

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 24th September 2021

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Teaching staff meet weekly on Wednesday afternoon. Often there are tasks to be undertaken around reporting or planning, or information to be disseminated around topics like safeguarding or new curriculum developments, or even changes to school routine due to Covid or other change forces.

This week the floor was open for staff to ask questions about anything. Some of the topics raised included the future direction of Sunnydown and staff work. However, the overwhelming focus was student and staff wellbeing. This is testimony to the level of care my staff have for your son.

When staff reported that some students appeared to be using colourful language more often, it was not followed by “What sanctions do we need to put in place?” but by “What is that young person actually trying to communicate?” and “What can we do to help him?” This compassionate, empathetic level of reflection abounds at Sunnydown.

Regarding bad language, as a whole school we will continue to have very high expectations regarding how young people speak with one another and to adults and we ask families to support us in this regard. When events do occur, they will be addressed by staff and records kept, so that the Pastoral Team can monitor and provide additional support where necessary.

Swearing is one sign that a student may be unsettled. Withdrawing from lessons is another. If a student has a valid emotional reason for not being able to be in a lesson, they can use the ReST strategy where they come out of the lesson for 5 minutes. Staff may ask students to take a ReST if they recognise behaviours that warrant it. In some cases, the Pastoral Team will support the young person to help them better understand their situation, their emotions and reasons for not being in a lesson. Where a valid reason cannot be established, it may be that a senior leader decides that the student will need to complete the work during lunch. We are after all a school and our core responsibility is to educate.

Throughout episodes of swearing or an inability to go to class as discussed above, and indeed in all situations, we expect young men to have and demonstrate respect for the adults working with them. During the staff meeting, it was acknowledged that our young men, all young people across the country actually, have had a very rough 18 months and we will continue to see behaviours that could be attributed to the impact of Covid.

For example, our current Year 8 students have not physically been at Sunnydown for a full year, they do not know all of the routines yet. In many circumstances, the new Year 7 students are at an advantage because they have arrived and school is pretty much back to normal. They know no different and are adapting well. Our current Year 9 students have had a very unsettled Year 7 and Year 8 because of Covid. However, with some intense support during the second half of summer, and with much of this continuing now, many staff were able to comment on their high levels of maturity and resilience in this group. This is a clear demonstration that when school, family and the young people themselves work closely together, great things can be achieved.

Please do understand our philosophy and our approach. We are a school and we are charged with providing an excellent education, and we do. When a young person is not in the right frame of mind to learn, support is offered. This can range from making sure a hungry child is fed, a thirsty child is given a drink, an emotional child is allowed to shed some tears, a child who has a wet uniform from the rain will be given a dry set of clothes. We will look after your son professionally and in a caring manner. This is all focused on supporting your sons to learn and in this endeavour, our efforts are being doubled and should be considered relentlessly positive.

Thank you to those families who understand our approach and support us in maintaining our standards and expectations. Your sentiments when shared via email or phone call are always shared with my team as a reminder that their efforts do not go unrewarded.

Mrs McCarthy (HLTA) has reported that many TAs on duty have said how pleasing it has been to see all year groups interacting at break and lunch times now that the bubbles have gone. Watching different year groups actively enjoying playing basketball together at lunchtime this week was a delight to see.

Also on Wednesday evening we had the privilege of being invited to supply burgers to the local community volunteers who all contributed to the Covid response. This was organised by volunteers from The Westway. I spoke to people who had taken leave from work to buy groceries for elderly folks, others who had driven community vehicles to deliver food parcels and PPE, nurses who had worked double shifts to support the vaccination programme, ambulance officers who continue to be busy and members of the public who had received support from volunteers. Many of those I spoke to were able to reply with great gratitude for their free burger, but also in recognising that it was Sunnydown who provided regular cakes and soups and goodies to various organisations throughout the Covid response. We are a central part of our local community, held in incredibly high regard.

As many of my team and families and young people prepare to work hard on Saturday in preparation for the arrival of our chickens, I am further reminded that Sunnydown is an exceptional school. I trust that this sense of pride emanates from you as well, and radiates at every opportunity. If you have not registered, we will not have catered for you, so please enjoy a lie in rather than just turning up.

The mental health of our young men is a paramount concern. We are always exploring ways to reduce anxieties, build resilience and nurture. Sometimes, we share links to resources that may be of some help to the young men and families when things are not going well. Surrey County Council have recently launched a website with a great deal of easily accessible information regarding mental health. The link to Mind Works is below, and I strongly encourage all families to visit the site and explore the resources that are available.

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Jensen



100% Attendance

Congratulations to 7N & 7O for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 17th September 2021.

E-Safety

As the new iPhone is released today, we would like to remind the adults who care for the young men of Sunnydown how to change the settings on an iPhone to ensure they are safe online. The attached PDF will highlight some of the key settings that can be changed to limit the activity on an iPhone.

AUP reminder

This is just a reminder to complete and return the Acceptable Use Policy form, which was sent out via Parentmail at the beginning of term.

Mr Cybuch

Friends of Sunnydown

The Friends of Sunnydown are committed to helping the school by organising activities to raise funds and would welcome help from new members! If you are interested in joining us, please email: Friends@Sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

By way of reminder, the Weekend Working Bee is taking place tomorrow, 25th September. This is to help prepare to welcome some new guests - chickens and potentially goats! Thank you to all who have offered their time.

If you haven't already done so, do check out our Friends of Sunnydown Facebook page which is full of information and an excellent place to connect with fellow parents.

50/50 Club winners - Congratulations! The winning numbers for this month are as follows:

1st Prize - 297

2nd Prize - 196

Friends of Sunnydown

<u>Chef of the Week</u> The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is: Ben Tushingham (11Z)	<u>Scientist of the Week</u> The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for resilience is: Thomas Monfort (11Z)	<u>Artist of the Week</u> The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle and Miss Adams for his fantastic effort with his cubist sculpture is: James Dean (9M)
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<u>Thought for this week</u> (W/C: 20th September) <u>Emotions - what are they? Are they important?</u> Mental health is a person's condition, and control over emotions. Being upset or angry is not good for your mental health. You have to be mentally stable. Sometimes you are naturally sad and/or angry. It is also very important to feel your emotions. We must remember that sadness, for example, is sad, but necessary. Using The Learning Pit is a wonderful metaphor for emotions. Emotional intelligence is about understanding emotions, and dealing with emotions. Thando Po-Ba	<u>Thought for next week</u> (W/C: 27th September) <u>The REST strategy - How it helps & working together</u>
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Friday Curriculum

01/10/21			
Class	Activity	On/Off site	Information
7N	RICE Challenge	On site	School Uniform with trainers to change into.
7O	RICE Challenge	On site	School Uniform with trainers to change into.
8D	School Project	On site	School Uniform. Please bring Trainers/shoes for working as well.
8T	Food Experience	Pizza Making and Tesco trip	School Uniform.
9M	Humanities	Spartacus Experience on site	School Uniform.
9C	Humanities	Spartacus Experience on site	School Uniform.

House Points

Nathan Waters	500 House Points
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Link to Sunnydown Form Page for all other updates:

<https://sites.google.com/sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk/sunnydown-learning-hub/home>

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for PRIVACY iPhone



The privacy settings on your child's Apple device give you control over the information stored on it. This allows you to select which apps can access features and information on your child's device: for example, you might wish to block a social networking app from connecting to the camera reel, or specify which apps can use the device's location data.

How to make changes to privacy settings

You can block certain apps from obtaining information from your child's device. You can also prevent your child (or anyone other than you) from altering these settings.

1 Open 'Settings'

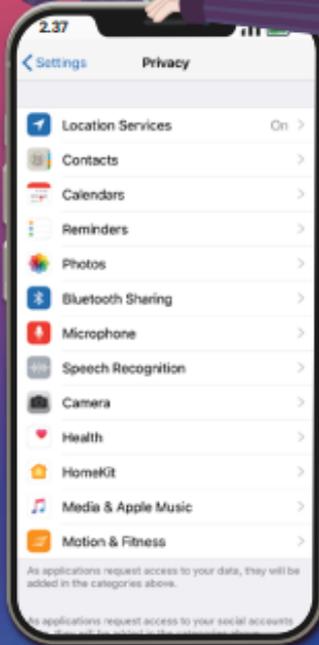
2 Tap 'Screen Time'

3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'

4 Scroll to 'Privacy'

5 Choose the settings you wish to restrict

6 After you've made any changes, select 'Use Screen Time Passcode' to lock your changes with a PIN



How to prevent changes to other settings/features

You can also stop changes being made to the iPhone's other settings or features by anyone but you. For example, you can prevent your child from altering their passcode, accounts or mobile data settings.

1 Open 'Settings'

2 Tap 'Screen Time'

3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'

4 Scroll to 'Allow Changes'

5 Select 'Allow' or 'Don't Allow' on the settings for which you wish to enable or disable changes

