

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 20th January 2023

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

We had approximately 45 families visit us on Wednesday for our Open Morning. Certainly not the biggest turn out, but it does give an indication of demand for places at Sunnydown, of which there are currently only 16 per year.

I know that Sunnydown is an excellent school, but it is also not right for everyone. I explained this to the audience along with listing all of the things we do provide to those fortunate enough to be awarded a place here via the Surrey admissions process. I was also able to reflect on the fact that the care we offer your son, whether during periods of inappropriate behaviour or concentrated effort in class, on the sporting field or during a residential trip, during a PSHE lesson on a Friday afternoon or at break time while toast and fruit and soup is provided, is second to none.

In the afternoon I then presented to an audience in London. The focus of the training was Access Arrangements for students during GCSE exams. My presentation however, took the approach that we prepare your sons for their exams not in Year 11, but actually start at the point of Year 6 - 7 transition. The five year journey is preparing each young man for the next steps, the world beyond Sunnydown. During this I reflected on the principles that underpin our approach, Maslow's Hierarchy, Zones of Proximal Development, Emotional Regulation, Mindfulness, Growth Mindset and the Learning Pit to list a few of the concepts that underpin our approach to education.

I was also able to reflect on the fact that this approach is hugely successful academically. We have the broadest curriculum of a specialist school in Surrey. Our progress 8 score, a measure of the amount of progress made from Year 6 to Year 11, consistently places us in the top five (5) Specialist schools in the country (there are about 1500).

My point - your son is in safe hands here at Sunnydown. We are human - sometimes we get things wrong. But on the whole, you should feel very confident in the education your son is receiving. This is even further enhanced when families work closely with us, in a supportive mutually beneficial way as opposed to focussing on our infrequent and often minor oversights. We are human, we all are.

I am representing Sunnydown school this afternoon at the funeral of Mr Malcolm Walker, husband of Patsy. Malcolm was a huge supporter of Sunnydown School through his close association with Children With Special Needs Foundation. As a direct result of Malcolm and Patsy's support for us and CWSNF, we have a BBQ Hut, Wallabies, landscaping and soon a gym. I will share our collective condolences.

Paul Jensen

Strike action

A ParentMail was sent earlier this week about possible disruption to education nationally as a result of potential teacher strikes.

Dates to be aware of are as listed below.

- Wednesday 1st February 2023
- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

Any disruption to the school will be communicated as early as possible, but please understand that there may be short notice of changes as circumstances develop. We will follow all Government guidance in making any decisions.

Year 11 Food & Nutrition Final Assessment

On 10th January and 17th January some of the staff were treated to a celebration lunch put on by the Year 11 Food & Nutrition students. This can be a very overwhelming day for the students, as they are required to prepare and cook the meals within a given time frame and with complete independence, as part of their BTEC final assessment.

I would like to congratulate each and everyone of the students who took part. They were all in good spirits, worked extremely hard and served up a collection of fantastic meals, which they should be very proud of. Some comments from the students at the end of the day included "I really enjoyed that" and "That wasn't as bad as I thought it would be." As their teacher and course verifier, I couldn't have been more proud of them. It has been a pleasure to watch them learn and grow in confidence in the Practical Cooking Room. Well done to you all.

Mrs Hull

Year 8 Food & Nutrition House Competition

On Thursday this week the Year 8 students took part in a House competition to produce a well presented layered salad. All the students who took part were very focused on their designs and produced some great looking salads. Each class voted for their chosen best design and the results are as follows:

8O

First place - Lithar Po-Ba (Buxton)

Second place - Michael Hanley (Buxton) and Alfie Tharle (Portley)

8N

First Place - Harvey Caruana (Burntwood)

Second place - Bailey Goodliffe (Whyteleafe)

Congratulations to these students for earning their Houses some important Housepoints and to all for taking part.

Mrs Hull

Thrive

Here are some mindful activities. These activities can help ground you when you are feeling overwhelmed. Have a lovely weekend.



Miss Brooks

Attendance

Congratulations to 8N for achieving 100% attendance for the week ending 13th January 2023.

<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 16th January)</p> <p>Who is Martin Luther King?</p>	<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 23rd January)</p> <p>Why is it important to remember the effects of the Holocaust?</p>
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Song of the Week

Song of the week was nominated by Nathan in 9D: BTS Dynamite (2020).

<p><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></p> <p>Tomas Bodkin (11J)</p>	<p><u>Employability Skills Award</u></p> <p>Alex Hennessy (10M)</p> <p>For using his initiative and being self-motivated</p>
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<p><u>Baton Award</u></p> <p>Elvinas Sermuksnis (11J)</p>

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	<u>Artist of the Week</u>	<u>Musician of the Week</u>	<u>Chef of the Week</u>
<p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mr Zadok for resilience is</p> <p>James Dean (10M)</p> <p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p>Charlie McSorley (9D)</p>	<p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for cooperation & resilience is</p> <p>Charlie McSorley (9D)</p> <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova for resilience & cooperation is</p> <p>Max Mahboobani (10C)</p>	<p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for his fantastic photography is</p> <p>Jonathan Edwards (80)</p>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p>Jayden Peters (80)</p>	<p>The recipients of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull for perseverance & resilience is</p> <p>Alfie Wilson (9T)</p> <p>& for outstanding work in their final assessment:</p> <p>Reece Wood (11P) Reece Williams (11J) Tomas Bodkin (11J) George Smith (11P)</p>

Friday Curriculum - 27th January 2023

A timetable of events will follow next week.

<u>House Points</u>	
Daniel Diaz-Lester	800 House Points
Edward Bridges-Pugh	650 House Points
Callum Annis	450 House Points
Charlie McSorley	450 House Points
Edward Gair	400 House Points
Lithar Po-Ba	400 House Points
Antony Harper	350 House Points
Kasra Alavi	300 House Points
Luke Dean	250 House Points

Kamauri Craig	150 House Points
Zac Hoad	150 House Points
Sam Lopes	100 House Points