

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 11th July 2025

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

I do not intend on contributing to the newsletter next week (if indeed one is published). In light of that, a few parting thoughts.

It is my intention to spend as much time out of my office next week being with young men and colleagues, offering them reassurance and courage in that time. In fact I just came in from a hit of tennis with two students and cycled around the mountain bike track that we built in 2018 with another. I have picked courgettes from the school vegetable patch with yet another young man and ensured other young men had watered the Bonsai. What a genuinely special place to work and be educated.

I am looking forward to Sports Day on Thursday. With a change of venue (ie Sunnydown School) this should prove to be an experience to remember for us all. Huge gratitude to Mr Wright for conjuring some magic to end the year. On Friday 18th July, I will be on gate duty to say goodbye to the young men of Sunnydown at 12.30pm before heading off shortly after for a night away to reflect on my contribution to the lives of our extended Sunnydown family.

I leave Sunnydown holding my head high, with immense pride in what has been achieved by each of my staff in contributing to the lives of vulnerable young men over the past 11 years. Staff have all grown with me, learnt from me, challenged me and supported me. Thank you.

To the families that have bestowed the utmost trust in me to provide the quality of education that I have to their sons; past, present and future; thank you. Many of you have literally fought to have your son enrolled. I am proud of your collective tenacity, the value you place in the education of your son, and your unrelenting support. Thank you.

Finally to the young men who have graduated, who are currently enrolled and to those who will belong to Sunnydown in the future, I wish nothing but success and good fortune to you. Your presence at the school I lead has helped me grow as a human, as an educator and as a leader. Thank you for the honour of being responsible in some small way for a part of your growth into the young men you have and will become. Love your family men. Be kind. Be true. Be grateful.

Paul Jensen

Visit from Harry Watts - Ex-Sunnydown student

Harry graduated in 2018 and today he returned. Harry delivered a presentation to Year 10 Life Skills regarding his current occupation - Service Engineer for JCB. In essence, Harry fixes excavators, dump trucks and tele-handlers. Harry was able to explain to the young men that life after Sunnydown is not straightforward and to not let setbacks hinder your future.

Harry is a testimony to what can be achieved as a Sunnydown graduate. We are so proud of him and his efforts, but also hopeful that his message of hope resonates with everyone.

Remembrance on Monday

The following information is respectfully shared from the BBC News Home page

'Today is the 20th anniversary of the 7/7 London bombings - during which four bombers attacked central London, killing 52 people and injuring hundreds more.

At 08:49 BST on 7 July 2005, three devices were detonated on London Underground trains at Aldgate, Edgware Road and Russell Square.

A fourth device exploded on a double-decker bus in Tavistock Square an hour later.

Memorial services are taking place throughout the day to remember the victims - their families have been gathering at the scenes of the attack'

Though none of our current students were born on this day 20 years ago, their parents and possibly older siblings as well as my staff will remember where we were. On Monday we paused to pay our respects to victims and encourage a world of peace and unity, even in our diverse world. Together we will remember the injustice but work towards a better future.

Poetry by Heart – A Celebration of Sunnydown Talent

On Sunday 6 July, our talented Poetry by Heart finalist, Freddie Ponsford, enjoyed an unforgettable day at the Shakespeare's Globe. Freddie, along with his chaperones, was treated to two Shakespearean performances, a delightful meal, and an overnight stay as part of the celebration. A well deserved treat for Freddie for his outstanding performance.

I want to congratulate all of the Sunnydown poets on entering a national competition, with over 3,500 entries it was by no means a simple task. As part of Freddie's achievement, our poetry group was invited to attend the final celebration day on Monday 7 July at the Shakespeare Globe. The boys had the chance to support Freddie and witness inspiring performances from students across the country. This experience has given the boys great insight and motivation for their own future entries.

Freddie's bravery and determination showed that Sunnydown school truly stands out. Poetry requires precision, clear articulation, and strong communication skills; qualities Freddie demonstrated brilliantly in his performance. As a school that is deeply committed to providing inclusive opportunities for all our students, participating in such prestigious competitions can be challenging. However, we have worked hard to earn our place, overcoming the unique obstacles that come with entering the Poetry by Heart competition. Standing confidently before an audience of 200–300 people, Freddie owned the stage and delivered a remarkable performance. We are immensely proud of him and all he has achieved.

As the 2025 Poetry at Sunnydown programme draws to a close, I am incredibly proud of the commitment and passion shown by all the students involved. From laughter to tears, this year has been filled with unforgettable moments. Our trips to the London Poetry Library and Shakespeare's Globe were well-earned rewards for the students' hard work and enthusiasm. To all Sunnydown Poets you've made Sunnydown incredibly proud!

Looking ahead, I look forward to starting the Poetry by Heart 2026 competition in September 2025 and welcoming new and returning students to build on this year's incredible success. If you require more information on Sunnydowns poetry events and participation please email: l.thomson@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk



Mindworks Summer Newsletter

Please see the specialist schools and mental health support team, July newsletter attached.

Summer 2025 Reading Achievers

Congratulations to all our Summer 2025 Reading Achievers. Please see the list of names towards the end of this newsletter.

Miss Wood

KS4 Football Tournament

On Tuesday, Sunnydown headed to New Barn for the first instalment of a new Key Stage 4 football tournament. Sunnydown started with a 2-0 win against New Barn and followed that up with a 1-0 win over Manor House. Next up were Bensham Manor, who had come into the match after a 5-0 win and were many people's favourites for the trophy. Sunnydown won in a tightly contested match meaning they just had to avoid defeat to win the trophy. The final match was versus Manor Green College. Sunnydown went 2-0 up then Manor Green came back to make it 2-2, cheered on by Bensham Manor who still had a chance to win the trophy. It was a nervous final few minutes with both teams pushing for a win but it finished 2-2 and Sunnydown had held on to win the trophy. A penalty shoot out followed with Sunnydown also winning the student and staff penalty tournaments. It was brilliant seeing the boys increasing independence, teamwork and leadership with the students making all the key decisions themselves and working brilliantly as a team.

Next up the Key Stage 3 tournament, where the Year 9 boys will have the chance to test themselves at the same venue.



TEAM

Callum Jordan
Jacob Kelly
Jayden Peters
Lithar Po-Ba
Luke Dean
Ollie Taylor



Gabe

<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 7/7/25)</p> <p>What does it mean to be a Global Citizen?</p>	<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 14/7/25)</p> <p>Reflection on the year</p>
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<u>Musician of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith is</p> <p>Leo Sumsion</p>
<u>Reader of the Week</u>	<p>The recipients of Reader of the Week, awarded by Miss Wood are</p> <p>All Summer 2 Reading Achievers (listed towards the end of the newsletter)</p>
<u>Artist of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle is</p> <p>Charlie Carter <i>For resilience in Art</i></p>
<u>Computer Scientist of the Week</u>	<p>The recipients of Computer Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Amzart are</p> <p>Luke Luo Harry Salter <i>For putting in their best effort into Computer Science this academic year</i></p>

House Points

House Points	
Carter Stevenson	150 House Points
Milo Baker	400 House Points
Alex Pereira	700 House Points
Thomas Emms	600 House Points
George McGookin	600 House Points

Forthcoming Events 2025

Summer Term 2025	
Friday 11 th July 2025	The Arc - Prospero Drama Group (parents included)
Friday 11 th July 2025	MUFTI DAY for FoS raffle donations
Monday 14 th July 2025	7M Form Trip - Brighton
Monday 14 th July 2025	Year 9 Form Trip - Brighton Globalls
Monday 14 th July 2025	Year 8 Community Day
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	7C Form Trip - Ninja Warrior
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	8H Form Trip - Oxygen
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	Year 9 Community Day
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	10N Form Trip - Ninja Warrior
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	10O Community Day
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	New Barnes KS3 tournament
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	Year 7 Community Day
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	8P Form Trip - The Light
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	10N - Community Day
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	10O Form Trip - Ninja Warrior
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Sports Day
Friday 18 th July 2025	END OF TERM (12.30pm 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

Summer 2025 Reading

Achievers



100% (5 House Points)

Callum D
Leo E
Harley S
Carter S
Jonah M
Harry O-F
Harry S
Kye L
Daniel L
Jacob R
Luke L
Matthew M
George Mc
Callum D
Noah A
Jack B
Robert H
Alex P
Callum T
Kasra A
Charlie C
Harvey C
Luke D
Harry F
Dominic H
Jacob K
Alfie M
Charlie H
Callum J



90% + (3 House Points)

Issac B
Thomas I
Louie R
Tekai L



Jack Mc
Ross S
James T
Kai B
Jack G
Frankie Mc
Jacob N
Oscar G
Hayden H
Kamauri C
Jaden D
Freddie D
Thomas E
Zac H
Ethan L
Lithar P-B
Leo S



80% + (1 House Point)

Elliot P
William E
Alexander T
Eddie S
Sam L
Freddie C
Freddie P
Michael H
Ollie T



Huge Congratulations to all students who achieved reading success this term



August Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each
or **FREE** with School Membership - 90 minutes long

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours

Anxiety Explained	4th 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	4th 7pm
What is ACT?	5th 10am
Introduction to OCD	5th 7pm
Raising Self Esteem	11th 10am
Decreasing Depression	11th 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	12th 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	12th 7pm
Improving Family Communication	18th 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	18th 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	19th 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	19th 7pm
Understanding Anger	25th 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	25th 7pm
Facing Defiance	26th 10am



 **lightyear
foundation
youth group** 

30 July 2025 | 2:00–3:15 PM
Online (with live captions & BSL Interpreter)

Are you a disabled or neurodivergent young person aged 14-25?
Do you love science, engineering, technology or maths?

The Lightyear Youth Group is a place to meet people like you, have new experiences, and make your voice heard.

Join the launch event, where we will:

- Find out more about the Youth Group
- Hear from inspiring STEM speakers
- Find out how to sign up!

Follow the QR code above to book your spot for FREE
Reach out to us by email for support: info@lightyearfoundation.org