



Dear Families,

I hope that you had an enjoyable summer break. The students have returned to school ready to learn and it has been lovely to welcome them back.

Our exam results this year, at a time of nationally changing standards, reflect the hard work of the students and staff. Our exam results at post 16 were the best ever in the history of the school with 56% of the grades at A*-B. We were also very pleased with the University, Art School and Apprenticeship destinations for our SFH6 students including Louis V who has gained a place at Cambridge to study Medicine.

There were many notable successes at GCSE, and we were very pleased that the proportion of students achieving English and Maths at Grade 5 or above was 14% above the 2017 National Average. We were delighted for Hayley M who was awarded all Grade '9's in her GCSEs. There were excellent outcomes in a range of subjects including most notably English, History, Biology, Dance, Art and Music. As always, we very much thank parents for all of their support with the journey through the school, which is so integral to success at Year 11 and 13.

The Year 7 students started school on Wednesday and **again 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 Stages 4/5 and should be discrete. Hair should be of the child's own natural colour. 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 sold at 'Wearabouts'. Mobile phones must be turned off and placed at the bottom of the school bag before students enter the school gates and will be confiscated if they are seen or heard on site. A meeting with the Headteacher will need to be arranged with Ms Prestige, my PA, for the phone to be returned.

We are committed to continuing to provide a wide-ranging extra-curricular offer but we will only be 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 these support students in developing a range of valuable skills. For each family, the school is asking for **a voluntary £40 annual donation**. 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. We will not be recording payments against the names of the students. I would like to thank you in anticipation of your donation and for your ongoing support of Sydenham School.

Sydenham School is now a World Class High Performance Learning (HPL) School and we will continue to use the HPL framework to ensure that our students achieve highly in all areas. The new Year 7 students will be taking part in our 'Dare To Be Challenged' project and we will let parents know more about this project during the Year 7 Learning Journey Evening on September 27th.

We expect students to arrive to school by 8.40 am, enabling them to get to their tutor rooms by 8.50 am ready for class register to 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 in Assemblies after each Progress (Data) Point. Students who are late during the week will receive an automatic thirty-minute detention on the



same day 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 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.**

All our students are highly visible when making their way to and from school and we expect them to act as excellent citizens. They are also representing the school at all times too when they are outside of school in their Sydenham uniform.

We continue to value working in partnership with you as families and 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 or by letter.

As has become the tradition every year, there will be a **'Welcome Picnic' for Year 7 families** at the Horniman Museum Gardens (behind the bandstand) on Sunday 9th September at 3.30pm. This will be held by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and all new Year 7 families are welcome.

Here are some key dates for your Diaries for the autumn term:

- Wednesday 12th September 5.30pm – 7pm **Year 11 GCSE Study Skills Evening** (Year 11 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Thursday 13th September – 5.30pm – 7pm **Year 9 and 10 GCSE Study Skills Evening** (Year 9 and 10 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Tuesday 25th September – **Year 12 New Parents Evening** 6pm
- Wednesday 26th September – **Year 8 Learning Journey Evening** (Year 8 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Thursday 27th September – **Year 7 Learning Journey Evening** (Year 7 tutors will be present for informal discussions between 5.30pm and 5.55pm. The formal section of the evening begins at 6pm).
- Wednesday 21st November 4-7pm **Year 9 Parents' Evening.**

We look forward to working in continuing partnership with you and would like to wish your family success in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe
Headteacher