



Lewisham Learning

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Dear Colleagues,

It's that time of year again, and you will be in the midst of supporting your parents with information about applying for secondary school. They will be asking you about Lewisham secondaries and I wanted to ensure that you have as much information as possible about the current picture.

The key message is that Lewisham secondaries are continuing to improve and we want families to go and see this for themselves. We are pleased to report that in 2019 there was an increase of 275 applications naming Lewisham secondary schools as their 1st or 2nd preference. This clearly shows us that parents are putting their trust in our local secondary schools and we expect that figure to increase further this year.

I would like to bring to your attention the positive changes continuing to happen, as part of the Lewisham Secondary Challenge and other initiatives. It's important that parents in our borough know the hard work that is going on behind the scenes to improve our schools, and we would encourage you to share this information with your parents. I have included some suggested text and a web link at the end of this letter, for you to copy and email to parents if you are interested.

A-Level and GCSE Results

Schools are celebrating various successes in their A Levels, GCSEs and vocational qualifications as reported below.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/lewishams-a-level-stars-celebrate-top-results>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/top-marks-for-students-in-lewisham>

Exclusions

Exclusions continue to decline across Lewisham schools. Exclusions in 2018/19 reduced by 56% compared to 2017/18.

Individual school headlines

Addey and Stanhope	Glowing Ofsted report 2017/18 – significantly improved GCSE outcomes.Oversubscribed.
Bonus Pastor	2017-2018 Ofsted Outstanding. Strong results on a 5 year trend. Oversubscribed
Conisborough	An oversubscribed community school with new leadership bringing significantly improved results in 2019.
Deptford Green	Significant number of students achieved 7+ GCSEs and have now headed off to start their next stage of education in a wide range of colleges and sixth forms around South London. Community school

Forest Hill	GCSE students gained highest ever number of grades 8 and 9 this year. At A level many students progressing to Russell Group Universities and three to Oxford and Cambridge. Community school.
H'dashers' Hatcham	Above national average for outcomes at GCSE and A Level. Oversubscribed. Ofsted Good. New leadership in place.
H'dashers' Knights	Improvement in GCSE outcomes for the 3 rd year running, best outcomes in Federation. 2 nd highest outcomes for Science in borough, 93% off to uni this year. Ofsted Good, oversubscribed
Prendergast Ladywell	2019 Ofsted Good with Outstanding features. Outcomes improved for the 5 th year in a row and are above national average. Oversubscribed in Y7.
Prendergast School	Ofsted outstanding in last three inspections. Just celebrated best ever results at A level and GCSE. Oversubscribed
Prendergast Vale	Ofsted Good with Outstanding features. Academic curriculum. GCSE Ebacc outcomes are in the top 3 schools in Lewisham.
Sedgehill	Results significantly improved for second year running. Working towards becoming part of the United Learning group of schools on a permanent basis.
St Matthews	Top of the league tables in Lewisham for progress scores in 2018. Ofsted due this year. Sustained, significant improvement in outcomes for the last four years.
Sydenham	Results consistency above national average since 2011. Ofsted Good. Oversubscribed. Community School.
Trinity	Large number of pupils achieving grade 7 and above – record number of grade 9 pupils. Ofsted Good. Oversubscribed

Bright Futures Brochure

All primary schools (including all throughs) will have received the 2019/2020 “Bright Futures” secondary schools promotional brochure at the end of the summer term.

We have provided enough for each pupil, however if you find yourself short, please email ruth.horsman@lewisham.gov.uk

Additional promotion

We are working hard to communicate to Lewisham residents the good news happening within our secondary schools, through various channels including press releases, the council publication Lewisham Life, social media and emails to residents.

We have also added a useful new tool on the website, an interactive map to show the distance of places offered last year to Lewisham secondary schools under the home-to-school distance admissions criterion. Click on the link below to view the map:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school/school-admission-distance-map>

I would appreciate it if you could share all this information with parents when they are asking you about secondary schools. We understand that parents may be looking at schools outside of the borough, but we ask you to share the news that the secondary schools in Lewisham are on an upward trajectory and things are looking good for the future.

I would also strongly encourage you as Head teachers, if you have not visited any of your local secondary schools recently - please do, so you can see for yourselves the improvements taking place and will be in a better position to inform parents.

Please also forward this information on to members of your team who will be meeting with parents, other than yourself.

Best wishes,

Sandra Roberts

Director Lewisham Learning

Suggested text to copy and circulate with your Y5 and Y6 parents:

Dear Parent/Carer

We know that Y6 parents (and many Y5 parents) are visiting secondary schools over the next few weeks during their open days. We would like you to know about the positive changes happening in Lewisham secondary schools as a result of recent investment by the Department for Education into school improvement. You can read more about that here:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-improvement>

Lewisham Council have also added a useful map showing all the mainstream secondary schools in the borough and the distance of places offered last year:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school/school-admission-distance-map>

We understand that many of you may be looking at schools outside the borough but we would strongly encourage you to go and visit your local secondary schools, and see for yourselves the improvements taking place.