

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 15th October 2021

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

With the public holiday on Friday 22nd October, we have a short week next week. Some staff and students have asked about a Mufti Day associated with Halloween on Thursday 21st October, and I have agreed. Some students and staff may come dressed up, but I would ask anyone that does, to ensure there is nothing too scary! If your son does arrive in mufti including fancy dress, please send in a pound (£1) which will be collected and donated to MIND - a mental health charity.

In an attempt to end the half term in a calm manner, I made the decision to ask the boys to not be playing with any sticks and to not enter the forest without me being personally present. The result of this was that I had the opportunity to observe students playing an array of other games such as basketball, long tennis and football but also just sitting and chatting with mates; even young men that sometimes do not associate with one another. These observations reminded me that a large proportion of what we do at Sunnydown is to help each young man develop their communication and social interaction skills to the best of their ability.

Regarding communication, during an assembly this week, Mr Lord and myself reminded the young men that while they may know many swear words, using them at school is not appropriate. This will happen, but as a staff team we will address it immediately and where necessary seek family support.

One of our Year 7 School Council representatives, Dominic, has asked about starting a Newspaper; what a great idea. I can see potential for this initiative to become the weekly newsletter, linked perhaps to Creative Media!

Another Year 7 student, Charlie, has raised some questions about the one way system in Forest View. This process was introduced as a measure to reduce mixing and protect your sons. However, in light of the questions raised, and the likely changes to covid requirements in schools as we approach winter, this will be reviewed. It is possible that students and staff will be asked to wear masks in many schools, and continue to sanitise hands regularly. Any changes at Sunnydown will be clearly communicated. In the meantime, please continue to test your son and wider family twice weekly using the Lateral Flow Tests as up to a third of people with Covid do not show symptoms.

I would strongly recommend that masks are worn in taxis from a personal safety perspective. Some taxi companies may introduce this as a safety measure for their drivers as well.

A key message from the Government and scientists is that Covid has not gone away and will likely be with us forever. Our challenge is now to modify our behaviours to reduce risk of infection.

Yet another Year 7 student, Harvey, has shown such a keen interest in the chickens that he came back to share some farming ideas with me after school last week.

The exciting thing for myself as Headteacher, is that these ideas are coming from young men who have another 5 years at Sunnydown. With this level of enthusiasm the school is in very safe, creative and energetic hands.

I am also very pleased to announce that Mrs Wicking, one of our teaching assistants, has been able to gain so much experience here at Sunnydown that she has been successful in being appointed to another role at another school. We will say goodbye to Mrs Wicking next Thursday 21st October, which is also a mufti (Halloween) day.

As already announced, Mrs Rogers also leaves us over half term to further her career in Human Resources. While Mrs Rogers has helped take Sunnydown to completely new heights, Mrs Helen Gower has successfully filled the vacancy of School Business Manager. With the extensive business background and experience that Mrs Gower brings to the role, we again find ourselves to be in very safe and capable hands.

Parents will be surveyed next week regarding some suggested changes regarding parent evenings and Annual Reviews. I am suggesting that instead of having all year groups attend parent evenings in a short space of time (usually January) that we spread them out so that one year group attends each half term. This will be made more clear when the survey comes out next week. Currently, Year 11 Annual Reviews are scheduled to take place before Christmas as we support them with College applications. I would like to invite **Year 9 parents to a parent evening on Wednesday 17th November.**

Year 7 families are invited to an informal evening on Wednesday 20th October and another more formal one, as well as an Annual Review, later in the year.

We had an invitation from St Francis primary school yesterday to join them in a school assembly as they had a very special visitor in school. They were visited by Aaron Phipps, the gold medal winning wheelchair rugby paralympian! George (Year 11) and Alfie (Year 7) were invited along as representatives of Sunnydown School. Aaron gave an amazing talk, all about resilience and how he has coped since having both his legs amputated 17 years ago. He was inspiring and both boys really enjoyed his visit.



REMINDER - Bank Holiday (Friday 22nd October) and Inset Day (Monday 1st November)

Just a reminder that we have been advised that Friday 22nd October 2021 is a Bank Holiday. This is the date in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday. This is the day immediately before the October half-term break and has been arranged as the day to replace this additional Bank Holiday, which falls in the summer half-term break. We will still finish at 3.30pm (as usual) next Thursday. Also note that the Monday after half term is an Inset Day, therefore we look forward to seeing the boys **return to school on Tuesday 2nd November**, Monday timings (arrive 9.00am - 9.30am). Students will follow the Tuesday timetable for lessons after assembly.

Inter-House competition

Next week we will be hosting an optional Inter-House Basketball shooting game known as Killer for all students. To support this would all students kindly bring in their House T-shirt on:

KS4 - Wednesday

KS3 - Thursday

Students who don't wish to participate can still play an important role cheering their housemates on, so would you kindly bring in your House shirt as well. The staff will also duke it out for their respective Houses for your entertainment. We will also reveal the names of the House chickens, which were voted for by the Houses today.

We have many events to look forward to after half term including:

House meetings

House point reward trips

DT competition

Mental Maths Kahoot

Dodgeball

Thank you for your support with this and we look forward to friendly competition next week.

Mr Wright

SMSC

To help raise awareness and money for the Mental Health Foundation, badges will be available for purchase (£1.50) in the Pastoral office. Greater donations are of course welcome.

Miss Drake

College Open Events

The Year 11s are currently considering their options for next year. To best support them with this process we will be conducting Post 16 transition meetings this term to explore all of the opportunities available to them. One of the key decisions to consider is where to study. We recommend the Year 10 & 11 students visit a couple of local colleges to help support their transition. Please see the list of college Open Days below. If you have any questions regarding college applications, please don't hesitate to contact me at b.wright@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

Nescot College

Saturday 16th October: 11.00-14.00

Wednesday 24th November: 16.30-19.30

East Surrey College

Saturday 13th November: 10.00-14.00

Brooklands College (Weybridge campus)

Wednesday 10th November: 16.30-19.00

Saturday 27th November: 10.00-13.00

Brooklands College (Ashted campus)

Thursday 11th November: 16.30-19.00

Mr Wright

Friends of Sunnydown

Smartie Challenge - half term: Our Smartie challenge is back! Tubes will be heading home with the boys next Thursday, ahead of half term (please let us know if you do not wish your son to receive a tube, and we will send an alternative). As a reminder, after the boys have enjoyed the Smarties, the challenge is to try and fill the tube with any loose change they can find. On return, they will be entered into a prize draw. Tescos and Morrisons have kindly donated the Smarties, for which we are very grateful.

AGM: The Friends of Sunnydown AGM takes place next Wednesday 20th October at 7:00pm. This will be held at Sunnydown School and everyone is very welcome to attend.

Quiz night: A quiz night is scheduled for Friday 12th November - save the date in your diaries! Further details to follow.

Friends of Sunnydown
friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Textile/Recycling Bank

This is just a reminder that if you have any unwanted clothes or textiles, we have the textile bank in the car park. We get a payment based on the amount after it is weighed (which all goes to the School Fund). Below is a list of items which will and won't be accepted:

Acceptable items	Non-acceptable items
All men's, ladies and children's clothing	Duvets, both synthetic and feathered
Paired shoes	Pillows & cushions
Handbags, bags, ties and belts	Carpets & rugs
Bed clothes, towels, soft toys	Soiled or wet clothing
	Workwear
	Shredded or mutilated textile material

Textile offcuts, yarns or threaded material

Weekend Working Bee

On Saturday 25th September, some families and staff joined together at our first Sunnydown Working Bee of this school year. The tasks for the day included planting some eucalyptus trees, clearing some holly and brambles and filling our tummies with burgers. Four young men and their families had the privilege of leaving a lasting memory at school by planting a tree. Harry Franklin, James Dean, Josh Barnes and Connor Mason will be able to watch their trees grow alongside them, during their journey here at Sunnydown.



Miss Newcombe

100% Attendance

Congratulations to 10P for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 1st October 2021 and to 7N for w/e: 7th October 2021.

Chef of the Week (w/e 7th)

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is:

Harry Franklin
(7N)

Scientist of the Week (w/e 7th)

The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for resilience is:

Ben Tushingam
(11Z)

Mathematician of the Week (w/e 7th)

The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mr Zadok for independence in lessons is:

Miles Eliatamby
(11W)

Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is:

**Ollie Taylor
(7O)**

Artist of the Week

The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle Miss Adams is:

**Charlie Carter
(7N)**

Thought for this week (W/C: 11th October)

British Values- what are they? How do we uphold them?

9C

We have learnt that British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith
- Mutual respect

If we follow these values we can all get along better.

Thought for next week (W/C: 18th October)

Personal Identity - what makes me special

Jess

Personal identity means different things to different people because every one of us is unique. IT is about how you see yourself, who **YOU** think you are. It can be split into 5 sections: your interests, your likes and dislikes, your talents and abilities, your values and beliefs and your goals. Your personal identity can also change over time; as you grow, you may be interested in different things or set different goals for yourself. Over the weekend, have a think..... Who do you think you are?

House Points (w/e 7th)

Max Gibbins	250 House Points
Oscar Stewart	400 House Points

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This week

Edward Gair	200 House Points
Taylor Conway	250 House Points
Nathan Small	250 House Points

Felix Drummond	300 House Points
Oliver Benneyworth	450 House Points

Link to Sunnydown Form Page for all other updates:

<https://sites.google.com/sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk/sunnydown-learning-hub/home>

