Thursday 15th July 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

As we end a challenging academic year, it is with anticipation and optimism that I look to September when I will take up the position as acting Principal of The Sydney Russell School. Working in partnership with you as parents/carers, your child and the school staff and governors, I will lead the school's continued commitment to ensuring your child receives the highest standards of education which will, in turn, enable them to successfully secure their future educational and employment pathways.

I am fortunate to have been part of the school's journey for 18 years, teaching French throughout but also leading in several areas of the school over the years as a Head of Year, Head of Sixth Form, Director of Teaching School and Partnership London SCITT, and for the last five years as Vice Principal with responsibility for Teaching, Learning and Assessment and recently the primary phase.

As Principal I will ensure our young people, your children, from EYFS to Year 13, continue to have every opportunity to realise their potential through a curriculum of the highest quality, a learning environment which is engaging with high expectations and a breadth of exciting enrichment opportunities so that every young person is supported to achieve their very best both academically and personally.

The last 18 months have required us all to adapt our ways of living, learning and working. This has undoubtedly taken a toll on us all, but particularly our pupils who have missed time in school, time with their teachers and friends and time to enjoy life outside of school too, affecting their well-being and their academic progress. As a school we are looking to September in the hope that learning will no longer be interrupted by lengthy isolations or periods of time away from school for students or staff.

Whilst restrictions may be soon lifting, we know that Covid hasn't disappeared. We will continue to follow government guidelines and advice from our local Director of Public Health to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Current guidelines indicate that we will be able to move away from bubbles and staggered starts/ends of the school day, however, we will be maintaining our one-way systems to maximise space, hand hygiene stations across both school sites as well as opening windows and doors to enhance ventilation. Secondary school students who travel on public transport will be required to wear masks (https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings) and it is possible that we may need to re-introduce masks in school. I can assure you that I will be watching the local situation carefully over the summer to inform further safety measures for the start of term; my priority will be to keep the school community safe and

the school open for all. Please check the website from Tuesday 31st August for the most up-to-date start of term information.

As required by government, at the start of September for secondary-age students we will conduct two on-site lateral flow tests. Parents of children who are joining Year 7 in September should have received an online consent form. Please contact office@sydneyrussellschool.com if you have a child who is joining Year 7 but you have not received this consent form. We will also provide students with additional home testing kits which we urge you to continue to do twice weekly.

Please find below the provisional start of term arrangements (please check the website from Tuesday 31st August for the most up-to-date information):

September 2021 – start of term arrangements	
Wednesday 1st September – school closed to pupils (Staff INSET day)	
Thursday 2nd September - Primary: Y1 to Y6	
8.30am	School gate (Parsloes Avenue entrance) opens
8:55am	School starts, registration
3.00pm	End of school day (parents to enter the playground via the Parsloes Avenue entrance)
	EYFS transition meetings begin – details sent to parents directly.
Thursday 2nd September - Secondary: Y7 to Y13	
Students enter school via the Sports Hall at their designated time for lateral flow testing at the times below:	
8.00am	Y7
9.00am	Y12 & Y13
9.30am	Y8
11.00am	Y9
11.45am	Y10
12.30pm	Y11
2.50pm	Dismissal – Y7
3.00pm	Dismissal Y8 to Y13
Friday 3rd September – normal school day for all students	
Primary – gate opens from 8.30am, registration at 8.55am	
Secondary – school open for students to arrive for breakfast from 7.30am, registration at 8.40am	

I also take this opportunity to draw your attention to next year's term dates:

Autumn term:

- Thursday 2nd September – Thursday 21st October 2021
- *(Friday 22nd October – INSET day, school closed to pupils)*
- *Half term holiday: Monday 25th – Friday 29th October 2021*
- Monday 1st November – Friday 17th December 2021
- *Christmas holiday: Monday 20th December – Tuesday 4th January 2022*

Spring term:

- Wednesday 5th January – Friday 11th February 2022
- *Half term holiday: Monday 14th - Friday 18th February 2022*
- Monday 21st February – Friday 1st April 2022
- *Easter holiday: Monday 4th - Monday 18th April 2022*

Summer term

- Tuesday 19th April – Friday 27th May 2022 *(Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022)*
- *Half term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022*
- Monday 6th June – Wednesday 20th July 2022
- *Summer holiday begins Thursday 21st July 2022 (awaiting confirmed dates for 2022/23)*

In September, restrictions-permitting, I hope to be able to share with you the school's calendar of events for the coming year – opportunities to enjoy and celebrate your child's contributions to our school and the part they each play in making our school community as special as it is.

I look forward to seeing your children returning to school in September and working with you to support and celebrate their continued development and achievements. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Clare Cross

Acting Principal