

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 7th July 2023

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

A bright sunny and warm end to the week. I had the privilege of working between two groups today - Year 8O and the Year 10 college students.

Year 8O were undertaking some landscaping in the wallaby enclosure until it became a little too warm, and were then offered a cooler activity of a scavenger hunt using their Chromebooks. Mr Moody and the support staff were impressed with the efforts invested.

Year 10, with support from Miss Wood, Miss Newcombe, Mr Thompson and Mrs Maher helped to relocate our library from F4 (a room in Forest View that we need as a classroom) to a common room which is currently vacant in the old building. On a hot day I understand that the efforts were very much appreciated. This move also facilitates a move to an electronic library system, which will enhance our ability to track improvements in reading of all students.

To both groups, thank you. I am sure all students and staff will appreciate the ice lollies just before taxi time, but these two will especially enjoy them.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Survey regarding changes to lunch and taxi times

The results of the survey into changing the lunch sittings slightly to help reduce traffic congestion at the end of the day are as follows:

	Agree	Disagree
Students	27	17
Parents	49	3
Staff	18	1
Taxis	16	0

Because the considerable percentage of students who disagreed was 38.6%, I would like the opportunity to discuss this with them in person early next week. The overwhelming support from staff, parents and taxi firms is also noted. It is very important to note that there is no reduction in learning time.

Sports Day - Thursday 20th July

The weather forecast currently looks dry (though obviously subject to change). Parents are invited for the afternoon session on de Stafford fields behind Sunnydown.

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 Whyteleaf 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 Whyteleaf Road) near the flint cycle mechanic workshop. Families that may require accessible parking should email: office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

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

Last Day - Friday 21st July

Students are expected to attend school on Friday 21st July. Form tutors are preparing various end of year activities. The whole school will have lunch at 12.30pm with an opportunity for some special awards to be handed out. Students will start to be called for taxis at 1.00pm. We expect that the last taxis will leave by 1.30pm at the latest.

Blood Ties Performance

On Wednesday 12th 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 Years 9 and 10 as it compliments GCSE English. A separate ParentMail has been sent to families of Year 9 and Year 10.

Report read through - Students

Sunnydown School shares progress reports with families and students twice a year - December and July. On both occasions, students are supported in reading through and reflecting on their reports by their Form Tutor team. Student comments are recorded and included when they are sent home via email.

The report read through will be on Wednesday 12th July. Years 9 and 10 will be during the morning. Years 7 and 8 will be during the afternoon.

Your support in encouraging your son to reflect on his progress is appreciated.

Shooting Star Hospice

A ParentMail on behalf of the Shooting Star Hospice has been sent to all families. I think very carefully about supporting charities as there are so many worthy causes. This particular cause, providing respite and end of life care for children affected by cancer, is one that stood out. Please share the request for support with any businesses you might know.



Dear Parents/Guardians

As part of SMSC week Year 7 students are collecting food for the local food bank in Caterham.

We are hoping to collect any non perishable food from families - packets, tins etc. to give to the food bank.

We will be collecting the food donations at morning drop off throughout next week.

If the food donations could be in carrier bags or boxes that would really help us.

Gentle reminder: We are a nut free school and cannot accept any donations containing nuts even for donations.

Thank you for your support.

The Year 7 team



Further information on preferred donations can be found here:
<https://caterham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Friends of Sunnydown

End of year staff 'thank you' fund - If you would like to donate to a staff fund to be shared amongst our fantastic Sunnydown staff, please do so using the link below. Vouchers will be gifted to show our appreciation. To purchase tickets and/or donate to the above, please follow this link
www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents

Don't forget, if you'd like to join Friends of Sunnydown, just one hour of your time per week or less is required (maximum two hours per week for large events). Reach out to find out more
friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Sports Day reminder - 20th July (from 1.00pm) - This will be held on the last day of term and is always an exciting event (which includes a bouncy obstacle course for the boys!). Everyone is welcome.

Online Safety

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

Mr Cassim

Pet of the Week

Thank you to Leo Sumsion for sending in a picture of his cute dog Wilbur for this week's Pet of the Week.



Song of the Week

This week's Song of the Week was nominated by Kamauri 7C, The Script, Hall of Fame (2012)

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	<u>Musician of the Week</u>	<u>Chef of the Week</u>	<u>Artist of the Week</u>	<u>Writer of the Week</u>
<p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p>Bailey Goodliffe (8N)</p>	<p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova for active learning and cooperation is</p> <p>Freddie Collins (7W)</p> <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for resilience & co-operation is</p> <p>Charlie McSorley (9D)</p>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is</p> <p>Harry Franklin (8N)</p>	<p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull for consistent effort is</p> <p>Alfie Wilson (9T)</p>	<p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for his effort and concentration in art is</p> <p>Kamauri Craig (7C)</p>	<p>The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Miss Newcombe for his creative & diverse character is</p> <p>KS3</p> <p>Freddie Collins (7W)</p> <p>& for his dedication to Paper 1 practise is</p> <p>KS4</p> <p>Ollie McEvaddy (10C)</p>

<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 3rd July 2023)</p> <p>How can we make a difference?</p>	<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 10th July 2023)</p> <p>Charity & fundraising - why is it important to help those less fortunate?</p>
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House Points	
James Dean	950 House Points
Ty Small	800 House Points
Alexander Neale	750 House Points

Teddy Foster	500 House Points
Jacob Kelly	450 House Points
Freddie Ponsford	350 House Points
Zac Hoad	300 House Points
Thomas Emms	200 House Points

Forthcoming Events 2023

Date	Description
Friday 7 th July	Drama club performance at The Arc
Tuesday 11 th July	Portley House Reward event
Wednesday 12 th July	Prospero Theatre performing Blood Ties
Friday 14 th July	Year 7 Kayaking - Blacklands Farm
Tuesday 18 th July	Year 7 SMSC Reward Trip
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 10 FootGolf
Thursday 20 th July	SPORTS DAY
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term - Finish time 1.30pm

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

RUMBLE



on the App Store:
"Teen" on Google Play

A video-sharing platform designed as an alternative to YouTube, Rumble is the epitome of a 'slow burner' in digital circles: it was initially launched in 2013, but it's only in the last two or three years that it's begun to gain serious traction. Much of Rumble's recent growth has stemmed from its association with Truth Social, the platform founded by former US President Donald Trump. Rumble's content frequently reflects some intense political viewpoints; this can often affect the way it approaches topics and has occasionally caused the platform to venture into controversial territory.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

The company which developed Rumble is also responsible for hosting Truth Social, the often contentious news and social network founded by Donald Trump. Indeed, Rumble's content often reflects the ideas of one group of US voters, who have embraced it as an alternative to more mainstream social media. Many parents may feel that such an overtly political platform isn't suitable for young people.

PROVOCATIVE CONTENT

Rumble prides itself on championing free speech, with its CEO declaring the platform "immune to cancel culture". Many of Rumble's highest-profile content creators – such as Andrew Tate and Russell Brand – are well known for sharing opinions which are often described as extreme. While adults might be equipped to treat this content objectively, much of it may not be appropriate for a young audience.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

In very simple terms, Rumble works a little like YouTube but with far fewer censors and restrictions being applied to its content. If age-inappropriate material or potentially harmful misinformation is trending on the platform and being shared among more mature users, there's a distinct possibility that Rumble's algorithm may also recommend that content to a child.

CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES

Many of Rumble's best-known accounts are owned by individuals who have previously been banned from other social media platforms. There could, of course, be a variety of reasons behind this – but it almost certainly increases the chances of your child coming across content on Rumble which probably wouldn't be deemed acceptable on other similar platforms.

SENSITIVE TOPICS

In recent months, some prominent Rumble influencers have expressed uncompromising views on sensitive subjects such as gun control, abortion, LGBTQ issues and more. With many Rumble accounts tending to display a noticeable political bias, the concern would be that young people using the platform may not always be presented with an impartial perspective on these important and complex topics.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT POLITICS

Rumble does have a team of moderators, but the nature of the platform means that some permitted content is likely to be controversial and highly subjective. That possibility might make many parents uncomfortable – but if your child does view (or hear about) something provocative on Rumble, it can still provide a useful opportunity to discuss politics at home in a safe, relaxed environment.

CHECK UP REGULARLY

Like any video-sharing platform, there's a chance that Rumble might suggest inappropriate content for your child. There may be an algorithm issue – or it could be that the recommendations are based on videos they've previously viewed. If your child uses Rumble, you might consider a chat with them about which accounts they follow and what type of content is suitable for their age.

RESEARCH ALTERNATIVES

No video-sharing platform is totally free from potentially harmful content, of course – but the number of prominent account holders on Rumble whose output has previously been banned from similar services is certainly a cause for concern. If your child is becoming interested in influencer culture or politics specifically, you could perhaps research more family-friendly platforms together.

DISCUSS IMPARTIALITY

Many prominent Rumble accounts wear their political leanings firmly on their sleeves. As a result, it can be tricky for impressionable young people to appreciate both sides of any given debate. If your child is old enough to use Rumble, you may feel that a discussion of some things they've seen might be prudent – if so, be prepared for some complex (and possibly lengthy) conversations!

Meet Our Expert

David Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the app store and new media, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2022/03/01/prominent-accounts-on-alternative-social-media-sites-most-are-individuals-not-organizations/>

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