

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

Portley House, 152 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5ED

t. 01883 342281 / 346502 f. 01883 341342

e. office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

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



Friday 13 September 2024

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Getting the small things right makes a huge difference. The 'Thought for the Week' this week was a challenge to students. They were asked to reflect on what it is they could do themselves to make a positive impact on and at Sunnydown School. For the young men who can reflect on this, and take action, they will gain so much from the experience. Their sense of belonging to the school will be enhanced, as will their sense of achievement.

I am asking all young men to work hard on some basic principles, including:

- Wearing our uniform with pride
- Arriving at lessons on time, ready to learn
- Being polite and respectful to one another
- Eating in the dining hall in a polite and considerate manner

If each young man strived to achieve just these few principles, the school would be even more productive and efficient and enjoyable than it already is.

According to BBC weather, we are about to enter a period of autumnal weather, with clear and dry days with mild temperatures. We will all be getting our jumpers and coats ready. Inevitably, our young men will take coats and jumpers off here at school and lose them. It makes it impossible to return a coat or jumper to the correct student if it is not clearly labelled. Please help us to help your son by labelling all items of clothing. Thank you.

I continue to be impressed with how Mr Lord and Mrs Wermig manage the school in my absence on two days a week. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their skills, but also for other staff to take on additional responsibility as well. Thank you to both.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen

Exciting News: Enhancing our curriculum at Sunnydown with the AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS)

This initiative celebrates each student's unique achievements and promotes resilience, independence, and cooperation.

What is the Unit Award Scheme (UAS)?

The AQA Unit Award Scheme is a framework where students earn certificates for completing personalised study units. These units, tailored to individual needs and interests, build a portfolio that highlights their skills and experiences, useful for the next stages in their learning, both here and after Sunnydown. .

Why is UAS Special?

- Celebrate Progress: Each certificate reflects students' hard work and growth, building a comprehensive portfolio of their journey.
- Boost Confidence: Achievements, big or small, enhance self-esteem and motivation.
- Stay Motivated: The scheme keeps students engaged with a sense of accomplishment for every completed unit.
- Prepare for the Future: A portfolio of certificates showcases skills and experiences for future opportunities.

Sunnydown's Commitment

Sunnydown is dedicated to lifelong learning and aims to enhance the visibility and impact of these awards. Students in Food & Nutrition, Humanities and Citizenship as well as Y11 Life Skills are already exploring these awards. Teachers will design opportunities for individuals and groups of students to achieve these awards each term, with the first expected by the end of the Autumn term.

We look forward to celebrating every achievement and embracing this journey with enthusiasm! For questions, please contact a.jensen@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

Mrs Jensen

Changes to Attendance Codes

Further to the earlier ParentMail, a new Department for Education document has been released for all schools and this new guidance is in place for the new academic year (September 2024).

The main changes are a new set of codes for schools to use when authorising absence from school.

We will no longer be permitted to authorise holidays in term time as these are now deemed as not exceptional circumstances. On these occasions, we will be marking students as G, which is a holiday not authorised by the school. The other changes to codes are as follows:

New Authorised Absence Codes

C (other authorised circumstances) has been replaced with:

- C1 – leave of absence for participating in a regulated performance
- C2 – leave of absence for pupil subject to a part-time timetable

Y (not expected in school) has been replaced with:

- Y1 – unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
- Y2 – Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
- Y3 – Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
- Y4 – Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
- Y5 – Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
- Y6 – Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
- Y7 – Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause

These codes are really just for schools and for the DfE to be able to correctly monitor student attendance more closely. You will not see any difference at school, just the way we report attendance.

We will still have our scheduled termly visits (targeted support meetings) from the Inclusion Service and these visits will look at our registers and the reasons for absence, along with trends and agreeing targeted actions. I will still be monitoring attendance each half term and we will continue to support families where attendance drops below 90%. Referrals to the Inclusion Service will only occur once we as a school have exhausted all avenues with families and we then feel that the involvement of the Inclusion Service would be beneficial.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information contained in this email, but you shouldn't notice any significant change as a parent.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at a.lawson@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

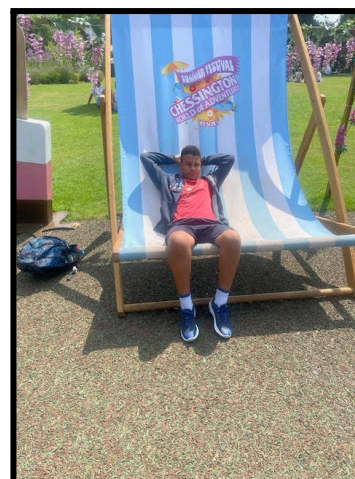
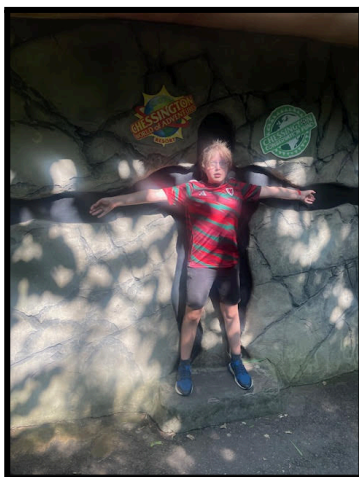
Miss Lawson

Greenhouse Holiday Scheme

This summer we had another holiday scheme here at Sunnydown with students taking part in an employability day and having a tour of the London Stadium, going to Chessington and Thorpe Park, cycling at Lea Valley bike park on the same course used for the London Olympics, having a day out at Kenley and playing numerous games and sports onsite.

Luke Dean: *It was very good. It was the best thing you've done. My favourite things were cycling at Lea Valley and Thorpe Park.*

Mr Peters: *It's great we offer such a service. Thorpe Park and the mountain biking were great and the opportunities are so much more than just a standard holiday club.*





Preparing for adulthood is never easy. Add in complex needs, autism and a learning disability and it's a whole new ball game.

To help parents and carers navigate this challenging time, Mercury College is proud to be hosting a **FREE AUTISM/LD TRAINING EVENT** at the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury Hotel in London on the topic of **Preparing for Adulthood**.

During our unique and totally FREE event, expert speakers, **Jill Bradshaw** and **Geoff Evans**, will share their knowledge and skills. Helping you become better informed and prepared about the choices and opportunities. Plus you'll learn how to make the transition process less stressful for all involved.

Join us for a **day of training, resources, advice, food & drinks all for free**. You'll get to meet people in a similar position, plus some of the students & staff of Mercury College.

Parents/Carers Event – Weds 25th September

If you have or are supporting a young person with autism and complex needs and are thinking about the future or perhaps you are already at the stage of preparing for adulthood then this is the link you'll need to find out more and request your free place:

<https://www.mercurycollege.uk/free-training-event-for-parents-london/>

Thought for the Week (W/C 9th September 2024)

How can I make a difference & put my mark on Sunnydown?

Thought for the Week (W/C 16th September 2024)

Youth Mental Health

Mr Peters' Award Progress - Lunch Time Football Club

Harrison Williams

The Baton

Hayden Howells

For resilience & overcoming challenges

Sportsmanship Award

Jayden Smurthwaite

Employability Award

Michael Hanley

For teamwork and supporting others

Mathematician of the Week

The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Webb is

Sam Walsh - *For excellent engagement and effort*
Milo Baker - *For an excellent start to maths this year*
Zack Harrison - *For excellent engagement in maths this week*

& awarded by Mr Wright is

Freddie Collins

Scientist of the Week

The recipients of Scientist of the week, awarded by Ms Hristova are

George McGookin - *For active learning & initiative*
Sam Walsh - *For effort & participation*
Jacob Kelly - *For effort & work completion*

Writer of the Week

The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Mrs Palmer is

KS3

Kamauri Craig - *For his excellent presentation on Mary Shelley*

KS4

& awarded by Ms Newcombe is

Charlie Carter - *For a very creative description of a picture*

House Points

House Points	
Freddie Ponsford	700 House Points
Jacob Kelly	700 House Points
Robert Hall	650 House Points
Harrison Williams	450 House Points
Kye Lawrence	400 House Points
Frankie McSorley	350 House Points
Jacob Ryan	300 House Points

Forthcoming Events 2024/25

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
25/10/24	Finish for Half Term
28/10/24 - 01/11/24	HALF TERM
04/11/24	START OF AUTUMN HALF TERM 2
02/7/25 - 04/07/25	Year 9 Residential