

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

It is so important to start by wishing one and all a wonderful Christmas and festive season. We had a sumptuous Christmas dinner on Thursday, with an array of Christmas jumpers on show.



The kitchen staff, with Sean as our school chef, put on a feast of top quality food. Not only that, they managed to serve everyone and wash up all the dishes as well. A huge effort which is greatly appreciated. Elvin (Year 11 J) spoke to the staff, students and guests and extended a thanks to the kitchen staff.

Prior to lunch the Friends of Sunnydown, headed up by Kelly Barnes but supported by a merry band of helpers provided students with the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for friends and family. To Kelly and her team, a massive thank you for making this day as special as it was.

The afternoon saw an array of House activities undertaken, which I know will contribute to the overall standings. I look forward to seeing the points tally when we return. I appreciate all of the efforts of all of the staff involved in these activities, but a special mention to Mr Wright for coordinating.

Of course the lunch could not go ahead without tables and chairs. These were moved predominantly by Year 11 students. Thank you to all of those who helped move furniture and arrange the room.

To one and all, have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Winter arrived at Sunnydown



I appreciate the inconvenience of the school closing on Monday due to snow cover here in Caterham on the Hill. However, I can assure you it was the right decision. With temperatures remaining below 0 degrees even today, we still have the entire school site and sidewalks covered in ice.

A few pictures below give an indication of what it remains like at school today.

Bennett's Wallaby live comfortably in high regions of Australia where it snows during winter. This is why the species is so comfortable living here in the UK. It can handle extremes of heat and cold.

Academisation

The Governing Body and senior leaders will continue to explore the potential of Sunnydown becoming an Academy and joining a Multi Agency Trust (MAT). This has been on the school agenda for several years but has recently gathered some momentum. Governors and SLT are meeting representatives from several trusts in the new year and will share our thoughts and observations with families when appropriate.

Sunnydown's Got Talent



We were treated to some of the talents of our students today, many of them pictured here with their certificates.

Performing at any stage can be difficult, but these young men took it in their stride and delivered a musical, performance, riddles, stand up comedy, singing and even scooter and trampoline tricks. Amazing. We will find out the winner when we return in the new year.

Curriculum at Sunnydown

Sunnydown offers an exceptionally broad curriculum of which everyone should be incredibly proud, staff, students and families. Mrs Jensen will be sending some information about our curriculum in a ParentMail soon. Please take the time to read it and forward any questions to Mrs Jensen at a.jensen@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

This will be a particular focus for Ofsted when they visit us in the new year so we will continue to share information regarding it. The most central source of information however, is our website under the curriculum tab.

Return to School - 2023

Our first day at school for students is Wednesday 4th January. Students and taxis should arrive between 9am and 9.30am. The school timetable starts at 10.15am, immediately after a whole school assembly at 10am.

Student Survey

A survey of how students feel about Sunnydown School, what we offer and the behaviour and attitudes of students was undertaken this week. The results of this survey will be analysed and used to help us improve our provision even further. Any action points or areas of strength will be shared through the newsletter in the new year. Many thanks to the students who contributed to this.

Football report

On December 7th and 8th Sunnydown school took part in the next round of the Surrey Inclusive Football tournament where they were pitted against the might of schools across the borough at the Fulham training ground. On one of the days, Mr Jensen took some time out of his schedule to drive down with the boys. His and their thoughts are below.

Ollie: The Man of the Match was Max. He was really good at getting the ball upfield and stopping attackers from shooting.

Jayden S: My Man of the Match is Max too, because he's too good.

Mr Jensen: I saw the save of the year by Freddie Dunne, saving a shot from a guy twice his size. I saw Harry Franklin score a goal from his goal line and Anthony Harper doing a backheel that should have had him signed for Fulham.

Teddy: AJ was my Man of the Match because he's good.

Lithar: I chose Teddy because he scored lots of goals.

Callum: Harry kept us in the game and scored a banger.

Max: Ollie was great in defence.

Jayden P: AJ scored lots of goals.

AJ: Teddy scored lots of goals and did lots of pressing.



Freddie: Thomas scored lots of goals

Unfortunately there are strict no photo rules at the venue but it is still great to use the facility and great to hear the boys single out each other for praise and recognition, which was richly deserved. Well done boys for all your efforts.

Also a huge well done goes to Thando. He has been successful in his application to become a Greenhouse Youth Advisory Board member, helping drive the charity forward and sharing his thoughts, ideas and experiences. Mr Safo-Antwi, one of the staff members running the board, had this to say about Thando "He has been absolutely brilliant! He speaks so well and really gets involved with everyone. Honestly I was speechless when I first heard him.vvThanks for encouraging him to apply."

Thando - keep up the brilliant work and let's hear all about it in school.

Gabe

Greenhouse T Shirts

Another two Greenhouse T-shirt winners this half term have been Edward and Nathan. Nathan for great participation and effort in Games and Edward for his all round enthusiasm and especially in bike maintenance.

Well done to both boys and Merry Christmas to one and all!

Gabe

Christmas Cake Competition

KS4 Winner - George W (Portley)
Runner up - Oscar S (Buxton)
3rd Place - Joshua B (Portley)

KS3 Winner - Alfie W (Burntwood)
Runner up - Hamish S (Whyteleafe)
3rd place - Harry V (Whyteleafe)

Congratulations to all the students who took part, you all worked extremely hard and created some beautiful cakes for your families to enjoy. Well done.

Mrs Hull

Online Safety

Please see the flier attached to this newsletter re What Parents Need to Know about Setting up Apps, Games and Software.



Mental Health

Christmas is a very happy time of year, but to some this can be a very difficult time. Taking care of our Mental Health is extremely important to each and every one of us here at Sunnydown. Talking to one another and being able to explain our feelings can at times feel very difficult, which can mean we may need a little extra help. Attached is a document that gives information and numbers about Mental Health support both for young people and for families. Each charity has an area of expertise which means they will be able to support with any questions and give further support resources if needed. These charities also provide free crisis lines which can be used 24 hours a day, all year round. Mindworks also provides a free 24/7 mental health crisis line for children aged from six years, young people and their families/carers who are in crisis, the number for this is: **0800 915 4644**.

Here at Sunnydown we have invested in having two Learning Space practitioners to work with students and offer Mental Health support as well as working on other areas of need such as anxiety, anger, low levels of confidence and self-esteem, bereavement, bullying, friendships and family issues. This has been really successful and we are very excited that the two Learning Space practitioners Shawn and Lisa will be joining us again in January to offer sessions to a new group of students for the term. These sessions will be on a Wednesday and Thursday morning. Shawn will also be working with us for an extended afternoon, giving a bigger capacity for other students to receive sessions. Each student that will be receiving sessions will have been sent a consent form that will need to be returned prior to the sessions starting.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Miss Derrig-Adams

Inter-House Science Competition

We held an Inter-House Science Competition testing students' subject-specific knowledge and vocabulary as well as their literacy skills, imagination and creativity, also giving them the chance to win House points for themselves and their respective Houses.

The winner from Year 7 is Alexandre Pereira, who most successfully conveyed the message of the benefits of sport and exercise for health.

The winner from Year 8 is Lithar Po-Ba, who produced a convincing piece that warns people about the disastrous impact of wasting energy resources on the planet.

The winner from Year 9 is Andrew Henry Smith for his detailed work on the uses of electromagnets in comparison to permanent magnets. Well done to you boys!

Ms Hristova

<p><u>Mathematician of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch for cooperation is</p> <p>Charlie M (9D)</p>	<p><u>Scientist of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for cooperation is</p> <p>Harry Vaughan (9D)</p> <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova for resilience & cooperation is:</p> <p>Ollie Taylor (80)</p>	<p><u>Chef of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull for resilience & progress is</p> <p>Reece Williams (11J)</p>
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<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 12th December) Reflection- Spiritual</p>

<u>House Points</u>	
James Dean	750 House Points
Elvinas Sermuksnis	700 House Points
Ryan Gellett	650 House Points
Hamish Scott	450 House Points
Jayden Smurthwaite	450 House Points
Sonny Chater	300 House Points
Freddie Dunne	100 House Points