

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

Portley House, 152 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5ED

t. 01883 342281 / 346502 f. 01883 341342

e. office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

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



Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

The Baton is a weekly award and recognises one instance of a young person demonstrating qualities that we encourage in all our students. It could be persevering with a difficult task, helping a mate, showing great resilience or even showing empathy to another person. Though it is usually awarded to a single person, it can be awarded to a group. When there are many nominations, we may mention all of them, but again only award the Baton to one instance.

The Baton itself is a relay baton from the 2012 Olympic games and is awarded weekly during Friday assembly. Whoever receives this award comes to the front of the assembly, listens to the story of why they were awarded the Baton, and then keeps it safe for the week before returning it for the next presentation. Receiving the Baton is a huge honour to be aspired to and I express my congratulations to all students who are able to receive this acclaimed recognition.

Visit by Sandra Morrison, Jim Nunns and Kate Nicholson (SCC)

Assistant Directors for Inclusion and Additional Needs Sandra Morrison, Jim Nunns and Kate Nicholson visited Sunnydown today. We started with a warm drink in the BBQ Hut with the fire on, and then toured the school visiting several classes. We saw towers being built, books being read, and games being played with all students actively engaged in their tasks. Our visitors also commented on the quality of the DIY projects around the school including the sensory garden near the BBQ Hut. They took the opportunity of photographing our wallabies (who continue to settle in very well). When I explained that we also have our very own cycle mechanic workshop and burger van, they commented on the array of opportunities all students who attend Sunnydown have.

We discussed EHCPs and the process to review them, transport, the process to become an academy (no decision has been made in that regard for Sunnydown to date) and the possibility of Sunnydown expanding.

Our visitors left feeling very reassured of the quality of education being received here at Sunnydown, and impressed with the behaviour and levels of engagement of all students they were introduced to.

Visits like this are such a pleasure, only made possible through the hard work of my entire staff team, and the trust that students and their families place in us to help them through their 5 year journey at Sunnydown. Thank you to one and all.

Communication and Interaction

Sunnydown is classified as a Communication and Interaction Needs (CoIN) school, often associated with Autism (ASD). We are not a school that specialises in difficult behaviours.

On occasion, some students will demonstrate some challenging behaviours, but these are often able to be explained or understood in the context of the difficulties that child has with communication.

Some behaviours that are causing concern currently are bad language, rudeness to staff and disengagement from lessons and learning.

Please don't be offended if you receive a phone call regarding the behaviour of your son. We are simply sharing our observations. Inappropriate behaviour will always be addressed, and where necessary sanctions put in place. Your support in understanding what we are trying to achieve, and discouraging inappropriate behaviour, is appreciated.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Open Day at Godstone Fire Station – Open for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from 11am

On Saturday 1st October, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will be hosting their Service Open Day at Godstone Fire Station.

The open day officially starts at midday, but doors will be opening early to allow those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to attend from 11am. Please bear in mind that the doors will open to the public at midday and these events are often very busy and noisy.

Food Lessons

This is a reminder that all students should have their cooking hats and aprons for their weekly Food & Nutrition lessons. Many students are arriving without them on a regular basis. If replacements are required, these can be purchased from the school office.

Additionally can any plastic boxes which come home with the students cooking creations in, be cleaned and returned to school as soon as possible. We have now run out of our supplies.

Mrs Hull

Friends of Sunnydown

Friends of Sunnydown AGM - This will be held on 20th October. All are welcome, including new members.

Quiz Night - *Save the date* - our quiz night is back on Friday 11th November! We look forward to seeing you at this popular event, hopefully also extending a warm welcome to our new Year 7 parents and students. Further details to follow shortly.

SunnyFest - A music festival for the wider community will be held here at school on Saturday 3rd June 2023.

Golf day at Foxhills (Farleigh) will be held on Tuesday 6th June. Please save the date and support all FoS initiatives. More information will be published in coming weeks.

Unique Art Awards

We are very proud of our students who did really well at the Unique Art awards on Friday -

- Teddy Foster (9D) gained 2nd place for photography and Alexander Hennessy (10M) gained 3rd place!
- George Whatling (10M) received 3rd place for his digital art, but was unable to attend the presentation.



All boys received a voucher for an art shop. Below are photos from the event.



Surrey College Open days 2022-23

Please see the dates below for local college open days. We recommend that all Year 10 and 11 students endeavour to visit a couple of colleges to support their transition to Post 16 education. The colleges usually host a second series of open days in the new year. This is not an extensive list so please check any additional local colleges websites for details of their open day events.

College	Location	Date of open days
East Surrey College	Redhill	Wednesday 21st September
NESCOT	Ewell & Epsom	Wed 28th September Sat 15th October Wed 23rd November
Reigate College	Reigate	Tuesday 4th October
Brooklands College	Ashford	Thursday 6th October Thursday 23rd February
	Weybridge	Tuesday 11th October Saturday 19th November
Merrist Wood	Worplesdon, Guildford	Wednesday 5th October
Guildford College	Guildford	Wednesday 12th October

Year 11 - College applications

Y11 will be afforded a Post 16 transition meeting this term to support them and their transition to the right Post 16 placement. Colleges recommend that applications are made before Christmas as courses can fill up. Please don't worry if you haven't submitted an application by then as colleges are open to applications as late as the summer holidays. The students will also have the opportunity to engage in a practice interview here at Sunnydown with our Finance Officer.

Year 10 - Work Experience

Schools no longer have an obligation to incorporate Work Experience placements at KS4 however we at Sunnydown value the impact it can have and encourage all pupils to take up the opportunity. It can have an extremely positive impact on classroom performance in year 11 as many of the pupils will have a clearer idea of what they want to do and crucially what they need to attain to achieve their goals. Tutors have been discussing potential placements with pupils since the beginning of the year and most have an idea of what they would like to do.

Arranging the placement is a parental responsibility but we are happy to support you with ideas and contacts if required. Usually students will look to find a placement in their local area. Due to the challenges we have all faced with Covid we appreciate that 5 day placements may be a challenge to negotiate with employers, therefore we suggest students aim to complete one or a series of the following options:

1. A traditional 5 day placement with a single employer.
2. A couple of one day placements in different settings.
3. A day job shadowing a family member or parent.
4. **Work experience dates:** Monday 5th June (after the summer half term).

House Points - Certificates issued next week	
Liam Tushingham	750 House Points
Alex Hennessy	650 House Points
Tomas Bodkin	650 House Points
Andrew Hendry-Smith	500 House Points
Harry Vaughan	350 House Points
Edward Gair	350 House Points

House Points (W/C: 12 th September) - Certificates issued next week	
George Smith	650 House Points
Alexander Neale	600 House Points
Max Mahboobani	600 House Points
Edward Bridges-Pugh	600 House Points
Byron Boniface	600 House Points
James Millar	500 House Points

Freddie Phillips	450 House Points
Varen Estwick	450 House Points
Jayden Smurthwaite	400 House Points
James Hall	400 House Points
Ollie Taylor	300 House Points
Antony Harper	300 House Points
Toby Chapman	300 House Points
Sonny Chater	250 House Points
Michael Hanley	200 House Points

<p><u>Thought for the week</u> (W/C: 19th September)</p> <p>Resilience - What does it look like? How can we develop it?</p>	<p><u>Thought for the week</u> (W/C: 26th September)</p> <p>The REST strategy - How it helps and working together</p>
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<p><u>Mathematician of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipients of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch & Mr Zadok are:</p> <p>Ollie Taylor (80) Liam Tushingham (11P)</p>	<p><u>Scientist of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week for independence is:</p> <p>James Millar (10C)</p>	<p><u>Artist of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for his effort with homework & in lessons is:</p> <p>Alexander Neale (10M)</p>	<p><u>Chef of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Chef of the Week for being focused and independent is:</p> <p>Jonathan Edwards (80)</p>	<p><u>Musician of the Week</u></p> <p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is:</p> <p>Kamauri Craig (7C)</p>
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as ‘servers’. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It’s a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it’s also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren’t taken.

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as "NSFW" require users to be 18 or older to join.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur — especially as audio and video streams appear once they're added, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly accessed, talking about what they're servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

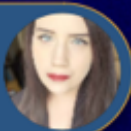
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmmv.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations — including the metaverse and Web3 — are impacting people, places and things.



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#WakeUpWednesday