



Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Congratulations and thank you - to the young men, to their families, to my relentlessly positive staff and the wider Sunnydown community. Trying to capture in words the pride I feel at the end of a unique half term, reflecting on what we have collectively achieved is difficult, because it is profound and immense.

You all should feel it too.

The way that each young man has adapted to and accommodated changes to our routine due to Covid-19 is clearly evident in their levels of active engagement with learning. Even when not able to be at school for one reason or another, students have logged into their classrooms via Google and participated, many of them in full school uniform. That sense of belonging is crucial right now, as always. That is not to say there have not been moments of bad language, of rudeness, of unnecessary online communications, of emotional meltdowns and challenging behaviours in response to requests made by adults. However, what has happened in these circumstances is young men have been able to learn from such experiences. These blips have not been the normal though - what has been normal is the high levels of engagement, of politeness, of homework completion, and of active learning. Congratulations young men.

The support demonstrated by families has also been clearly evident. From understanding the need to modify our finish times at the end of each day, to embracing the new lunch ordering system, to making payments for Chromebooks, to letters and emails of support during challenging times, to the Weekend Working Bee crew and the extended Friends of Sunnydown team, the support is appreciated.

None of which has been achieved however, is possible without the incredible staff team that we have grown and nurtured here at Sunnydown. Implementing the Covid Contingency Plan, extending our online Google education offer, undertaking additional before school, break and lunch supervision has presented its challenges. However, not only have staff managed these additional responsibilities, they have continued to supervise, educate and empathise with your sons. Their dedication and commitment to education in the holistic sense of the word is undiminished and to be applauded. Thank you.

The outcome of the combined efforts of students, families and staff, all working collaboratively and cooperatively, is a successful first half of autumn term. We are safe at Sunnydown. We learn at Sunnydown. Success and enjoyment for all involved is always enhanced when we work together. Our success in achieving this is echoed in the words of Mrs Sutandra Chaterjee.

In the absence of Mr Cybuch, we had the privilege of Mrs Chaterjee for the past two weeks delivering his lessons. Mrs Chaterjee has written to the staff saying that *'it was a pleasure to work with all for these last two weeks. Although the period is brief, I felt very included. And thanks to all of you who I have exchanged a smile, or talked to to get ready advice or for the spirit of camaraderie. You all make Sunnydown what it is.'*

I wrote last week regarding the inevitability of change.

This week I write to identify two staffing changes. Both Mrs Woods (who works predominantly in Food Technology) and Mr Matthews (Maths) will leave Sunnydown at the end of the Autumn term. Much more will be said about both staff in subsequent communications, however, suffice to say that both have made a huge impact here at Sunnydown, and have contributed to its growth and development over many years. On behalf of the entire school community, I wish both Mrs Woods and Mr Matthews every success for the next stages of their respective careers.

The change of staff will cause some anxiety in some students. However, if we collectively remind one another that the standard of education has remained exceptional at Sunnydown over many years with many previous changes to staff and students, then all students can remain focussed on their learning. Perhaps reflecting on the sentiments in the opening page of this newsletter will help.

Of course with the departure of these staff, opportunities arise for others. An advertisement for a Maths teacher has already been published with interviews to take place after half term. Our intention is to fill both vacancies with the quality of education staff that we have become accustomed to here at Sunnydown.

On Monday evening this week I had the privilege of being joined by the boarders near the BBQ Hut for a small bonfire. Following their supper all of the students engaged in a treasure hunt, coordinated by Miss Kiddier. This area will continue to be transformed over half term in preparation for the DIY classes run by Mr Moody to complete some paving.

**Returning to school in November, we have an Inset day on Monday 2nd November. Students return to school on Tuesday 3rd November, following the Monday timings. That is, students and taxis should arrive between 9.00am and 9.30am with students prepared to follow the subjects of a Tuesday timetable.**

Attached to the newsletter today are the following documents, all updated to accommodate any new guidance and experience from the first half of Autumn term. All changes from previous documents are in **bold green text** to draw your attention to these areas.

- School Day - From November 2020 - Notes - V4 - 23.10.2020
- School Timetable
- Remote Learning Contingency Plan
- Arrival/departure at school for parents dropping children off

These should be carefully considered in conjunction with our robust Risk Assessment which is a live document, available on our website in the Covid-19 specific tab. **The Guidance for Full Opening of Schools (Updated 22nd October 2020) explains that it continues to be the aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time throughout the Autumn term.**

I am already looking forward to the start of the second half of Autumn term, but wish you a restful and safe half term for the moment.

Paul Jensen

**Parent Meeting dates**



Opportunities for parents to meet with staff are considered very important at Sunnydown. We schedule three such events for Year 7, and two such evenings for all other year levels. The dates for the Spring term meetings are below. Please understand that the format for these may need to be modified from what we are previously used to.

Year 7 families had their first event on Wednesday night via Google Meets and it appears that the technology worked fine, and that the overwhelming messages from families was how pleased they are with progress to date.

Families are reminded that as a school, even outside of these more formal scheduled meetings, form tutors, teachers, the care and pastoral team can be contacted by phone and email. Mr Jensen and Mr Lord also make themselves available to meet with families.

13.01.2021 - Year 9 and 10

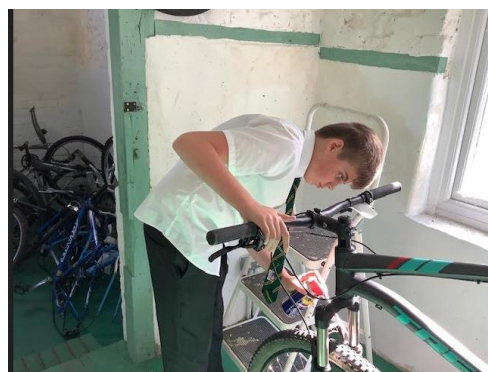
20.01.2021 - Year 11

27.01.2021 - Year 8

03.02.2021 - Year 7

### **Bike Maintenance**

Thanks to the kind donations of the local community we have a number of bikes in varying conditions. Two of our Year 8s, Jamie Rogers and Joshua Benton have expressed an interest in improving their bike maintenance skills and have given up their time to help repair some of our collection of bicycles. Each student is given a specific target in getting additional bikes ready for our pupils to use. Thanks to their efforts, we have another fully functioning bike ready to ride with more on the way. Well done boys and thanks to the Friends of Sunnydown and the local community for their gifts. Please keep them coming.



**Mr Odia**

### **House Activities**

It was amazing to observe the KS3 boys this morning joining in with the House Point activities arranged by Mr Wright. These included draughts on the undercover giant board (constructed by the boys) where



they also had access to hot chocolate, Kahoot - The Big Sunnydown Quiz, Stacker Cups and lemonade Stand, an outdoor game called 40/40 and football, and dodgeball in the gym. It is genuinely amazing at what can be achieved even under the restrictions of social distancing when activities are well planned and carefully considered. Congratulations to all that participated and thank you to Mr Wright for arranging.

### **School Lunches - Autumn Second Half Term 2020**

(Tuesday 3rd November - Friday 18th December 2020)

The cost of lunches for this half term is:      £81.60 if not boarding  
   £50.40 if boarding Mon and Tues  
   £49.35 if boarding Weds and Thurs

For full time boarders, we ask for a contribution equivalent to the cost of a school lunch (£2.40 per day = £81.60).

Payment can be made for the full half term, weekly (£12.00 per week) or on a daily basis (£2.40 per day).

Where there is a debit or credit on your account, you will receive an additional reconciliation letter. If you do not receive a letter, please refer to the amounts above. Payment should be made online via ParentMail.

**We have been trialling a new system for paying for school lunches with some pupils. We are hoping to switch to this system after the Christmas break so will forward details to you nearer the time. The new system will allow you to see your individual balance on ParentMail and will alert you if your balance falls below a certain amount.**

School Fund - **All** pupils are asked for a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per half term.

Food Technology - **All** pupils are asked for a contribution of £20.00 per term. This is available to pay for online under 'Consumables'.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Miss Lawson**

### **Chromebooks**

Part of our collective success (students, families and school) has been the distribution and use of the Chromebooks. The support families have already shown through contributions to the Chromebook payment scheme has been overwhelming. Thank you. By way of reminder, those families who would like to discuss any aspect of the scheme, including difficulties paying, are welcome to contact the school to discuss.

### **Humanities**

As part of their Humanities lesson, Year 8 students were treated to a medieval talk from Tom Jennings, who regularly takes part in medieval re-enactments and has done so for the past 25 years. Tom's talk was on medieval armour, clothes and weapons. It was great to actually see a full suit of armour (weighing 4 stone in total) and replicas of weapons that the knights would use in battle.







## Halloween Fun

Any youngsters wanna have some Halloween fun? £8 for a family ticket. Lots of £5 Amazon prizes - fancy dress, pumpkin carving, 2 x prizes per Bingo game. In aid of Kaleidoscope - supporting families with autistic children. Book in via [www.caterhamrotary.org.uk](http://www.caterhamrotary.org.uk)



## Surrey Arts Newsletter

Please see the link below to the Surrey Arts Autumn edition of their Newsletter:

<https://scc.newsweaver.co.uk/SurreyArtsNewsletterSummer2017/1ijp1c8ev3o1mustan46hg?email=true&lang=en&a=11&p=58040063>

## Donation from Morrisons

We had a visit from Jacqui Dance at Morrisons on Tuesday with 24 tubes of Smarties for the young men! Jacqui is based at the Morrisons in Caterham Valley and met with Mr Lord and Mrs McCarthy. Hopefully we can build on the relationship with Morrisons as they could be a great help with life skills for pupils at Sunnysdown. Below is a photo of Jacqui and Mr Lord with the Smarties.





## **Research Projects**

At Sunnydown School, we are proud to be involved in research projects at leading universities and are pleased to be able to offer you that opportunity again. Researchers at King's College London are looking for autistic and non-autistic children (aged 10-16) to take part in a new study called C-MAPS, which aims to map children's profiles of cognition, motivation and attention. This research will help us to better understand children's social and emotional development and ultimately help those who might be experiencing difficulties.

For parents, it involves completing some short questionnaires, which are expected to take 20-30 minutes. For children, it involves trying out some interactive science activities online - these can be done in 1 or 2 separate sessions, both lasting around 30 minutes.

Children will receive tokens for a raffle to win Amazon vouchers (1 x £100, 5 x £50, 10 x £30). All families that take part will get an educational newsletter that explains why it's important to understand things like emotion and attention, and includes some fun science-themed activities for the whole family to do together!

Please have a look at the attached poster at the end of the newsletter. Please also have a read of the published document from the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, written by Researcher Dr Hannah Pickard, who conducted much of her research here at Sunnydown last year. The document will be uploaded to our website.

Sign up here [https://kclbs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6rRTemifHg5Ycct](https://kclbs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6rRTemifHg5Ycct)

If you have any questions, please email: [cmaps-study@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:cmaps-study@kcl.ac.uk) or Mrs Jensen.

### **Chef of the Week**

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is Nathan Small (7D).

### **Boarding News**

It has been lovely to see residential opening its doors again this half term. These 4 weeks have flown by and although it has been a little different, we have still managed to have some fun! This week has been all about Halloween and we have done treasure hunts, spooky baking, quizzes and films. It was also great to see Clare, our pupil advocate, albeit over a Google meet, on Tuesday.

Have a fabulous half term.

The Care Team

### **Thought for THIS week was: Personal identity**

Here is 8C's summary of the Thought for the Week



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### **100% Attendance**

Congratulations to 8M for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 16th October 2020.

### **Word of the Week**

**Pelagic (adjective)** – please see end of newsletter (w/c 2nd November 2020).

Mrs Palmer

### **Thought for NEXT week (after half term): Movember**

Across the world, men die on average six years younger than women, and for reasons that are largely preventable. Which means that it doesn't have to be that way: we can all take action to live healthier,

happier and longer lives. Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health, funding groundbreaking projects all over the world, engaging men to understand what works best and accelerate change.

Mr Cassim

### **Science guess the picture competition**

Picture of the week is shown below. Last week's answer was a Beluga whale named Tyonek (eggplant fish), there were no winners.



Mr Djehiche

### **Friends of Sunnydown**

There's exactly one school week to go until THE quiz event of the year - the 'Friends of Sunnydown Quiz Night' on 6th November. Tickets are selling out fast and spaces are limited, so be sure to get yours. There is a maximum of 8 people per team, which should be made up of one household. You are able to book and arrange payment online. The booking link is <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

We also have the Smartie Challenge over half term - plenty of time for the boys to munch their way through their giant tubes and for them to refill with coins please, and return to school by 6th November. Don't forget there is a chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher - the winner will be drawn on 11th November. Please put your son's name and class on the label when returning.

Thank you to the new members of 'Amazon Smile' who have signed up to the Sunnydown page. If you haven't had a chance to sign up, please consider doing so - particularly with the festive season fast approaching! By signing up to this on Amazon, it will mean that Sunnydown will receive a small donation for every shop you make - at no cost to you!

The Friends of Sunnydown greatly appreciate any donations you are able to contribute to our raffles - this could be anything from the traditional bottles of wine, games or vouchers to more creative ideas such as offers of car washing, dog walking or even a window clean! Thank you.

Melanie Bridges  
[friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)

### **KS3 Friday Curriculum - 6th November 2020**

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Activity
7D	School project	On site	School uniform
7T	Food	On site	School uniform



8C	Performing Arts	On site	School uniform
8M	Performing Arts	On site	School uniform
9J	Outdoor Adventurous Activities	On site/Kenley	Arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes for cycling activity
9P	Outdoor Adventurous Activities	On site/Kenley	Arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes for cycling activity

### **House Points**

Certificates and prizes for earning House Points this week go to:

Lucas Abrams	250 House Points
Harvey Moore	400 House Points

The weekly top scorers are detailed below:

KS3	Burntwood	Taylor Conway
	Buxton	Kieran Kirk
	Portley	AJ Harper
	Whyteleafe	Max Gibbins/Andrew Hendry Smith/Jamie Rogers/Callum Lagan/James Millar
KS4	Burntwood	George Hodgson/David Daruval
	Buxton	Daniel Linney
	Portley	Leon Punjabi
	Whyteleafe	Kal-El Harris/Mason-Ray Hayden/Max Thwaites

Word of the week w/c 2nd November 2020

# Pelagic

adjective

Relating to the open sea



The albatross is a pelagic bird



Bluefin tuna are pelagic fish







# Mapping the profiles of cognition, motivation and attention in childhood

## What is it about?

In this study, we are interested in understanding why young people might act differently from each other in social situations.

**We are interested in exploring the effects of these differences in young people with and without a diagnosis of autism.**



## Who can take part?

**Do you live in the UK?**

**Is your child between 10 and 16 years old?**

**Are they able to complete some fun activities on the computer?**

If you answered yes, great news! You and your child can take part!

## What's involved?

**Step 1:** Parents will complete some questionnaires (30 minutes)

**Step 2:** Young people will complete some activities on the computer. These can be done in one or two short sessions (30 minutes each).

**Your child will receive raffle tokens and be in for a chance to win some amazing vouchers: 1 x £100, 5 x £50 and 10 x £30!**



## How can you join?

**To sign up for the study, just click on the link below:**

[Sign up here!](#)

Once you've signed up, we will send you a link where your child can complete the online activities! If you have any questions, please email us: [cmaps-study@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:cmaps-study@kcl.ac.uk)

This study has been approved by King's College London (HR-19/20-17193) and the University of Bath (20-199). For any concerns email [psychology-ethics@bath.ac.uk](mailto:psychology-ethics@bath.ac.uk)

