



# Shirley High School

## Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

TM/KAW/End of Term  
18 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you and your son / daughter for your patience and resilience during the challenges that we have all faced, especially in the second half of the autumn term. Throughout this period, we have strived to find the right balance between education and the health and safety of all within our community. As we approach January 2021 Shirley High School will continue to do all we can to maintain that balance and firm on the changes required so that our students and families come through this challenging period with a bright future in front of them.

### First days back – Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January 2021:

As you may have read in the press yesterday the government has announced changes to the start of term. As we were only informed at the same time as you we are still looking at the logistics of the demands they are making on schools. Based on the information we have been given, the school schedule for the first 2 weeks is below:

Year Group	Tuesday 5 Jan	Wednesday 6 Jan	Thursday 7 Jan	Friday 8 Jan
7	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
8	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
9	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
10	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
11	9:00am – 3:15pm	8:40am – 3:15pm	9:00am – 3:15pm	8:40am – 3:15pm
12	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
13	9:00am – 3:15pm	8:40am – 3:15pm	8:40am – 3:15pm	8:40am – 3:15pm

As we had already planned before the further government announcements we will be making changes to our school operations and the expectations regarding the daily routines that students will have to complete. To help implement this we are going to stagger the return dates of year groups so that all are clear on the new arrangements. For health and safety, it is important that we take students through this process without the additional challenge of all students being onsite in the first instance. It is extremely important that we carry out this process so that students remain safe and fully aware of their responsibility to keep others safe within the school and local community:

### Return dates for all year groups are below:

Year Group	Monday 11 Jan	Tuesday 12 Jan	Wednesday 13 Jan	Thursday 14 Jan	Friday 15 Jan
7	Remote Learning	8:20am - 2:35pm	8:20am - 2:35pm	8:20am - 2:35pm	8:20am - 2:35pm
8	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	8:20am - 2:35pm	8:20am - 2:35pm	8:20am - 2:35pm
9	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	8:30am - 2:55pm	8:30am - 2:55pm
10	8:30am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	8:30am - 3:05pm
11	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	8:40am - 3:15pm

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk **Email:** office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

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12	8:40am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	11:00am - 3:05pm	8:40am - 3:05pm
13	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	11:00am - 3:15pm	8:40am - 3:15pm

On the days that year groups are not in school they are expected to be working remotely and live / live recorded lessons will be available for them to complete and participate in.

**“Normal” Timetable for Spring Term (after staggered start):**

We will be adjusting our timetable so that students will be getting more access to specialist teaching classrooms. To ensure we remain as safe as possible we will continue to staggered starts, recreational and finish time to limit the cross contamination. We will also increase our additional cleaning expectations. Summary of school day below:

Year Group	Tutor	Period 1&2	Break	Period 3&4	Lunch	Period 5&6	Finish Time
7	08:20	9:00am - 11:00am	9:50am - 10:10am	11:00am - 1:15pm	11:45am - 12:25pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	2:35pm
8	08:20	9:00am - 11:00am	9:50am - 10:10am	11:00am - 1:15pm	11:45am - 12:25pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	2:45pm
9	08:30	9:00am - 11:00am	9:50am - 10:10am	11:00am - 1:15pm	11:45am - 12:25pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	2:55pm
10	08:30	9:00am - 11:00am	10:40am - 11:00am	11:00am - 1:15pm	12:35pm - 1:15pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	3:05pm
11	08:40	9:00am - 11:00am	10:40am - 11:00am	11:00am - 1:15pm	12:35pm - 1:15pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	3:15pm
12	08:40	9:00am - 11:00am	9:50am - 10:10am	11:00am - 1:15pm	11:45am - 12:25pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	3:05pm
13	08:40	9:00am - 11:00am	10:40am - 11:00am	11:00am - 1:15pm	12:35pm - 1:15pm	1:15pm - 3:15pm	3:15pm

***\*Year 11 will start school at 9:00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.***

***\*\* Curriculum catch up sessions will run for selected Year 11 students from 8:20 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.***

***\*\*\*Extended Learning for Year 11 and 13 will start at 3:15 pm for selected students.***

***\*\*\*\*Extracurricular clubs will be available for all year groups at the end of the school day. Start times will vary depending on the dismissal time of that particular year group.***

**COVID19 Asymptomatic Testing in schools:**

As you are by now aware the government has announced that schools will be provided with equipment and training to carry out regular testing of students and staff from January 2021. As a school, we are willing to support any plans that keep students and staff safe and that protects the educational journey and well-being of your children. We will be in contact with you again regarding this once further clarification and guidance has been provided to schools.

**Behaviour and Expectations**

We are proud of our school and have high expectations of our students. I therefore ask that you support us in maintaining our standards by ensuring you know our rules and policies on school uniform, attendance,

punctuality and behaviour. As you are aware some of our policies have seen alterations due to COVID19 and these are put into addendums for easy access.

Our policies and addendums can be found on our school website and detailed information on these areas can also be found in our school newsletters. Please do read and familiarise yourselves with the content of these so you can support us in supporting your children to achieve success in their education.

Please pay particular attention to some key areas highlighted below:

### **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

We recognise that anxiety, trauma and bereavement are powerful forces. As the cases in London start to rise again we know that some of our children will either remain vulnerable or become vulnerable without the support of the school Pastoral Team during the holidays. Please access the information on our school website and read the information regarding supportive websites in the newsletter to support parents and children during the Christmas break.

### **Behaviour:**

- We are committed to promoting a positive attitude towards our Golden Rule; 'Students are expected to show consideration and respect to all members of the school and local community at all times'. We will not tolerate any behaviour that disrupts the teaching and learning of our students or brings the good name of the school into disrepute.
- Our students are aware of the Shirley Values and our expectation for them to consider and demonstrate them in their daily actions and behaviour.
- Student behaviour and our school uniform should not and must not change outside of school. We hold the same high expectations of our students in school and out. The reputation of our school is important and affects all of us.
- We expect our students leaving school at the end of the day to make their way straight home, always respecting the public – pedestrian, motor, neighbours and local businesses. They should not go to the park or the park playground and they are expected to observe social distancing and wear their masks when travelling on public transport.
- During this Christmas break please can you stress to your children the importance of social distancing, hygiene and general health and safety in what they do, so they are prepared to maintain these practices in January when they return. We will not tolerate any student behaving in a way that may compromise the health and safety of any other member of our school community. Any student who does so, can expect to be dealt with very strongly.

### **Attendance & Punctuality:**

We would like to thank parents/carers for their continued support with the attendance of their children especially during these difficult times. We are pleased and proud of the resilience of our students and the fact that the school attendance has remained so high. It has been even more important because those students who have attended throughout are the students who will have the education gaps, created by the National Lockdown, closed more quickly. This in turn will set them back onto that path of success we want for each and every one of our students. It is so important that students attend when they can and also access remote learning where required.

Punctuality to school is equally important and we are striving for all students to regularly attend school on time. Arriving to school on time sets our students up well for the day ahead as well as ensuring they access tutor time with their form tutors, which is where a lot of our pastoral work is undertaken. Poor punctuality has a detrimental effect on achievement as well as general organisation.

Our whole school punctuality is very good and we are proud of the way our students have coped with the disruptions to public transport, the fluctuations of the timings and accessibility of the buses as well as adapting their routines to ensure they arrive at school for their staggered starts.

Despite the trickier times we find ourselves in, our targets remain the same - attendance to school should be a minimum of 96% and punctuality a minimum of 97%.

### **Uniform**

- Please ensure that we start the new Spring Term with all students in the correct school uniform. The current uniform list is available on the school website and it is important that if parents / carers are in any doubt about any aspect of uniform they contact the school. It is unfortunate that, sometimes, students can give you the incorrect information.
- We do not allow extreme haircuts or hair colour; we have had issues this year with brightly coloured braids mixed in with natural coloured braids, brightly coloured hair and line / patterns shaved into hair and eyebrows which is disappointing. None of this is suitable for school and we do expect parents / carers to support us with this.
- Please be advised, particularly in the case of 'Christmas present' piercings that, irrespective of the timing of the piercing, students will not be permitted to cover them, but will be asked to remove them at school. Notes from home asking for permission for the piercings to remain in or be covered will not be accepted. We accept one pair of stud earrings only. I would therefore suggest that this two week break is not an ideal time to get new extra ear piercings, nose piercings or any other visible piercings, unless the student is prepared to and can remove them for school.
- We do not allow false eyelashes and coloured nail extensions – both of these have been problematic especially in Years 9 – 11 this term. It would be appreciated if parents/carers could support us and reinforce a consistent message that these are not permitted.
- School trousers must be grey. We do not and never have allowed black trousers.
- It is important that our students understand that our uniform does not change when they leave through the gates at the end of the day! It is to be worn correctly and with pride for the school they represent until they get home and take it off.
- Finally, as you are already aware, students must wear school shoes that are wholly black, leather or leather equivalent and waterproof with their school uniform.

Parents / carers have a vital role to play in helping the school uphold its high expectations and with your support we can ensure we have the highest standards of behaviour and uniform in and out of school. Please also understand that we would far rather reward than sanction our students. We love to celebrate success and reward the students for abiding by our rules and procedures and with your help we can ensure that the positive receipt of rewards and success far outweighs the negativity of sanctions.

The criteria for our rewards will be changing in January 2021 and they will be based on our Shirley Values and being a Shirley Learner. School detentions for receiving more than 10 behaviour points in a week will remain on Fridays and these will now include detentions for persistent latecomers to school from January 2021.

Our students receive information on upcoming events, messages, focus points etc. via weekly tutor group slides. These slides are available on the school website so you can see what the students are being told and help us reinforce the messages given. Please also refer to our policies and addendums for full details regarding our expectations, procedures, rewards and sanctions.

### **IMPORTANT EXAM INFORMATION (YEAR 11)**

The latest guidance from the DfE is that exams will now take place until the 2 July 2021 however, contingency exams have been placed in the calendar until 16 July for those that may have missed an exam due to COVID19 related issues. It is therefore important that families and students are available up until the end of the

examination series and NO holidays or other events are booked which might result in a student being unable to sit a formal examination.

**And finally.....**

From everyone at Shirley High School I would like to thank you again and wish you, your families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and can't wait to see you in 2021.

We remind you that we are all in this together and together **#weareshirley**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Myton', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

T Myton  
Principal