



Friday 19th March 2021 (Part 1 of the weekly newsletter)

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Last week I mentioned the heroic efforts of Daniel Linney in undertaking his own cycle event to raise money for Shelter (<https://england.shelter.org.uk/>). I also mentioned that as part of our cycle scheme, we would collectively be running a whole school cycle event. I am excited to announce that our 'Caterham Cycle Challenge' will run from Friday 14th May to Friday 21st May and coincide with another charity cycle event in Australia called the Gibb Challenge. Covid has prevented us from participating in the Australian challenge this year, but our professionally designed logo will be used in our Caterham Cycle Challenge to remind us that in future years, students from Sunnydown will take part.

I have included an introduction to the challenge at the end of this newsletter. In essence, as a school, we will be attempting to cycle 6660km (further if we can) and along the way, raise money to support families on low income from our local primary schools to purchase school shoes in September. To do this, at approximately £50 per pair of shoes, we need to raise £17000.

Why raise money for other people rather than ourselves you may ask. It is because I have a firm belief in doing good for other people less fortunate than ourselves, as many of you also do. Right now, as we continue to embrace the easing of lockdown restrictions, it is important to support one another, and this is our contribution to raising community spirit.

If you have any business contacts who may be interested in and able to support this initiative, even in the current climate, please do not hesitate to make contact or share the information attached. Opportunities for corporate sponsorship will be published before Easter.

With Inset on Friday, there is no alternative curriculum this week. The same applies for Friday 2nd April as this is Easter Friday.

In this shortened week, we welcome back some of our boarders. To the care team, a huge thank you for continued efforts to provide the best possible experience we can during boarding. I understand that Secret Santa may be paying a visit, and an evening of hot chocolate around a campfire is also planned.

Sending a newsletter on a Sunday also allows me to include a photo of the combined efforts of all students who have contributed during Friday activities and the KS4 DIY Option with Mr Moody and Miss Collings to landscaping an outdoor learning area for the boys. Here it is.



Front centre is the seating area around a central fire pit. Behind this is an area of paving with a pale sun bordered by a dark square and behind this, the undercover chess board sits. As warmer weather approaches, plants will start to soften some of the straight edges, and we will all be enjoying learning in a completely new space very soon. To all staff and students who have contributed, thank you. An amazing achievement which we can see developing before our eyes.

I had the privilege of being with Year 8M working in the area on Friday morning, and with Year 7T in the afternoon. 7T also discussed the PSHE topic for the week (how our body changes during puberty) and further, we considered the importance of treating other people, including and especially women, with respect.

This conversation followed my statement as the leader of the school on Monday to all staff, that I stand with all people who denounce violence towards and maltreatment of women the world over, in any of its guises. In a school for boys who will become men all too soon, this is a message that we should be openly discussing, here at school and in the community. I was proud of how 7T engaged in the conversation.

A gentle reminder that we continue to encourage social distancing at school, and excellent personal hygiene including regular hand washing, use of hand sanitiser and where necessary (unless exempt) the wearing of face masks.