

# SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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

t. 01883 342281 / 346502 f. 01883 341342

e. [office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)

[www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)

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



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

I have received several direct emails and messages of congratulations regarding the Ofsted recognition that we are an Outstanding school in all categories. These messages of support are appreciated and demonstrate the overwhelmingly positive sentiment towards the school and what we are trying to achieve for your son. Thank you to those that have taken the time to share your pride in the deserved recognition of my entire staff team.

At FGB on Thursday night, Governors were vociferously proud of the school and wished for their gratitude, on behalf of the boys and their families, to be shared with all staff. This was the last FGB to be chaired by Mr Kevin Webster who has completed six (6) years as a Governor at Sunnydown. It is often overlooked that these roles are volunteer roles. The question can be asked - why would anyone volunteer their time? There are so many answers to that, but from my observations of Kevin, he had an innate desire to give something back to the local community having been a long term resident. Having stepped up to the position of Chair of Governors at the tail end of Covid, Kevin has taken his role seriously and conducted himself professionally at every turn. He has exercised his right and responsibility to challenge me and the wider school to ensure standards are met, but has also offered congratulations and support when appropriate. On behalf of the school community Kevin, we wish you every moment of fun and laughter you can find and extend our genuine thanks for your time and belief in our wonderful school. Thank you.

Inset on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June allowed for staff to work on reviewing our School Development Plan (SDP) for this past year, identifying areas where we have met our desired outcomes and reflecting on areas that remain for further enhancement. As a leader, it is so reassuring that the entire school staff team has the opportunity to contribute to the school's development. This demonstrates the breadth of commitment to the direction the school is going as all staff offer their views on this. The new objectives will continue to be refined and shared with FGB in September, but parents can feel reassured that we will always strive to improve even further, so that our students receive the education they deserve. The proactive approach to school improvement is evident in all areas of our school.

Welcoming our new Year 7 students to a family picnic on Saturday allowed students to explore the school grounds for the first time. When they returned for some more traditional class based activities and sport on Tuesday and Wednesday, friendships had already started to form. It is fair to say that some anxieties remain, but this is no different to any previous new cohort of students. I have seen marshmallows cooked in the BBQ hut and kitchen, Tug of War games and astro visits. A great ice breaker activity where students had to identify some things they were looking forward to at Sunnydown was interesting with 'making friends' being very prominent. To the Year 7 young men of 2023 to 2024, you are most welcome to Sunnydown. The next five years will be exciting, fun, hard at times, sad at times, but happy too. At all times though, there will be staff here to help you and your families. Welcome. Thank you to Mrs Wermig and the Form tutors for welcoming our new students.

It may seem like a long way off to the new students, but graduation at Sunnydown is a very special event. The Year 11 graduates and their families treated one another to another memorable evening last Thursday. We are all looking forward to welcoming many of the Year 11 young men to school soon for Sports Day.

With only three weeks of summer term left, there seems to be so much to fit in. Presentation events and Sports Day are two highlights. We also have Year 7 Annual Reviews, SMSC week, a variety of House trips, reports to write and send home, all the while delivering excellent learning experiences in class.

Have a wonderful weekend.

### **Industrial Action**

Sunnydown is impacted by industrial action next week, however, we remain open to all students. Additional information will be sent home early next week. Please note that in some cases, the timetabled lessons may not go ahead as planned but in any case, students will be safe and educated. As always, expectations regarding positive student behaviour and high levels of engagement in task completion in class remain.

### **Uniform**

Sunnydown is a uniformed school. Following some warm weather recently, we have now returned to wearing our school ties. Family support in providing ties, school jumpers if needed, and appropriate shoes is appreciated. There is a uniform check every morning as students enter the school and as they leave. Some students may have misplaced ties and jumpers. There is a lost property collection point with numerous examples of both, but without names. Students who have misplaced items are welcome to obtain some from this collection and we would ask that all clothing is clearly labelled so we can return it to the rightful owner asap.

### **Possible Changes to lunch times**

On Monday a survey will be launched regarding the potential to modify our lunch sittings slightly. You may recall that we have had two trials recently where lunch was shortened by 5 minutes for each sitting, with afternoon lessons starting at 1.20pm and ending at 3.20pm. This allowed taxis to depart by 3.30pm and missed the notorious traffic jam at that time of day.

Parents, staff, students and taxi companies will have the opportunity to provide feedback before a decision about a more permanent change is made. Should the decision be made to move to the new timings, this would be implemented from September. By way of reminder, no learning time is lost.

### **Lunch Sittings**

I have recently had the privilege of eating lunch with a variety of groups during first and second sittings (not on the same day!). One observation is that many young men are respectful of the lunch time supervising staff, the kitchen staff and one another. Further, a majority of young men have excellent table manners. I will ask staff to continue to work with all students on enhancing their use of knives and forks to eat lunch rather than hands, to eat sensible portions of food, to refrain from walking around whilst eating, and speaking politely to all staff and one another. Any support you can offer in this regard in conversations with your son is appreciated.

## Acceptable Use Policy

It is so important that students discuss with their parents the appropriate use of technology. This reinforces the work we undertake here at school to educate our students about safe and appropriate use of technology. This includes Chromebooks (that are to be used for school education purposes only until after students graduate in Year 11), mobile phones, Playstation consoles, online chat groups, WhatsApp groups, etc. Sunnydown (all schools actually) have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and these are designed to keep the young people safe and to provide an opportunity for education of young people in a well managed environment. When the AUP is breached, we will follow this up and with your support, we can help our sons develop appropriate online communication skills. Sometimes sanctions need to be put in place as a deterrent and to remind the young person of the nature of their actions. Our online monitoring system (SENSO) detects what times Chromebooks have been opened and accessed, as well as all keystrokes and searches undertaken. In your conversations with your son, please remind them of this so that they are not surprised if a member of the safeguarding team needs to talk to them about any related issue. Thank you for your support in this regard.

## Athletics

A trip for an athletics carnival is currently scheduled for next week. Careful consideration is being given to this event, and permission slips and additional information, if required, will be sent out early next week.

## Presentation Afternoon

We will be holding our annual presentation event one afternoon of the week commencing Monday 10th July from 1.40pm to 3.00pm. Though currently scheduled for Wednesday, the day at this stage is not confirmed because several events are taking place that week which may require some flexibility. The event will be an opportunity for everyone to recognise the achievements of all of the boys. Parents will have the opportunity to join the gathering online because the event will take place during school. The link will be sent in advance.

## Sports Day - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Parents are welcome to arrive from 1.00pm with afternoon events starting at 1.30pm. Sport events will conclude by 3.00pm. A short presentation of House Points awards will follow. Students will leave school at 3.30pm by their taxis or parents, via the normal signing out process. **For clarity, students must sign out with Mr Jensen at the Cloisters before leaving.**

Parking is very limited and may need to be on Whyteleafe Road or along a side street. Please be mindful of our neighbours and other families. The event takes place on de Stafford fields, accessed however through the Sunnydown staff car park (close to Whyteleafe Road) near the flint cycle mechanic workshop. Families that may require accessible parking should email [office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk).

Year 11 students will be welcome to attend Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July for the entire day but families are responsible for arranging travel to and from school with their taxi companies or by own means.

More information to be shared in coming weeks.

## Sunnydown & Prospero Acting Company

Next week, our Sunnydown Acting Company will be performing their devised production of The Vote (flyer at the end of the newsletter). Sunnydown have a long established drama group on a Monday lunchtime and this year there will be a whole school performance on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in the afternoon where all years will be invited to be the audience, and the company will perform again to the public at The Arc in Caterham on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, The Prospero Theatre Company will be performing their production of Blood Ties - a take on Willy Russell's play, Blood Brothers. They will perform in the hall at school for us.

Beth Wood, the Director of Prospero Theatre Company and our drama director here at school, welcomes new members to join the Monday drama group. Please let Mrs Jensen know if you are interested.

**Mrs Jensen**

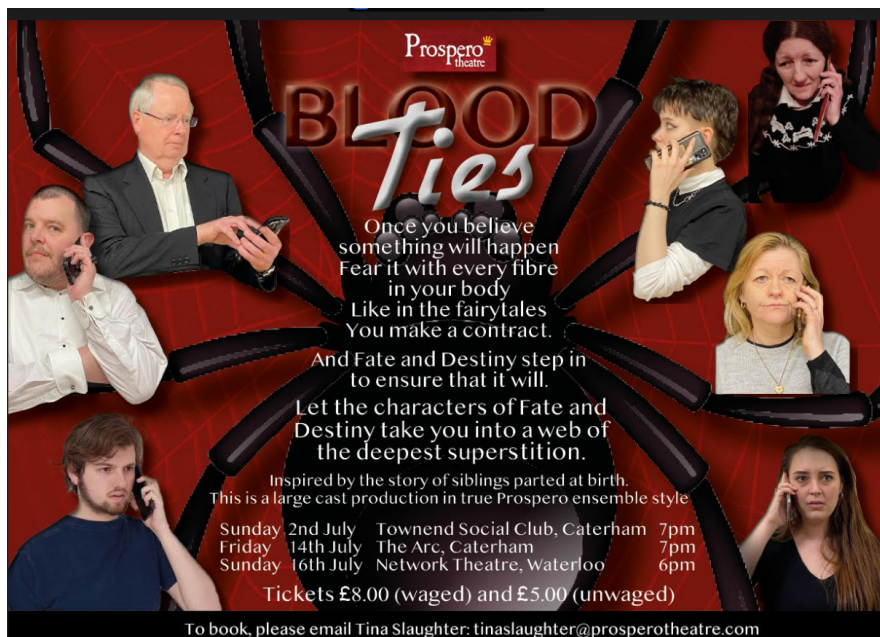
NB. We had hoped to have a performance from the Orpheus School drama production today (30<sup>th</sup> June) but this has been postponed until the Autumn term.

### **Blood Ties Performance**

We are only a month away from performances of our production of Blood Ties! Rehearsals are going really well. Please come along and please spread the word!

Tickets are £8 and £5 concessions (incl unwaged of any kind) but we have a few tickets to give for anyone who would love to come but needs a free seat.

To book please contact Tina: [tinaslaughter@prosperotheatre.com](mailto:tinaslaughter@prosperotheatre.com)



**Beth Wood - Director, Prospero Theatre**

### **Attendance**

Congratulations to 7W for achieving 100% attendance during the week ending 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Online Safety**

Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter - 'What parents need to know about Amino'.

**Mr Cassim**

## Song of the Week

This week's Song of the week was nominated by Alfie in 8N - Eric Prydz, Pjanoo (2008).

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b><br/> <b>(W/C: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023)</b></p> <p><b>Money - Do we want it or need it?</b></p> | <p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b><br/> <b>(W/C: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023)</b></p> <p><b>How can we make a difference?</b></p> |
|--|---|

| <b><u>Mathematician of the Week</u></b>  | <b><u>Scientist of the Week</u></b>   | <b><u>Musician of the Week</u></b>  | <b><u>Chef of the Week</u></b>  | <b><u>Artist of the Week</u></b>   | <b><u>Writer of the Week</u></b>   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p><b>Alfie Wilson (9T)</b></p> <p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mr Zadok for independence in lessons is</p> <p><b>Ty Small (10C)</b></p> | <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for resilience is</p> <p><b>Jayden Smurthwaite (9T)</b></p> | <p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p><b>Sam Lopes (7C)</b></p> | <p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull for listening carefully &amp; working with independence is</p> <p><b>Jacob Kelly (8N)</b></p> | <p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for active independent learning &amp; fantastic drawing in art this week is</p> <p><b>Max Gibbins (9T)</b></p> | <p>The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Mrs Wermig for his insightful speech analysis is</p> <p><b>KS3</b><br/> <b>Jayden Peters (80)</b></p> <p>and awarded by Mrs Jensen for his effort in using the 17 step process to complete homework is</p> <p><b>KS4</b><br/> <b>Callum Lagan (10C)</b></p> |

| <b>House Points</b> |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Ollie McEvaddy      | 650 House Points |
| Harvey Caruana      | 500 House Points |
| Harry Franklin      | 500 House Points |
| Charlie Histed      | 500 House Points |
| Alfie Monk          | 500 House Points |
| Dominic Hanley      | 450 House Points |
| Jayden Peters       | 400 House Points |
| Leo Sumsion         | 400 House Points |
| Robert Hall         | 350 House Points |
| Alex Pereira        | 300 House Points |
| Ethan Lyons         | 250 House Points |

### **Forthcoming Events 2023**

| <b>Date</b>                     | <b>Description</b>                     |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July   | Family camp night                      |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | SSSSA Athletics, K2 Crawley            |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July     | Drama club performance at The Arc      |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July     | Year 8 Kayaking - Blacklands Farm      |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July | Prospero Theatre performing Blood Ties |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July    | Year 7 Kayaking - Blacklands Farm      |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July  | SPORTS DAY                             |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July    | Last day of term - Finish time TBC     |



The background of the poster is a dramatic sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of a large crowd of people standing on a dark surface. On the left side, a hand is shown in silhouette, holding a ballot. The overall mood is somber and significant.

SUNNYDOWN AND  
PROSPERO ACTING COMPANY

July 2023

# UN

## THE VOTE

As the war that started a year earlier escalates, a group of United Nations members are called to a Special Assembly to take a decision that may affect the future of mankind.

At the moment that the vote is taken, they are pulled into an alternate reality. The results of continued war, and perhaps of their own actions, are shown to be devastating.

As they are thrown back to their own timeline, they have to decide whether to make the same decision again, or whether fate has given him a second chance.

# THE CAST

## UN MEMBERS

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Kalnina   | (Secretary General of the UN) - Harrison Williams |
| Sanchez   | (Deputy Secretary of the UN) - Cam'ron Pindi      |
| Rostok    | (Deputy Secretary of the UN) – Beth Wood          |
| Roberts   | Freddie Ponsford                                  |
| Schneider | Tina Slaughter                                    |
| Sato      | Edward Gair                                       |
| Pandey    | Sonny Chater                                      |
| Mostafa   | Jacob Kelly                                       |
| Dubois    | Kamauri Craig                                     |
| Davidson  | Zac Hoad  |

## REFUGEES

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| Emil    | Edward Bridges-Pugh |
| Samir   | Nathan Small        |
| Leahman | Ethan Lyons         |
| Alfonso | Freddie Dunne       |
| Alieg   | Callum Dowie        |

# THE CREW

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Directors: | Beth Wood, Tina Slaughter, Sue Allen-Gardner |
| Props:     | Leo Sumsion                                  |
| Sound:     | Sue Allen-Gardner                            |
| Lighting:  | Jack Rivero Guy                              |
| Programme: | Phil Allen-Gardner                           |

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**Previous Prospero / Sunnydown joint productions:**  
Macbeth, Evacuees, A Christmas Carol, Medusa, King Arthur

**Sunnydown Drama Club**  
Mondays 12.30-1.30 – New members welcome



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

**PETS**

# AMINO

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Amino is a social media platform offering a large group of subcommunities under one digital 'roof'; it was envisaged as the online version of a convention, where fans gather to celebrate a shared interest like comic books or sci-fi, for example. While many such platforms are harmless spaces for devotees of a certain TV show or video game to congregate, there are still some aspects that trusted adults should be aware of. With a focus on sharing user-generated content, the idea of Amino is for users to communicate with like-minded individuals – but even that can create plenty of hazards.

**MUSIC**

### MODERATION GAPS

Amino has a 12+ classification in the App Store and a 'Teen' rating on Google Play. However, certain communities on the platform have little to no moderation in place – increasing the potential for more adult-themed content to reach young users. It's also possible to create an account without proof of age, raising the possibility of even younger children finding their way onto the platform.

### UNSAFE CONTENT

The central concept behind Amino is for users to share content, then make and receive comments on these uploads. The level of anonymity that the platform offers (someone's true identity can be completely obscured behind their username, for instance) means that it would be extremely difficult to stop suggestive or outright predatory comments and messages being sent to young people.

### INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES

Like most social media, Amino offers easy sharing of images. Its community guidelines state that any suggestive photos of under-18s will be removed immediately, but of course this doesn't prevent inappropriate pictures being seen by a young person. Not all of Amino's communities are rigorously moderated, so there's a chance that some unsuitable images could temporarily evade detection.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Amino+ is a premium membership for the platform, offering a bevy of customisation options such as stickers, 'moods' to display and an exclusive profile badge. Users can also purchase one-off cosmetic items including different styles of chat bubble or profile frames. If your child has payment methods available via their device, they could potentially make these in-app purchases without you realising.

### REPEATED USAGE

As a social media app, Amino is focused on keeping its communities engaged and coming back for more. Part of this approach is encouraging people to build up 'streaks', as users are awarded 'reputation points' for logging in regularly. This type of mechanism, of course, always carries the risk of young people feeling a compulsion to repeatedly check in with the app, further increasing their screen time.

**COMICS & COSPLAY**

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT IT

If your child is old enough and chooses to download and use Amino, it's probably wise to remind them of some online safety basics – such as how not everyone in the digital world is who they claim to be, for example, or not to give out personal information online. It might also be a good idea to go into the app's settings and disable incoming chat requests from users that your child doesn't know.



### MEMBERSHIP MEDIATION

If your child asks for an Amino+ membership but you're not entirely comfortable with that, be prepared to explain your decision in depth. Young people's sense of injustice can naturally become inflamed when their friends have things that they don't. Parents of older teens, meanwhile, might actually decide to agree to the membership request but continue to monitor their child's activity on the app.

### STAY UPDATED

Ensure that your child knows to report any upsetting or worrying online content they might see to you. As much as possible, try to stay aware of which communities they're joining on Amino. Most of these areas are well moderated and full of innocent conversation about common interests, but on any platform of this breadth, there's always the potential for chats to veer off into potentially harmful places.



### MONITOR SCREEN TIME

If you haven't already, you might want to consider setting up controls such as Family Sharing (on iOS devices) or Family Link (on Android) so, from your own device, you can keep an eye on how much screen time your child is having – and what apps they're spending it on. This can be extremely useful with regard to platforms such as Amino, which can be quite addictive and reward repeated use.



### Meet Our Expert

Myra Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and reports like OGBacon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A top tier visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/scotland/article-4140411/teen-daughters-10-1873339>



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