

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

This brings to a close an amazing year at Sunnydown. Having reflected on the weekly newsletter, we could write a book filled with recollections of the plethora of amazing opportunities at Sunnydown. These range from residential journeys, to weekly activities, exceptional academic lessons and visitors from universities.

However, I will limit my thoughts to the most recent event - Sports Day, before looking ahead to September.

Our last sports day, onsite with families, was July 2019, three years ago. These statistics resonate up and down the UK. Being together yesterday though, reminded me of the importance of social opportunities for families but also schools.

Words of gratitude from parents shared with me are always humbling, but what we achieve at Sunnydown is only possible in partnership between families, school and the young men themselves. Seeing the turnout of families yesterday reminded all staff of the integral part they play in supporting families through the work they do day in, day out. The generosity of families, allowing the Friends of Sunnydown to share vouchers of gratitude is appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

As we gathered to award medals for achievement in an array of events, it was important to focus our attention on the small group that officially call themselves Friends of Sunnydown. In my eyes, we are all friends of Sunnydown - otherwise we wouldn't be here. I implore you to get in touch with Kelly Barnes (friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk) and join the efforts to continue to add value to our school and wider community. This small but dedicated team have raised in excess of £40,000 (yes forty thousand pounds) in the past two years. Imagine what we can achieve with a larger Friends of Sunnydown?

As medals were awarded, I wondered if I had seen bigger smiles on some lads' faces ever? And to share that moment with so many staff and families was also a reminder of what we offer - opportunities.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, our team is excited by the opportunities we have on offer for our young men. In September alone we have a trip to Florida, a visit by a very special guest, and the launch of an even more enhanced curriculum. Though Mr Lord is preparing a comprehensive communication, I am incredibly proud to announce that music and computing are offered to Years 7 and 8 from September whilst we explore opportunities to extend these important subjects further throughout the school. We already have a Fine and Performing Arts trip, and regular music on a Friday, but we wanted to offer more. From a computing perspective, being a Google school we are ahead of many, but again wanted to enhance this offer further. In KS4, ASDAN will be the umbrella which seeks to recognise the efforts of students in Life Skills and Creative Media with an additional award. Creative Media will be offered as BTEC, again allowing the students the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification. For a small school,

there is no curriculum offer that comes close to what our young men, your sons, have access to. Please be proud of this and encourage your sons to embrace it while they are here.

Have a wonderful summer. I so look forward to hearing of holiday stories when the young men return in September.

Paul Jensen

Annual Review of our Curriculum

Following our annual review of our curriculum we will be enhancing the current provision in several ways in order to give the students access to even more opportunities. Our provision has always been exceptional, and from September, it is now broader and more enhanced than ever.

Key Stage 3

To accommodate Computing and Music in Years 7 and 8, there will be a small reduction in the time allocated to some subjects.

Games is reduced from 2 hours to 1.5 hours. There will also be a reduction in the allocated time for DT from 1.5 hours to 1 hour and Food Tech from 1.5 hours to 1 hour.

The reductions do not equate to missing out since we are aware that all of these subjects are heavily supported and enhanced by the Friday Curriculum opportunities.

The time gained will be dedicated to a 1 hour computing lesson for all of the boys in Years 7 and 8 with a dedicated Computer Science teacher. This will allow us to build some foundation learning for those students who are looking to follow the Creative Media course in Years 10 and 11.

Further, we have timetabled a half hour reading session, previously covered by Communications.

Music for Years 7 and 8 will appear in the Monday to Thursday curriculum for 1 hour per week and Communications will take place on Fridays. Subject hours are listed below.

The Friday Curriculum will continue to rotate around a 6 week carousel of activities including the School Project focusing on outdoor work around the school, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, The Food Experience, Humanities trips/activities, The Rice Challenge and Communications. In Year 9 the students will follow an activity entitled Media and Information Literacy, details of which will appear on the website in September in place of Communications, which they will still follow during their Monday to Thursday Curriculum.

Please see details of the Monday - Thursday Allocation below;

Subject	Hours - Year 7/8	Hours - Year 9
Maths	3	3
English	3	3
Science	2	3
Art	1	1
Citizenship/RE	1	1

DT	1	1.5
Computing	1	0
Food	1	1.5
Humanities	1	1
Music	1	0
PE/Games	2.5	3
Swim and Cycle	1	0
Reading/Communications	0.5	1

Key Stage 4

The changes in Key Stage 4 are that those students who have chosen the Creative Media option (in both Years 10 and 11 next year) will have the opportunity to earn credit towards the BTEC Entry Level/Level 1 Award in Creative Media Production. This is not compulsory but we would encourage those students who have taken it to use their work towards creating a portfolio for the award.

Those boys who are following Life Skills as part of the Friday Curriculum will be doing some additional work towards the ASDAN qualification which will allow them to gain credits towards the Bronze Award and possibly even the Silver Award.

Student Surveys

We are sending links to all students (including our Year 11 graduates) via their school email address today. These will remain open until Wednesday 27th July at 12.00pm. The topics are School, Behaviour and My Own Wellbeing. For each survey completed, students will be awarded a House Point and so the points can be allocated accurately, student emails will be registered by each completed survey. Students can only do each survey once.

There are no right or wrong answers and your views are important. Thank you young men for your cooperation - your views will help make Sunnydown even better than it is.

SEND Green Paper

A reminder to share your views on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision reforms. Our SEND and alternative provision green paper consultation closes on Friday 22nd July. It sets out our proposals for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.

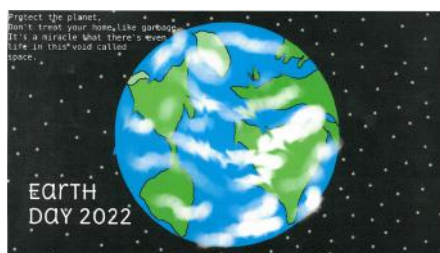
[Guidance on the proposals is available](#). Please [respond to the consultation](#) by 11.45pm on Friday 22nd July.

Inter-House Art Competition

Please see the winning pieces below from our wonderful artists:

Charlie Carter

1st



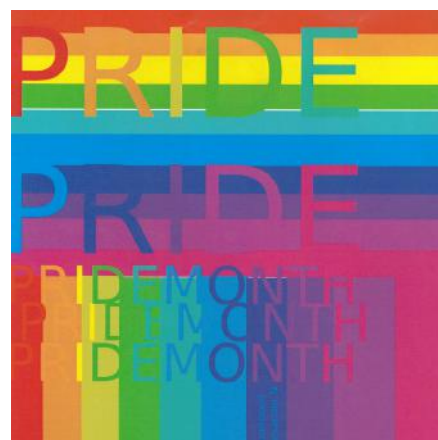
Max Gibbins

2nd



Alexander Neale

3rd



Mindfitness Drama Sessions

The following students have all achieved certificates from Prospero Theatre group for completing their Mindfitness course. Congratulations! There is a message from one of the leaders, Tina, below.

*Alfie Monk
Alfie Tharle
Callum Annis
Callum Lagan
Cam'ron Pindi*

*Edward Bridges-Pugh
Edward Gair
Harry Franklin
Harry Vaughan
Jacob Kelly*

*Jayden Peters
Leo Sumsion
Lithar Po-Ba
Luke Dean
Michael Hanley*

*Nathan Small
Ollie Taylor
Sonny Chater
Ty Small
Varen Estwick*

Our Mindfitness sessions are a mix of drama-based activities, mindfulness and science, all blended together over 5 fun sessions. The students learnt techniques to help them stay calm and improve attention and focus. We were very impressed with how the students participated with the Mindfulness exercises and joined in with the drama-based games; they were so enthusiastic and creative! We always end each session with a 'celebration circle' where we celebrate successes and achievements in the session. It was great to hear each student's choice of what they'd achieved and enjoyed in the session. Thank you students and staff at Sunnydown for making us feel so welcome; we loved doing the sessions with you. Tina.

Y10 Enterprise Day - Friday 15th July

After looking at how small businesses run during our PSHE lessons, Year 10 had the chance to set up a business, create logos and advertising, purchase stock, make sales and (hopefully) a profit! Within Year 10 there were 4 teams, each with a starting budget of £15. This is the only money they could use. They needed to think carefully about how they were going to spend it in order to make the most amount of profit.

It was a fantastic afternoon; each year group came out under the Willow tree to the stalls which Year 10 had set up and had a great time buying popcorn, sweets, drinks, and meeting Spiderman! One student said he was having the best day of his life!

Our winners this year were Elvin, Byron and Reece Wood and the whole year group made over £40 net profit which will be donated to the Friends of Sunnydown to support their mental health work through the cycle scheme.

Very well done Year 10.

Mrs Jensen



Exciting Drama opportunity in September!

King Arthur Project - Prospero are thrilled to be doing another drama project at Sunnydown this Autumn. From September – December we will be working on a production of King Arthur, with lots of drama games and exercises along the way. All sessions will be designed to be fun and creative, and to build social and communication skills and confidence.

In December the production will be performed at Sunnydown and at The Arc. As well as performers, we need students to help with the music and also to make props such as swords and shields. Rehearsals will be on Monday lunchtimes, with snacks and drinks provided. Please email Mrs Jensen to register your interest:

a.jensen@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

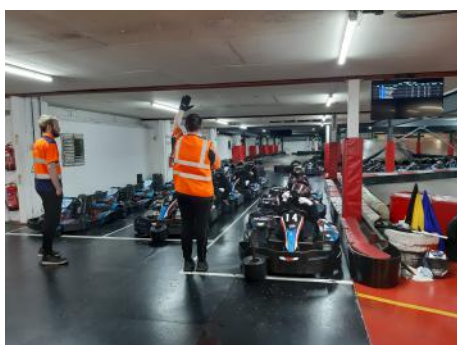
Rewarding Success - Year 11 go to Leiston Abbey

Our recent trip to Leiston Abbey was a fitting end to all of the hard work that our Year 11s have put into their time at Sunnydown.

We spent the four days enjoying activities such as Go-Karting (which highlighted some Formula One stars in the making), a trip to the cinema to see Jurassic World and an evening at the seaside eating fish and chips and ice-cream as well as having fun in the arcades.

The idyllic area in and around Leiston, including the beautiful Abbey itself, allowed us time to explore Rendlesham Forest where we did the UFO trail and watch the world go by at Thorpeness Meare Boating Lake with tea and cake. Despite having a full packed itinerary, what stood out most to all staff was the genuine friendship and laughter as the young men enjoyed the last few days in each other's company.

Not even the appearance of Sir Ralph Fiennes at breakfast on our last day (he was working in one of the studios in the Abbey) came close to easing the sadness that signalled the end of our stay and Voldermort disturbing your mouthful of cornflakes is pretty special! We did ease the pain with one last ice-cream on Aldeburgh Beach before we returned back to school happy to have had the opportunity to make some special memories.



Miss Wood, Miss Adams, Miss Derrig-Adams, Mr Thompson

Thought for the week
(W/C: 18th July)

Reflection on the year

Artist of the Week

The recipient of Artist of the Week for his fabulous puzzle construction on Monday and Tuesday is:

Alfie Tharle
(70)

House Points

Thando Po-Ba	700 House Points
George Whatling	550 House Points
Reece Wood	550 House Points
Jamie Rogers	450 House Points
Taylor Conway	400 House Points
Logan East	300 House Points
Lithar Po-Ba	250 House Points

Inter-House Results - 2021-2022

	Total no. of House points	Position
Burntwood	3407	2nd
Buxton	3559	1st
Portley	2899	4th
Whyteleafe	3240	3rd

Congratulations to Buxton!

STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

How many tips can you find?

UNSURE?
ASK A TRUSTED
ADULT

MAKE TIME FOR OTHER HOBBIES

DON'T GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFO

IGNORE TROLLS & BULLIES

WATCH OUT FOR FAKE NEWS

BE KIND

REACT AND COMMENT POSITIVELY

BUYING ONLINE? SPEED CAUTIOUSLY

REPORT BAD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

TAKE REGULAR SCREEN BREAKS

ACCEPT PEOPLE'S DIFFERENCES

THINK TWICE BEFORE POSTING

SHARE UPLIFTING CONTENT

Summer2022 Reading Achievers



100% (5 House Points)

Harvey Caruana
Luke Dean
Harry Franklin
Dominic Hanley
Alfie Monk
Jonathan Edwards
Sonny Chater
James Hall
Max Gibbons
Ollie McEvaddy
Lucas Abrams
James Dean
Josh Barnes
George Smith
Liam Tushingham
Nathan Waters



90% + (3 House Points)

Michael Hanley
Jacob Kelly
Nathan Small
Felix Drummond
Ty Small
Joshua Tucker



80% + (1 House Point)

Bailey Goodliffe
Callum Annis
Toby Chapman
Edward Gair
Harry Vaughan
Hamish Scott
Ryan Gellet
Callum Lagan
Max Maboobani
Kieran Kirk
Alexander Neale
Byron Boniface
Thando Po-Ba



Well done and congratulations to everyone who achieved an excellent reading percentage over the Summer Term. All house points will be added to your totals so far.