

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 30th September 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

The Gibb Challenge - Cycling across the top end of Australia

During assembly this afternoon, Gabe took the opportunity to show two short videos (the links are below) about the Gibb Challenge. This cycle event is the inspiration behind our very own Caterham Cycle Challenge.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ALoxaxHvtl0>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ri-LJXHYZes>

The Gibb Groms cycled in 2019, the year I supported the charity. They completed the challenge proving that anyone can do it.

In May 2023 (Wednesday 10th to Saturday 20th) it would be amazing to take up to four (4) students from Sunnydown to Australia to participate. In that light, I am seeking families to nominate their son according to the information below. Nominations will be via a Google Form, which will be sent on Monday 3rd October. Please note that nominating your son is not a guarantee that they will be selected.

In this initial round of nominations, students must:

- Have excellent attendance and behaviour record
- Have an excellent House Point total
- Be able to cycle 10km without stopping (approximately three and a half laps around Kenley)
- Be committed to raising £3,000 (not a family donation) for the Caterham Cycle Challenge (some of which will be used to cover the cost of flights, accommodation etc for the Gibb Challenge).
- Be in Year 10 or Year 11 (Year 11 students are reminded that this event is during GCSE exams and so should only nominate if they are prepared to miss some GCSE exams)
- Be committed to learning how to maintain their own bike with Gabe, gaining appropriate qualifications.

The current plan is to fly to Darwin and then onto Broome. We then hire a vehicle and bikes for the cycle towards Kununurra. From here, we would likely fly to Darwin and then back to England. Some families may wish to meet their son in Darwin. It is most likely that three staff will travel with the four boys to Australia, but only two staff would return. After the event, I am planning to spend some time with my Australian family.

I look forward to seeing the initial register of interest list next week.

Curriculum at Sunnydown

Students who attend Sunnydown have a breadth and quality of curriculum that is unsurpassed. When I reflect on the opportunities and discuss this with Headteacher colleagues, as I am this morning at a conference, they are often gobsmacked and flabbergasted. At KS4 we deliver access to GCSE subjects including English (Language and Literature), Maths, Science, Art (potentially 4 different GCSE qualifications) PE (short and long course), Design and Technology. Food Technology at BTEC level is very popular. College, Life Skills and additional academic support are offered on a Friday.

In addition to the curriculum listed above, KS3 students access computing, music and humanities. Our Friday Curriculum includes outdoor adventurous activities, RICE challenges, Food Technology, DIY amongst others.

Our pastoral curriculum, which supports the development of student resilience, independence and the ability to cooperate threads through our core offer. This is enhanced through a dedicated pastoral provision where we follow the THRIVE programme to help young people develop their ability to identify, manage and regulate their own emotions and behaviours.

Additional academic support is modelled on the ElkLan approach, predominantly during KS3. Having our very own cycle mechanic workshop and burger van, through which important life skills are developed, clearly identifies Sunnydown as unique.

Add in the focussed sessions on reading and communication, PSHE, Thought For The Week, Word Of The Week, and the strength of our House system, it is no wonder that our offer is the envy of other schools.

When given the opportunity to share your views on our curriculum offer, perhaps with governors or inspectors from Ofsted, your support in describing our offer as it is (exceptional, extensive, broad, deep and appropriate to the needs of your son) is appreciated.

We are in the process of updating our website, so that this is clearly communicated and will offer some online sessions to families to help familiarise them with our offer even further.

Nightwatch - Croydon Homeless Charity

On Sunday evening, Mrs Jensen and I served 120 burgers to some homeless and rough sleepers in Croydon. We were asked by Nicky Edwards from Nightwatch to help out. Having arrived at about 8pm, we set about cooking the burgers and cutting onions. The interest was immense as people approached us from the windows and back door to ask questions and place orders early - it was a cold evening and they were clearly hungry.

When the doors were fully opened it was rather humbling to see the line of people waiting patiently. We engaged with everyone as they ordered, realising that they represented all ages and were from many different countries. Many were very well qualified but were facing adversity. Without exception they were polite and grateful that we were with them even if only for a few hours.

I am grateful for the support from Mrs Jensen in the evening, but also for the opportunity to reflect on how fortunate many of us are, and how quickly circumstances can change.

Paul Jensen



Parent Governors

All pupils will be sent home today with a letter regarding two Parent Governor vacancies, please look out for them.

Friends of Sunnydown - Save the Dates

Quiz Night - 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 at Sunnydown Saturday 3rd June 2023

Golf Day - Tuesday 6th June 2023

Friday 14th October: Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Please can pupils bring in advance some nut free shop bought cakes, which will be on sale to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Care. If you would like to make your own donation directly, please scan the code below. Thank you in advance!



Mrs Leonard

FREE Parenting Courses from Surrey Family Learning Thursday, 29/09/2022 | SCC Schools Bulletin



Surrey Family Learning are excited to be expanding their offer of free courses for parents, grandparents and carers of children in Surrey. Courses can help participants develop more confidence when supporting children at home with different issues, such as: maths homework, EAL, healthy eating, wellbeing.

There is also a new programme of courses focusing on wellbeing including: supporting teenagers with anxiety, building resilience and developing confidence. All courses are developed by our experienced team of tutors.

Please click on the link below for further information and feel free to share with parents and carers,
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

Family Learning for parents and carers - Surrey County Council.

Assistant Head/SENCo

Friday Curriculum: 7/10/22

Class	Activity	On/Off Site	School Uniform
7W	Outdoor adventurous activities. Cycling and climbing.	On site	Please arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes and shoes for some outdoor sporty activities involving climbing and cycling.
7C	Outdoor adventurous activities. Cycling and climbing.	On site	Please arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes and shoes for some outdoor sporty activities involving climbing and cycling.
8N	Food experience	On site	School uniform.
8O	School project	On site	Please arrive in school uniform with a change of shoes and coat for outdoor work.
9D	Media & Communications/ RICE Challenge	On site	School uniform with trainers.
9T	Media & Communications/ RICE Challenge	On site	School uniform with trainers.
11	College/Life Skills	Both	School uniform for Life Skills on site
10/11	College/Life Skills	Both	School uniform for Life Skills on site

<p><u>Thought for the week</u> (W/C: 26th September)</p> <p>The REST strategy - How it helps and working together</p>	<p><u>Thought for the week</u> (W/C: 3rd October)</p> <p>Growth Mindset, the PIT, what ladders work? What new ones can we try?</p>
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<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	<u>Artist of the Week</u>	<u>Chef of the Week</u>	<u>Musician of the Week</u>
<p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is:</p> <p>Felix Drummond (9T)</p>	<p>The recipients of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova & Mr Cybuch for resilience & cooperation are:</p> <p>Freddie Ponsford (7W) Joshua Tucker (11J)</p>	<p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for fantastic knowledge & effort in class is:</p> <p>Felix Drummond (9T)</p>	<p>The recipient of Chef of the Week for effort & always trying his best, awarded by Mrs Hull is:</p> <p>James Dean (10M)</p>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is:</p> <p>Callum Dowie (7C)</p>

<u>Sportsmanship Award</u>	<u>Employability Skills Award</u>
James Millar	Dominic Hanley

House Points (Certificates to go out next week)	
Ty Small	600 House Points
Reece Williams	500 House Points
Nathan Small	450 House Points
Max Gibbins	450 House Points
Jacob Kelly	250 House Points
Dominic Hanley	250 House Points
Alfie Tharle	200 House Points