

# SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to hear the corridors buzzing with excitement this week as students discuss our upcoming residential trips. Anticipation is building as Year 11 look forward to Henley Fort before half term, Year 10 prepare for Sayers Croft, and our Year 9 students eagerly plan for their summer residential and not forgetting the ski trip in January. These conversations serve as a lovely reminder of how much our students value these opportunities to challenge themselves, build friendships and create lasting memories beyond the classroom.

We are also approaching the thrilling conclusion of the KS3 and KS4 Inter-House Badminton competitions. We have seen some incredible matches so far, and we wish the best of luck to Buxton's Zack and Whyteleafe's Frankie—the reigning champion—who will meet in the KS3 final. With the staff tournament commencing soon, we look forward to hosting all three finals in front of the whole school on a Friday afternoon. It promises to be a fantastic celebration of competitive sport and school spirit.

**Mr Wright**

## Jacob Kelly - 1,000 House Points

Jacob's transformation over his five years here has been nothing short of incredible but throughout it all, he has remained polite, positive and committed to the RICE<sup>3</sup> values that Sunnydown holds dear. He is conscientious and methodical in the way he approaches every situation whilst continuously having a zest for life that you cannot help but be influenced by. Jacob has truly left his mark on the school by displaying his drawings everywhere, including all the pictures of staff in the staffroom, which we have no doubt will remain after he moves on to college next year. Everyone who is involved with Sunnydown knows Jacob; he greets guests, speaks to all staff and engages in as many of the extra school experiences he can. This dedicated attitude towards life as a Sunnydown student has meant that Jacob has well deservedly earned 1,000 Housepoints! We are all extremely proud of Jacob and know that he and his family will be too.

**Miss Newcombe/Mr Lord**

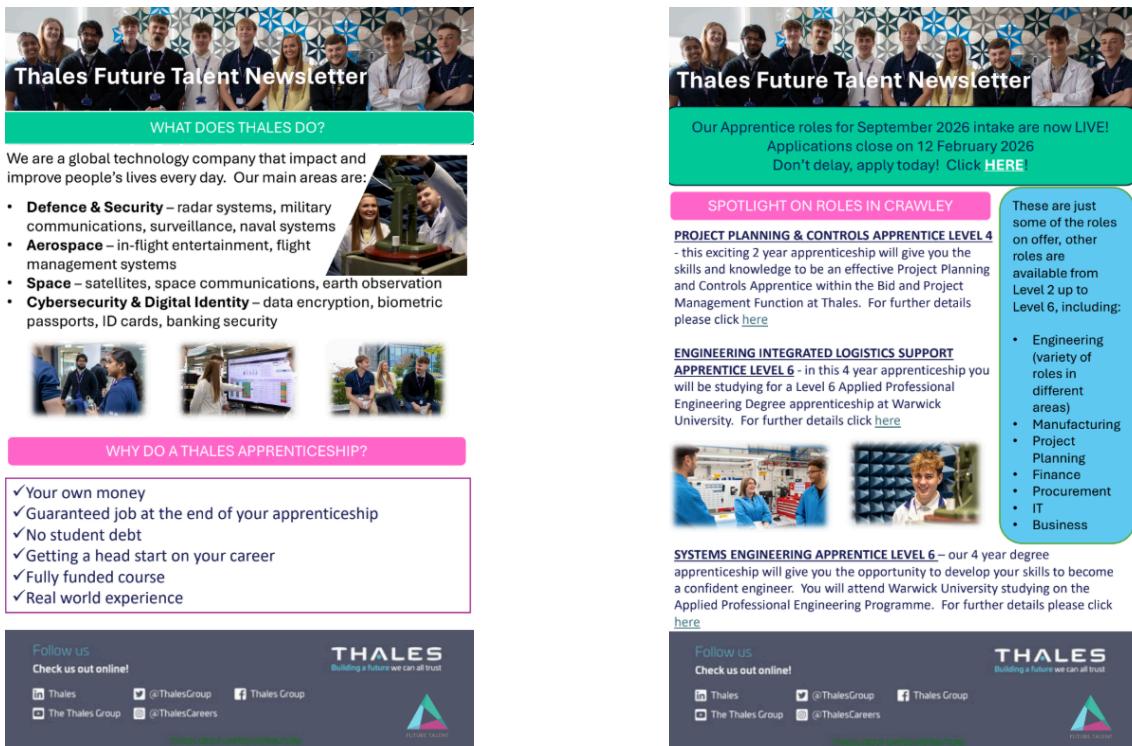
## Parents' Coffee Morning - 11<sup>th</sup> February (10.00am - 11.30am)

Dr Cath Stracey will be joining us again on 11<sup>th</sup> February for a Coffee Morning. As many of you may be aware Cath is an Educational Psychologist who works for the Surrey NHS Foundation Trust and is a great source of knowledge and experience for us as a school. Families will receive a ParentMail letter regarding the morning which gives you an opportunity to book a place. In the letter there is also the opportunity to offer questions and topics that can be considered and therefore covered throughout the morning. At the last gathering we covered ADHD and PDA. It is possible there will be some more discussion around these topics, however, any of the daily challenges that our families encounter can be considered. I will be joining Cath to give the school perspective and share ideas as to how we deal with some of the challenges that families are presented with.

**Mr Lord**

## Thales

Please find attached the Thales Future Talent newsletter which has information regarding their open apprentice roles, starting in September 2026.



**WHAT DOES THALES DO?**

We are a global technology company that impact and improve people's lives every day. Our main areas are:

- **Defence & Security** – radar systems, military communications, surveillance, naval systems
- **Aerospace** – in-flight entertainment, flight management systems
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- **Cybersecurity & Digital Identity** – data encryption, biometric passports, ID cards, banking security

**WHY DO A THALES APPRENTICESHIP?**

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- ✓ Real world experience

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## Mindworks

Please see below details of this free course for parents.



**Parent Empowerment Group**

**A four week online course for effectively supporting children and young people who are experiencing anxiety.**

Our FREE\* course covers the following topics:

- ✓ Understanding the science of emotions and anxiety;
- ✓ Using quality time to support increased resilience and wellbeing;
- ✓ Parents supporting each other;
- ✓ Steps to success, building braveness with compassion;
- ✓ Managing your child's worries;
- ✓ Creating a bridge of connection between home and school.

The course receives consistent positive feedback from participants and parents feel that the strategies have improved family life.

*Please note: In order to get the best out of the course, participants need to commit to attending each week, using the tools and strategies at home, and share their experiences within a nurturing and supportive space.*

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
From 9.30am until 11am on Teams	From 9.30am until 11am on Teams

To register for our FREE* course, please follow the link below: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	Or book, using the QR code: 
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\* This course is funded by Mindworks Surrey for parents of children & young people living in Surrey only.

## Online Safety

Please see the attached online safety flier 'A Guide on How Not To Be a Screen Zombie'

**Mr Cassim**

<b>Thought for the Week (W/C: 26/1/26)</b>	<b>Thought for the Week (W/C: 2/2/26)</b>
<b>Why is it important to remember the effects of the Holocaust?</b>	<b>What is a negative influence? How can you avoid them?</b>

<b><u>Baton Award</u></b>  <b>Sam Watson</b>
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<b><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></b>  <b>Thomas Copus-Fawcett</b>
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<b><u>Swimming Awards</u></b>	
25m Front Crawl <b>Bronze</b>	<b>Leo Ewen</b> <b>Thomas Illman</b> <b>Jack McDowell</b> <b>James Titchner</b> <b>Elliot Palmer</b>
25m Front Crawl <b>Silver</b>	<b>Isaac Benn</b> <b>Jonah Mee</b>
25m Breaststroke <b>Silver</b>	<b>Jonah Mee</b>
25m Backstroke <b>Silver</b>	<b>Thomas Illman</b>
Tread Water <b>Silver</b>	<b>Louie Rodrigues</b>
Tread Water <b>Gold</b>	<b>Jack McDowell</b> <b>Harry Origgi-Fernando</b>
Tread Water <b>Platinum</b>	<b>Isaac Benn</b> <b>Leo Ewen</b> <b>Thomas Illman</b> <b>Elliot Palmer</b>

### RICE<sup>3</sup> Awards

**Resilience**

**Noah Atkins**  
**Nathan James**  
**Blake Pope**  
**Alex Rose**

**Independence**

**Jack McDowell**  
**Jonah Mee**  
**Harry Salter**

**Cooperation**

**Callum Duff**  
**Elliot Palmer**

#### Mathematician of the Week

The recipients of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Webb are

**Jonah Mee**  
*For engagement and effort*

**Harry Salter**  
*For working hard on Fractions*

& awarded by Mr Wright is

**Eddie Smith**  
*For Growth Mindset*

#### Scientist of the Week

The recipient of Scientist of Week, awarded by Ms Hristova

**KS3**

**Kayden Wheatcroft**  
*For excellent engagement and initiative*

**Thomas Copus-Fawcett**  
*For cooperation and excellent engagement*

**KS4**

**Alfie Tharle**  
*For engagement and excellent exam performance*

#### Writer of the Week

The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Miss Newcombe is

**Alfie Tharle**  
*For dedication to creative writing*

#### Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Miss Adams & Mrs O'Toole is

**Elliot Goold-Williams**  
*For confidence with his knife skills*

<b>Reader of the Week</b>	The recipients of Reader of the Week, awarded by Miss Wood are  <b>Blake Pope</b> <i>For showing resilience when having to choose a new reading book</i>
	<b>Charlie Carter</b> <i>For showing resilience when finishing his first fiction book</i>
<b>Musician of the Week</b>	The recipients of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith are  <b>Eddie Smith</b> <b>Ethan Lyons</b>

### House Points

Jacob received his certificate today but everyone else will receive

House Points	
Jacob Kelly	1,000 House Points
Hayden Howells	500 House Points
Thomas Illman	300 House Points
Harry Salter	300 House Points
Alex Borisov	100 House Points
Rhys Brown	100 House Points
Archie Gillam	100 House Points

### Forthcoming Events 2026

Spring Term 2026	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Years 10/11 GCSE Art Trip to House of Dreams Museum
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 11 residential trip
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Sayers Croft Residential
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Curriculum Evening
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Early finish – 1.30pm
Summer Term 2026	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Bikeability Level 1
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Bikeability Level 2
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Open Morning (9.30am – 11.00am)
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 10
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 11
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 9
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 7
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 8
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 11 Graduation
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	End of term (12.30pm finish)

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For more information contact Surrey Arts:

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