



# Shirley High School

## Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

TM/P/MMB/LetterfromMrMyton  
15 January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As always are hope you and your families are safe in these difficult times for us all.

This week has seen our first week of full remote learning for all year groups and I am delighted to inform you that 94% of our students have engaged with remote learning this week. We are extremely proud of both students and staff for all their hard work and the excellent way in which they have adapted throughout this challenge. It is great to see our Shirley values in action.

It is so important that we keep this momentum going, as I know that home learning can be challenging. Please remember that your feedback is vital so use the remote learning email [remotelearning@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:remotelearning@shirley.croydon.sch.uk) to let us know how we can improve our offer and to let us know what is working well; it is always nice to hear some positive feedback.

As we look towards a new week, please remember the following information:

- All lessons for all year groups are live lessons. If live lessons do not take place information will be shared with students in the Google classroom areas;
- All live lessons take place through our school Google software;
- All students are expected to attend all lessons as they would on a normal school day. Attendance will be chased by subject teachers, form tutors and heads of year;
- We expect that during one tutor period per week that cameras are turned on so that we are able to physically see students as part of our additional pastoral and welfare checks;
- We expect our normal high level of behaviour and will continue to inform our school policy with regards to behaviour; further information can be found on our website.

**Reminder for Year 11** – The deadline for 6<sup>th</sup> form application has been extended to 5pm on Monday 18 January 2021. We are so pleased and proud that over 75% of you have completed application forms and stated an interest in our 6<sup>th</sup> form. In these uncertain times, we strongly recommend that all Year 11 students put in an application regardless of their intentions for September. Remote interviews will take place shortly. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Kelly [kelly@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:kelly@shirley.croydon.sch.uk)

Remember that our critical worker and vulnerable student provision continues and we strongly suggest that if you feel you meet the requirements to attend that you complete our Google form and we will get back to you as soon as possible to ensure that you get the support you are entitled to.

As Principal, I am so proud of all within our community and know that if we stick together we will get through this crisis and be fully prepared for the future.

In addition please see the two attached letters, which Croydon asked us to forward to you.

All the best and have a safe weekend. We remain all in this together and together #weareshirley

Yours sincerely

Mr Myton  
Principal

**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](http://www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk) **Email:** [office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk)

Shirley High School is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No 7837778 Registered Office: Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5EF



14 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write again to express our thanks and gratitude to you all for the support you have shown Croydon Schools since the beginning of the school year and in the last week during this lockdown which resulted in remote teaching and learning, expect for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We have seen and heard lots of examples of the hard work that our children and young people are doing at home with your support.

You will be aware that we are seeing a significant rise in Covid cases across the community within Croydon and similarly across London. Due to the high levels of the virus in the community, as per the government guidance, people should stay at home if they can and pupils should only attend schools if they fall into the category requiring on-site provision and have no alternatives at home. It is crucial that parents, carers and staff follow the government guidance around the national lockdown of not leaving home except when necessary to minimise exposure and transmission of the virus.

Whilst the majority of your children will be coping with being at home, we do understand that for some children this may be extremely challenging and may have an impact on their mental health and well-being. Please do contact your school to share any concerns that you have.

The schools have worked hard to ensure that those children and young people that remain at home receive access to virtual learning and have been able to adapt this based on the previous lockdown experiences of children and young people. While we know that this is not the same as being in the classroom we hope your child/ren is/are engaging well with their learning.

Please note that, starting today, the BBC will be delivering an online primary and secondary education offer and your child/ren will be able to access curriculum-based learning, even if there is no access to the internet. Please visit Home - BBC Bitesize, for more information

The pandemic has created massive uncertainties and none of us can be sure what the next stage will be. Please be assured that the council's education directorate will continue to support schools during the next few weeks and months and that we will all continue to support your children and young people.

During this period it is very important that we share concerns with one another – please do not hesitate to contact your schools during this period for additional help and support. The education directorate can be contacted through [educationenquiries@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:educationenquiries@croydon.gov.uk) should you have any concerns but please do speak to your child's school first. Please also make contact if you are experiencing any challenges in relation to access to food and we will link you with the right support. If you are a carer for a Croydon looked after child, please contact Croydon Virtual School directly on [virtual.school@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@croydon.gov.uk)

The current guidelines in relation to schools will be in place until February half term and will then be reviewed. The uncertainty around when they will return to schools might be unsettling for some children and young people, and we want to acknowledge that and ensure that you ask for help when necessary. Please be assured that the needs of our children and young people will be considered as part of any plans for the return to school once this has been confirmed.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your understanding, commitment and for following government advice to keep us all safe during this period.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie Jones".

**Debbie Jones**  
**Executive Director**



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shelley Davies".

**Shelley Davies**  
**Interim Director of Education**

Email: [debbie.jones@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.jones@croydon.gov.uk)

Please ask for/reply to: Debbie Jones

Date: 14 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are making contact to update you on the current position re Covid 19 in Croydon and the potential impact this is having on our schools and settings. We all hoped for a better 2021 but the situation remains serious with Croydon categorised as within the contingency planning area which provides additional guidance to limit further spread of the virus.

I am grateful that you have supported all that the schools have done to date and assure you that we are working closely with them to address the next phase of activity to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities during this pandemic. With the planned roll out of testing for our secondary phase schools and the possibility of effective vaccinations in the pipeline there is much planning to be done. I understand that the rise in infection rates has added to the uncertainty and anxieties that surround the next phase of the Covid 19 plan but can assure you that the education directorate will support all our schools during the next few weeks and months as we have always done.

In conjunction with the Director of Public Health we are monitoring closely the advice and guidance being issued by central government and developing implementation plans for our Croydon context. The current Public Health guidance is for as many of us to remain at home where possible in order to minimise opportunities for Covid 19 to continue to spread. As part of our planning we are working to ensure that schools and settings are supported and decisions regarding the safe education of our children and young people are taken in respect of individual circumstances and in line with national guidance. We will fully support and endorse our schools in this process and the bespoke plans they put into place to meet their context.

There is no doubt that the safety, health and well-being of our children, young people and all the staff that work in our schools must be paramount in this. We are confident that all schools and settings will consider along with their parents and carers the best and safest way to deliver education for their community throughout this challenging time. As part of this, Croydon Schools will continue to work hard to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to learn at home where attendance is not possible. While this is not the same as being in the classroom all our headteachers and teachers and staff in our schools have enjoyed seeing the responses to the remote learning opportunities they have set up and have asked to join me in thanking you for your responsiveness to this. I hope that this will

continue. Certainly the feedback to date is very positive on the range of remote learning packages provided.

For children and young people who have additional needs the council's SEND Service continues to deliver the statutory processes linked to requests for assessment and issuing of Education, Health and Care plans as necessary. This has been managed through a variety of approaches including virtual meetings. The key assessment panels are scheduled throughout the year to ensure effective processes are maintained and delivered. Where possible, annual reviews will be undertaken through virtual means also until such a time as schools are fully reopened and we can meet together. The SEND Service officers have engaged with many parents through virtual 'Microsoft Teams Meetings' and we have received positive feedback on these meetings.

We have also responded to a number of wider matters that may impact upon families, such as adequate access to food, in the context of children not receiving meals at school. In these cases families have been sign-posted to the range of family support options and, if and when appropriate, direct contact has been made with social workers on behalf of parents.

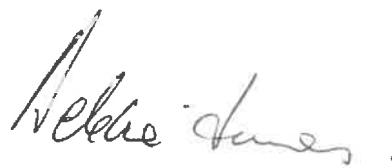
We have posted advice and links to information and activity packs for children and young people with special educational needs on the Local Offer website which can be accessed at: <https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk>. We hope that you find these helpful. Along with this we will be publishing regular Frequently Asked Questions and information up-dates in order to support our planning and response to the Covid 19 situation. We are keen also to work with our Parent Forum throughout this period in order to ensure we have effective communications with yourselves.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your understanding, commitment and for following government advice to keep us all safe during this period. We are in an ever-changing period where we need to remain vigilant and responsive in order to best address the challenges we are currently facing.

Yours sincerely



Shelley Davies  
Interim Director of Education



Debbie Jones  
Interim Executive Director

**Should you have any concerns or questions linked to Health advice please see the following contacts:**

**Health Services Contact Details:**

**Special Schools Nursing Team**

Schools and parents can contact their normal named school nurse in the Nursing Hub on 020 8680 4810, or email [mhn-tr.specialschools@nhs.net](mailto:mhn-tr.specialschools@nhs.net)

**Speech and Language Therapy**

0208 714 2594 between 8:30am and 5pm. You can also email [CH-TR.SLTcroydonchildren@nhs.net](mailto:CH-TR.SLTcroydonchildren@nhs.net).

**Physiotherapy**

email [ch-tr.croydonchildrensphysio@nhs.net](mailto:ch-tr.croydonchildrensphysio@nhs.net). If you can't email, telephone 020 8274 6853.

**Community Paediatrics**

email us on [ch-tr.communitypaediatrics@nhs.net](mailto:ch-tr.communitypaediatrics@nhs.net). If you do not have access to email, please call 02084013982 option 1.

**Occupational Therapy:**

If you need to contact the service, please email us on [ch-tr.croydonchildrensOT@nhs.net](mailto:ch-tr.croydonchildrensOT@nhs.net). If you do not have access to email, please call 0208 274 6854/6850.

**Public Health**

[Covid19@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19@croydon.gov.uk)

**SEN Service**

[SEnquiries@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:SEnquiries@croydon.gov.uk)