum Gardens (behind the bandstand) on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm**. This will be held by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and all new families are welcome.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lowe  
Headteacher