



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School

Headteacher: Gloria Lowe, MA, NPQH
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Dear Families

I am delighted to write to you as the new Headteacher of Sydenham School and I am very much looking forward to joining the school, along with your daughters, in September. I have lived in south London for over 30 years and I am aware of the strong reputation that Sydenham School has enjoyed during that time for being an inclusive and vibrant school. I know that there are many good features to build on and I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity by the Governors to lead Sydenham to becoming a truly great school. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your children and thank you for choosing Sydenham School as your school of choice.

Choosing a secondary school for our children is one of the most important decisions that families have to make. I am confident that you have made the right choice in Sydenham School. A central aim of the school is to ensure that outstanding learning and teaching takes place across all subjects in the school. Teaching should be engaging, appropriately challenging and relevant. Students should be encouraged to ask questions, develop enquiring minds and genuinely enjoy their learning. I also firmly believe that the academic and vocational outcomes that students achieve are essential passports that significantly shape their life chances and open doors. As educators, it is our duty to make sure that no student falls behind or fails and that each and every one of them achieves the very best that they can.

It is very important that all students, including those students who are new to the school, feel safe and valued whilst they are at school. There is much in the news currently about the 'mental health' of young people. At Sydenham School we make sure that there is access to high quality provision for those students who may need support, whenever that might be, during their seven years in the school.

Any ambitions that I may have for Sydenham School are very much dependent on the essential partnership that must exist between home and school. It is very important to us that as new families you feel able to contact the school and to meet with staff in order to discuss any matters relating to your daughter. I will be happy to meet with families in order to discuss anything that affects your daughter's learning and progress at school. As a mother myself, I know how important it is to be able to have direct and reliable contact with the school that your child attends, should you need to. Please do contact my PA, Christine Lovelace, if you would like to speak with me or meet me in person.

Your daughters should get to know me quickly as I will be visible and 'around and about' the school site as much as possible. This will include being at the school gate at the end of the day, being around at break times and at lunchtimes too. I will also be going into lessons as a matter of course and look forward to seeing the progress that your daughters make in their learning.



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Along with my colleagues, I will have the highest expectations of students in all aspects of what they do. I have no hesitation in sharing with you that I will bring some 'old fashioned', or perhaps better described as 'timeless', values to my leadership of Sydenham School such as kindness, fairness, courtesy, endeavour and self-discipline, as I believe that these values are lifelong ones that support young people to become good citizens and ones which contribute to making the world a better place.

Your daughter will be expected to come to school on time, every day and in full school uniform which should be worn smartly at all times. It is very important that students look smart at school as well as on the way to and from school. Outside of school our students represent the school and are ambassadors for all that it stands for.

I would like to thank Mrs Holden for her expert leadership of the school over this academic year. Aside from also continuing to be responsible for Bonus Pastor School, Mrs Holden has been determined to ensure that standards have not been compromised here at Sydenham School either. We are all enormously grateful to Mrs Holden for all that she has done and achieved and wish her and Bonus Pastor School every future success.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and peaceful summer holiday when you get there and I look forward to meeting you in September.

Yours sincerely

GLORIA LOWE
Headteacher