

# SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

With only a few weeks of autumn term ahead of us, I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the staff here at Sunnydown.

Under complex circumstances they continue to turn up to work day in day out, and deliver exceptional educational opportunities for your son, while keeping them safe, warm and well fed. I intend to address some of these complex circumstances in our weekly newsletter, asking for your support and understanding as we address each of them together.

To help Sunnydown continue to maintain the high standards expected of us, we need your support and understanding and that of your son. Last week I addressed harmful sexualised behaviours.

### **This week I remind our community that students are expected to speak politely.**

We expect your son to speak politely to staff and peers at all times. It is crucial to acknowledge that the vast majority of young men who attend Sunnydown meet this expectation every day. For this, we are grateful and appreciative. We will endeavour to recognise and champion this more frequently.

However, the impolite communications that we do observe among a small but impactful percentage of students includes referring to staff by their first name, swearing directly at them, making comments about personal appearance and ignoring polite instructions and offers of support. On occasion students use adjectives to describe staff in a negative way like “idiot” or “you are stupid,” this is particularly evident when a student does not get his own way or does not like the subject or the work set. Sunnydown is a school first and foremost.

### **Most young men who attend Sunnydown demonstrate appropriate and polite communication at all times.**

However, it is a fact that some of your sons swear and use vulgar language and the other impolite actions listed above. This negative behaviour has an impact on other students and has the potential to disrupt learning. Students do not learn to speak in this way from staff, and I am very confident that they are not taught to do so by parents. Where they learn this is complex, but likely a combination of from peers, older siblings, movies, social media and YouTube to suggest several avenues.

As we are a Special school for communication difficulties, we expect some exhibition of behaviour that is affronting. However, we will never condone it and will always expect a young person to reflect and learn. We will of course apply context to a situation and recognise the needs of each student.

How can you help the expectations of polite interactions to be demonstrated at Sunnydown even more often? In essence by understanding that no school holds all the answers and that working together increases the chances of

meeting the expectations. All students have an EHCP at Sunnydown, and all of them identify CoIN as an area of need. Communication is a complex social interaction, one that even neurotypical humans get wrong on occasion.

To those families of children who fit into the group of polite young men which make up a majority of the school, please talk to your son and congratulate him. Please encourage him to speak to an adult at school when he observes impolite language and interactions. Please help him understand that other students have different needs and limitations, but that impolite interactions of others will be addressed.

To those families that we need to contact because of how your son has spoken, please understand that we are neither displacing responsibility nor blaming you when a member of staff calls you to share this information. While it may not be a welcome message, possibly embarrassing, we are simply relaying back to you, your son's exhibited behaviour. Your son is responsible for this behaviour and by working together, we can help your son understand this, and over time, manage it himself. In conversation with your son please remind him that he is not to address staff by their first name (with the exception of Gabe who works for Greenhouse). Further, discuss this with your son and remind him that he is responsible for his own behaviour and that no context condones inappropriate interaction with staff and peers.

From a school's perspective, we are committed to listening to students and their experiences. We will also address negative interactions and put in place sanctions where necessary. Importantly however, we will endeavour to support all students to understand their own needs and their responsibility to manage their own interactions, improving over time.

Next week I will address the fact that Sunnydown is a school and as such, students are expected to be in lessons and complete set tasks to the best of their ability.

Have a sensational weekend. Though I do not follow football closely, I wish for a weekend of quality sport where the best team wins and all play is in the spirit of the game.

## Online Safety

Please see the flier attached to this newsletter - What Parents Need to Know about Social Media & Mental Health.

## Friends of Sunnydown

**Donation day** - The Christmas shopping day for the boys is drawing nearer - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. We have had a lovely selection of gifts that have been donated this morning - thank you! There is still another donation day - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - so please dig out any unwanted gifts, sealed chocolates (if there is such a thing) - we would gladly take them off your hands!

**Helpers** - Can you help for our Christmas shopping day? Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, can you spare a couple of hours to help us with wrapping for the boys? If you can please email: [friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)

**Snow day** - We are very excited that the snow day will return! The snow machine will be out for the boys to enjoy a fun filled morning of snowball fights on the last day of term. We are asking for a £5 donation which will go towards the purchase of this. Here's the link to make your donation:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

Lastly, a reminder that the Christmas staff fund is now open. If you would like to contribute so that we can

thank all of our staff this Christmas then follow this link:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

### Christmas Jumper Day Friday 9th December

Please feel free to wear your Christmas jumper on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December which coincides with the FoS donation day.

Keep those jumpers nearby as you are welcome to wear them again on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December which is our whole school Christmas lunch.

### Latest news from East Surrey College

Please see the East Surrey College newsletter attached separately.

### Friday Curriculum - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

A timetable of events will follow next week.

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	<u>Chef of the Week</u>	<u>Musician of the Week</u>	<u>Artist of the Week (11/11)</u>
The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mr Zadok for improved results in assessments is	The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova for resilience & independence is	The recipient of Chef of the Week awarded by Mrs Hull for progress and perseverance is	The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is	The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for amazing typography and text imagery is
<b>James Dean (10M)</b>	<b>Zac Hoad (7W)</b>	<b>Taylor Conway (9T)</b>	<b>Ethan Lyons (7W)</b>	<b>Charlie McSorley (9D)</b>
The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch for resilience is	The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for resilience is			
<b>Jonathan Edwards (80)</b>	<b>Finley Marley (9T)</b>			

<p><b><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Antony Harper (9T)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Employability Skills Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Josh Barnes (11P)</b></p> <p>For using his initiative &amp; being self-motivated</p>
<p><b><u>Baton for the Week</u></b></p> <p><b>Dominic Hanley (8M)</b></p> <p>For supporting a friend through a difficult moment and for displaying excellent leadership in newspaper club</p>	

**Song of the Week**

Song of the Week was nominated by Mrs Campbell: KT Tunstall, Suddenly I see (2004).

**Mrs Cybuch**

<p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b> <b>(W/C: 28th November )</b></p> <p>Racism- respecting differences</p>	<p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b> <b>(W/C: 5<sup>th</sup> November)</b></p> <p>Role Models - How do others see us? How do we want to be seen?</p>
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<b><u>House Points (certificates will go out on Monday)</u></b>	
Josh Barnes	900 House Points
Ty Small	650 House Points
Felix Drummond	600 House Points
George Whatling	600 House Points
James Millar	550 House Points
Harvey Caruana	350 House Points
Dominic Hanley	300 House Points
Finley Marley	300 House Points
Michael Hanley	250 House Points
Noah Atkins	100 House Points
Kamauri Craig	100 House Points
Callum Truttero	100 House Points

