

TM/KAW/End of Year 2020  
17 July 2020

To Parents / Carers of all students

Dear Parents / Carers

As we reach the end of the school year, I wanted to write to you all to say thank you for all your tremendous efforts during these past few challenging months and for the support you have shown me in my first year at Shirley High School. I hope that the investment and changes we have made together highlight the vision of our school and the high expectations that we have for every single one of our amazing students. There is no hiding from the challenges we have all faced this year away from school. Individuals, families and communities have been greatly affected by COVID19. The economic downturn has put so many more families on the brink of poverty and our global social issues remain highlighted through vital movements such as Black Lives Matter. However, with all of these challenges we must continue to plan for the future. We cannot let the next generation suffer for a lifetime due to the current crisis. The point has passed when we can hope for a return to normal and the time has now come to embrace a new normal, which in reality will be very similar but not the same. At Shirley High School we embrace the challenges that we face and can promise all our students and families that we will do everything we can to protect the educational progress of our students and provide them with the opportunities to fulfil their potential in all areas of their lives.

This letter outlines the decisions and changes we have made, from September 2020, for the long term progress of our school. It also states the short term actions that we are putting in place to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the educational development of our students due to the impact of COVID19.

#### **Long Term Changes:**

#### **Important Dates for the start of term:**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Thursday 3rd September</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Friday 4th September</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Friday 4th September</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>2:45pm</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Monday 7th September</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>2:45pm</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Monday 7th September</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Thursday 3rd September</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Monday 7th September</b>	<b>9:45am</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>

### Further important information:

- Year 7 will be in every day from the 3rd September;
- Year 8 and 9 will be doing remote learning from home on Monday 7th September;
- **All year groups** will be in from Tuesday 8th September;
- Monday 21st September will be an Academic Catch Up day for Years 7, 11 and 13. All other year groups will be working remotely on specific catch up work assigned by departments. Further academic catch up events will be added for other year groups during the year.

CATS tests for Year 7 will take place at the start of the academic year. Please do not worry about these tests, there is no need for your child to revise. CATS are cognitive ability tests that measure the reasoning of students from age 6 to 17+. The information gathered will help supplement the information we have received from primary schools and help to identify any gaps that we will need to focus on so that all our new Year 7 students are ready for their secondary educational journey.

### The School Day:

The School Day will look slightly different next academic year with more double lessons and an increase in Tutor time to ensure that students receive the best academic and pastoral support within the school day. This will be further supplemented by an increase in core intervention for English, Maths and Science plus an increased extra curricular offer. See below: **(Remember this will not start in September due to the use of our COVID19 school day).**

<b>Tutor</b>	<b>8.30 am – 9.00 am</b>
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>9.00 am – 9.50 am</b>
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>9.50 am – 10.40 am</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.40 am – 11.00 am</b>
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>11.00 am – 11.50 am</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>11.50 am – 12.40 pm</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12.40 pm – 1.25 pm</b>
<b>Period 5</b>	<b>1.25 pm – 2.15 pm</b>
<b>Period 6</b>	<b>2.15 pm – 3.05 pm</b>
<b>Tutor</b>	<b>3.05 pm – 3.15 pm</b>

### The House System:

We are extremely excited to introduce a new House system from September. All students will be placed into one of four Houses. Students are randomly selected for each House but siblings will be kept together in the same House. Every form (Year 7 to 13) will consist of students from all four Houses. Flashers for the colours of each House will be distributed to students in September. All tutor groups have been reviewed and changes have been made due to the new system and as part of our wider aims for the school. We cannot wait for the competitions to begin and we hope that come sports day next year we will see the flagship House event take place at an athletic stadium.

## The Houses:

Houses:	Creators	Directors	Editors	Producers
Head of House	Miss Skeete	Miss Samuels	Miss Frimpong-Toogood	Miss Sarpong
House Colour	Red	Blue	Purple	Green
Famous Historical Figure	Winifred Atwell (Performing Arts)	Rosalind Franklin (Scientist)	Sir Isaac Newton (Mathematician)	William Shakespeare (Playwright)
Endangered Species - Fundraising	Polar Bear	Tiger	Rhino	Orangutan

Students will be encouraged to organise and promote Charity House events associated with their endangered animal, appoint student House Ambassadors / Captains, organise House activities and many more events to raise the profile of their House. There are lots of prizes to be won, from items of stationery to tablets!

## Lockers:

As you will be aware we have recently surveyed our families regarding introducing new lockers from an external company. The results of the feedback were overwhelming; families wanted lockers and ones that were significantly better than our existing ones. The original price of the lockers was £35 but we are happy to confirm that we have negotiated and subsidised that price down to £25 per locker. Further support on this figure may be considered for any families that qualify through the government Pupil Premium identification.

The lockers are owned and maintained by Secure Locker Rentals and are available to rent on an annual basis at a cost of £25.00 per academic year (September to July). The lockers will be available online from 17 July 2020 . Payment can be made by Debit or Credit Card by visiting [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals). On receipt of payment the combination for the lock is sent to you via text or email.

All rentals are subject to the terms and conditions which are available during the booking process.

## Uniform changes:

From September all key groups **including Year 11 students** will be required to wear blazers. We are keen to reinforce that we are all together as a team and part of that is pride in our school and blazer. We see our blazer as a symbol of what it means to be part of Shirley High School and that should be shared by all year groups.

## Investment:

We will continue our programme of investment which we started in September last year. Since then we have improved ICT within the classroom, renovated classrooms, expanded the school canteen, made significant investment in teaching and learning, increased subject online software and much more. We have commissioned work on a new drama studio, two new media suites and increased our SEND provision. Further work has also been agreed and we cannot wait for all our students to return and see all the new and exciting changes that have taken place.

## Short Term - Impact of COVID19 restrictions and guidance from September:

### Core Principles:

Throughout this crisis the health and safety of our students, staff and local community have driven the arrangements made. Every decision we have made as a school is based on guidance and directives by central government and our local context. When planning for our wider opening in September we continue to make arrangements based on two core principles:

- The health and safety of our students, staff and the local community;
- The effectiveness of teaching and the impact of teaching and learning on the educational progress of all students.

To achieve the above whilst complying with the government guidelines for reopening, suitable changes to our school day will be required to ensure that we can deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum that enables our students to make the maximum progress possible and to not let this moment in history negatively define their educational journey and future academic and pastoral opportunities. During these challenging times, schools are having to be innovative and creative to ensure that all students return to school in September and can remain in full time education throughout these restrictions.

A summary of our arrangements is below and a full risk assessment of our plan and site will be available on our website in due course.

### Staggered Start

The biggest impact the COVID19 restrictions have on schools is the structure of the school day to ensure that students are in low risk bubbles at all times. To achieve this we have to stagger start times, breaks, lunch and dismissal times. This will ensure that year groups can stay in their year group bubbles and spend the majority of their time in one area of the school whilst continuing to have access to our full curriculum. Details of the start and dismissal times are below, catch up sessions have been included and further details of catch up sessions will be confirmed at the start of the academic year.

Year Groups	Start Time	Dismissal Time	Extended Learning - Catch Up	Extra Curricular
Year 7	8:20am	3:00pm	TBC	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 8	8:30am	3:10pm	TBC	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 9	8:40am	3:20pm	TBC	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 10	8:50am	3:40pm	3:40pm to 4:20pm for targeted students	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 11	9:00am	3:40pm	3:40pm to 4:30pm for targeted students	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 12	8:50am (Side Gate)	3:50pm	3:50pm to 4:30pm for targeted students	Extra Curricular day TBC
Year 13	9:00am (Side Gate)	3:40pm	3:40pm to 4:30pm for targeted students	Extra Curricular day TBC

**Social Distancing:**

Students are expected to adhere to social distancing wherever possible within their year group. The design of the modified school day means that year groups should not be together in the same place at any one time. Please can you support the school by emphasising to your child that they must stay in the areas allocated and follow instructions and the guidance given.

**Hygiene and Cleaning:**

Cleaning capacity has been increased throughout the school day and a decontamination process will be carried out for the entire school before students return. Specialist cleaning equipment has also been purchased to ensure the highest standards possible during this time.

**Travel to and from school:**

We are aware of the restrictions that will affect those using public transport at this time. Where possible we would strongly advise that students find different methods of travel to schools such as walking and cycling. We appreciate that for many students this will not be a viable option so please ensure that you plan your travel carefully to ensure that you arrive at school for the staggered start time.

**School Equipment:**

Please ensure your child has all the equipment required for each lesson. This is particularly important during the COVID19 pandemic as we are unable to ask students to share equipment in line with the Government guidelines. We would appreciate your cooperation with this to safeguard the wellbeing of all within our community. Books and resources should stay with students unless they have been informed by their teacher to hand in for modified marking and feedback. New lockers will be available from September. However, access may be limited due to restrictions on movement throughout the school and therefore students should prepare to bring in the books they need daily so please make sure they are organised.

**Next Steps:**

The most important thing for you to do now is to ensure both you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer break. These are of course challenging times, but we all must continue to focus on what is important and make the most of the holidays. I appreciate there is a lot of information to digest so please keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for further details and updates. While school will be different in September, we hope the interim changes are with us for the shortest time possible and we can eventually return to our more normal processes and procedures. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via [office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to welcoming back all students in September and cannot wait to have our new Year 7's with us. Until then I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during this time. I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Yours sincerely



T Myton  
Principal