

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr Paul Jensen B.Ed Grad Dip (SEBD) NPQH



Friday 9th May 2025

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

I wrote recently about the importance of ANZAC day. On an annual basis, our Remembrance day event on 11th November grows. Recognising the contribution and sacrifice of our fathers and mothers, grandparents, uncles and aunts who have served our countries is crucial in developing an understanding of the freedoms we enjoy and embrace today.

Thursday 8th May marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day and in line with the National Government Office, Sunnydown staff, students and guests observed 2 minutes silence at 12.00pm yesterday. The following is a short extract for the government website [VE Day](#).

Thursday 8 May 2025 marks 80 years since VE (Victory in Europe) Day when the Second World War came to an end in Europe.

The long anticipated news resulted in spontaneous celebrations breaking out across the nation. A national holiday was declared and people from all walks of life came together to mark the moment.

The war in the East did not end until 15 August 1945, when Japan surrendered. The day was celebrated across the world as 'Victory over Japan' (VJ Day).

The 80th anniversary of VE Day is a time for a nation to come together to learn about the stories of those that served and the VE Day generation, from the servicemen who fought, to children who were evacuated, and women on the home front.

The cake sale on Thursday was well supported. Huge thanks for all of the donations and for the purchases alike. The efforts of Sarah Kiddier and the Pastoral team are recognised for their organisational contribution. The kitchen team always impresses me with their dedication to providing quality food. Not one to miss an opportunity to display their skills, the desserts on Thursday were well received. Photos do not do the cupcakes justice though!





Celebrating Poetry by Heart Success!

We're delighted to announce the results of this year's Poetry by Heart competition and Sunnydown has something big to celebrate!

A huge congratulations goes to Freddie Ponsford (Year 9), who has earned a well-deserved place in the Freestyle Finals. With more than 3,500 entries nationwide, securing a finalist spot is an incredible achievement - not just for Freddie, but for our entire poetry group.

As we prepare for the in-house award ceremony on Monday 12th May, I want to say how incredibly proud I am not only of Freddie, but of every single student in the Sunnydown poetry group.

Further details about the trip will be sent to parents of Poetry by Heart participants shortly.

Miss Thomson

Caterham Cycle Challenge

Gabe has organised another excellent Caterham Cycle Challenge this year. The event coincides with the Gibb Challenge in Western Australia. We were fortunate enough to take two students from Sunnydown on this event in 2023 and may do so again in the future. Huge thanks and recognition to Gabe and his vast team of adult supporters. Genuinely - thank you.

I had the privilege of escorting Bertie and Jemima on a lap of support this morning, witnessing Year 8 and the staff having a great time. Members of the public have been incredibly complimentary of the event and the young men themselves. By way of reminder, this annual event seeks to raise funds and awareness for Mental Health issues in our community. Our Learning Space provision is funded through this challenge - if we don't raise enough money, the Learning Space is in jeopardy. Any support in helping to sponsor this event and raise awareness is appreciated.

Gabe will continue to share details of how to raise funds which can be donated until the end of June.

PE Kit reminder

As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, it's important that students are well prepared for their PE and Games lessons. Please ensure your child brings appropriate kit to change into and, where possible, a water bottle to help them stay hydrated and comfortable during physical activity.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring students are ready for PE and Games on the following days:

Year	PE	Games	Swim/cycle
Year 7	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday
Year 8	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday
Year 9	9C Monday 9W Wednesday	Thursday	N/A
Year 10	Thursday	Tuesday	N/A
Year 11	Thursday	Wednesday	N/A

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students stay active, healthy, and engaged in their learning.

Mr Wright



Speaking up for the
families of children &
young people with
additional needs in Surrey

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FVS Tandridge coffee mornings

Family Voice Surrey Tandridge Coordinator Gretta Schifano is running free monthly Monday coffee mornings in Oxted. Sessions run from 10.30am – midday at The Space, which is a room in Oxted Community Hall, next to St Mary's Church. The address is 53, Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NB. There's a small car park at the venue, but if there are no spaces you can use the other Oxted car parks (e.g. Morrisons) and walk from there.

There's a different speaker at each session. There's tea, coffee and biscuits on offer, as well as friendly chat. The dates and speakers for May and June are:

Monday May 19th – Cameron McIntosh, Surrey County Councillor
Monday June 9th - Sue Hughes, Community Connector for South-East Surrey
Please email gretta.s@familyvoicesurrey.org if you have any queries.

Craft sessions for parent carers

Surrey parent carers are invited to join Family Voice Surrey Tandridge Coordinator Gretta Schifano at the Woodhouse Centre* in Oxted for a monthly afternoon craft session and chat from 1pm – 3pm. The Woodhouse Centre offers a range of craft opportunities for all levels of experience, and their staff will be on hand to help us. There are hot drinks and snacks on offer. The next two sessions are:

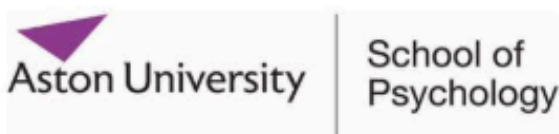
Wednesday June 18th – Printing
Wednesday July 16th – Rag-rugging

Places are limited, so please email gretta.s@familyvoicesurrey.org if you would like to take part.

*The Woodhouse Centre is opposite the entrance to Tandridge Leisure Centre, behind Morrisons. It is in the same building as the British Red Cross Hall. The address is: Hoskins Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9HT.

Burntwood and Portley House Reward Trip to Oxygen Trampoline Park

As part of our House Point reward system Burntwood and Portley House participated in a trip to Oxygen yesterday. This was funded by the school to reflect a consistent effort over an entire term which includes lessons and House activities.



Aston University are seeking the combined views of parents and staff via a questionnaire to understand what contributes to anxiety in autistic young people with a learning disability/need. They will use the information they gain from the questionnaires to inform the development of the intervention and resources, which they hope to make available to schools.

They have received 11 responses from parents and schools across the UK and hope to achieve a total of 110 combined caregiver and staff questionnaires overall. Each response matters to and will help them to inform the development of future mental health interventions for autistic young people who receive SEN provision. A letter with more details is attached to this newsletter.

Support in Special Education for Emotions and Resilience in Schools (SUPERSchools): An Anxiety Questionnaire Study

What's the study about?

Researchers at Aston University would like to understand factors that may be associated with anxiety in **autistic children with learning needs**. We can use this information to develop a meaningful and **targeted school anxiety programme**.

We would like to hear from...

Parents/carers of a child who is:

- Autistic and aged between **4-15 years**
- Child has an **Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)**, Statement of Special Needs, IDP or CSP.

What is involved?

We will invite parents (and school staff member chosen by parents) to complete a questionnaire about their child's anxiety and related behaviours. Parents and school staff will each receive a **£10 Amazon voucher** within 3 weeks of questionnaire completion.

How do I find out more?

Please scan this QR code for study information or click on this link: [Parent Survey Link](#) Please email Sandra Martin 230395112@aston.ac.uk if you have any questions.

AppendixH Advert_V2_17.02.25_REC ref: HLS21233

Online Safety

Please see a link to some advice for parents of neurodivergent children who play games online.

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/neurodivergent-children/neurodivergent-children-gaming/roblox-parents-guide-neurodivergent-children/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR6Q-5IMEJvkw-43IKpGxJylITD1ttH4Z5fcZXujRy39G5h2WPtSMUamk7AR4A_aem_ZYFBg8PYpgVgM4UIQW33QQ#guide

Mr Lord

<u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 12/5/25) Mental Health Awareness Week	<u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 19/5/25) Living in a diverse culture
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<u>Greenhouse Cup</u> Sam Lopes
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<u>The Baton</u> Zack Harrison

<u>Respect Award</u> Callum Jordan Teddy Foster Antony Harper
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Name	RICE³ Award
Taylor Conway	Resilience
Jack McDowell Ross Smallman	Independence
Harry Salter	Cooperation

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	The recipients of Mathematician of Week, awarded by Mrs Webb are Harry Salter <i>For fantastic engagement in maths this week</i> Jack McDowell <i>For excellent effort & engagement in maths</i>
<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	The recipients of Scientist of the week, awarded by Mr Cybuch is KS3 Harrison Williams <i>For independence</i>

	Kamauri Craig <i>For resilience</i>
<u>Writer of the Week</u>	The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Miss Newcombe is KS3 William Elliot <i>For an excellent persuasive speech about what to ban to Room 101</i> KS4 & awarded by Mrs Jensen Edward Gair <i>For creative writing in GCSE English Language</i>
<u>Chef of the Week</u>	The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is Carter Stevenson <i>For independence</i>
<u>Musician of the Week</u>	The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith is Edward Gair Zack Harrison
<u>Reader of the Week</u>	The recipient of Reader of the Week, awarded by Miss Thomas is KS3 Sam Walsh <i>For his support & dedication to help maintain the library</i>
<u>Computer Scientist of the Week</u>	The recipient of Computer Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Amzart is Harry Salter Ross Smallman <i>For consistent hard work & effective contributions made during the lesson</i>

House Points

House Points will be awarded next week.

Forthcoming Events 2025

<u>Summer Term 2025</u>	
Friday 9 th May 2025	Year 8 Kenley Bike Challenge
Monday 12 th May 2025	KS4 Fulham football Start of GCSE exams
Wednesday 14 th May 2025	Year 7 Kenley Bike Challenge
Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 9 Kenley Bike Challenge
Friday 16 th May 2025	Innovate Careers Advisor - Year 10 session
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025	HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd - Friday 6 th June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 9 th June 2025	KS3 Fulham football
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Year 10 Parents' Evening Last GCSE exam
Thursday 19 th June 2025	*Year 11 Graduation
Friday 20 th June 2025	Business Breakfast
Friday 20th June 2025	INSET DAY
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Innovate Year 10 session
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	Innovate Year 9 session
Thursday 26 th June 2025	FoS Golf Day
Friday 27 th June 2025	Innovate Year 9 session

Wednesday 2 nd - Friday 4 th July 2025	Year 9 Residential
Wednesday 9 th July 2025	Presentation Event
Friday 11 th July 2025	The Arc - Prospero Drama Group
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Sports Day
Friday 18 th July 2025	END OF TERM (1.20pm finish)
Monday 21 st July 2025 (Was 4 th November 2024)	INSET DAY
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025 (Was 14 th March 2025)	INSET DAY