

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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



Friday 8th March 2024

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Finally, some signs of spring are here: Mr Andy Wort - our Site Manager - has mown the lawn and the smell of cut grass has everyone excited for warmer days.

As always a busy week here at school: on Tuesday, two teams attended a basketball competition, with one of the teams making the final. They were, by all accounts, very impressive, standing their ground against a very good - and very physical - team, but they did us proud, never taking backward steps, and only narrowly lost out. We then had a further two offsite trips on Thursday and Friday with students from Year 7 and Year 8 respectively going to Sayers Croft to enjoy activities such as team building, den building and zip wiring led by qualified instructors. Reports have come back of students cheering each other on and having a wonderful day. In talking to Mr Wright, he was particularly impressed by the resilience shown by some of our students, powering through, even though the activity was well out of their comfort zone. On Tuesday, our art students visited the National Portrait Gallery - more details and photographs below.

We are also excited to announce that we are entering a small team into the National Poetry by Heart competition. Students have chosen their poems from both pre and post 1914 and are going to enter either the solo categories or the group choral speaking categories. These students are rehearsing outside of class time and are excited about potentially being invited to perform up in London.

Feeling proud of our students doesn't require them to get up on stage in front of an audience (although we feel immensely proud if that does happen); we feel pride in your sons and notice all the efforts they make and achievements they gain each day, from manners such as holding doors open for others, speaking politely and practising emotional intelligence to regulate themselves.

We continue to ensure that everyone is kept safe by monitoring use of mobile devices; your continued support is much appreciated in this matter.

Resilience was once again in evidence when students were told in Monday's assembly that one wallaby was very ill and was likely to pass away that day, which sadly it did. Students respectfully stayed away from the enclosure. A professional wallaby breeder is going to visit and take the last wallaby back whilst we extend the enclosure and decide on our next steps and possible inhabitants!

Finally parents evening: on Wednesday it was the opportunity for our Year 7 parents to come and meet their son's teachers and each other, to discuss all aspects of the curriculum so far, any assessments undertaken, and progress made, particularly in relation to being classroom ready. It was a really lovely evening; it is so heartening to hear that your sons come home with positive stories about their day, feeling safe and just happy to be at Sunnydown.

Sunnydown really is a happy place to be - to study and to learn. We work tirelessly to ensure that your sons have the best that we can provide for them - the range of activities within lessons, the support from the Pastoral Team, the 1:1

and small group targeted provision from the academic support team, therapies, music lessons, sports fixtures, art trips ... too many wonderful opportunities and experiences to list.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Andrea Jensen (*Lead for the Quality of Education*)

AOA Cycling Award

This week students from Years 8, 9 and 10 received their long awaited and well deserved AQA awards for cycling proficiency. Well done to one and all.

Gabe

Attendance

Congratulations to 8C for achieving 100% attendance for the week ending 1st March.

Trip to National Portrait Gallery

The Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art students had a great day this week at the National Gallery studying some artwork from a primary source. We were so proud of the way they studied the artwork and related it to their project work. Well done!



Online Safety

Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter re ‘What Parents and Educators Need to know about Tekken 8.’

Thought for the Week
(W/C 4th March 2024)

World Book Day 2024 - You are a reader

Thought for the Week
(W/C 11th March 2024)

Red Nose Day - Supporting those less fortunate

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Webb is</p> <p>Eddie Smith (7P)</p> <p><i>For working hard and doing really well in his angles assessment</i></p> <p>& awarded by Mr Zadok is</p> <p>Callum Lagan (11C)</p> <p><i>Work ethic</i></p>
<u>Scientist of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Ms Hristova is</p> <p>Taylor Conway (10T)</p> <p><i>For his resilience, cooperation & engagement</i></p>
<u>Artist of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle is</p> <p>Freddie Collins (8W)</p> <p><i>For his fantastic animation ideas this week</i></p>
<u>Writer of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Writer of the Week, awarded by Mrs Palmer is</p> <p>KS3</p> <p>Alfie Monk (9N)</p> <p><i>For his consistent engagement & effort with studying MacBeth</i></p> <p>KS4</p> <p>& awarded by Miss Newcombe is</p> <p>Charlie McSorley (10D)</p> <p><i>For his creative & varied sentence styles</i></p>
<u>Chef of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is</p> <p>Teddy Foster (10D)</p> <p><i>For consistent effort & positive approach</i></p>
<u>Musician of the Week</u>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith is</p> <p>Alex Pereira (8W)</p>

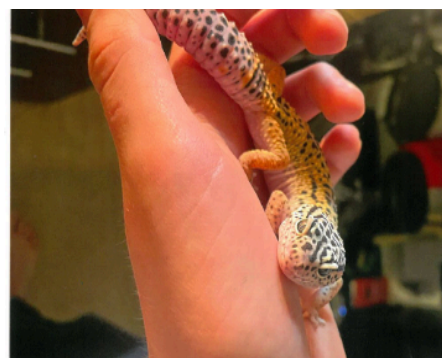
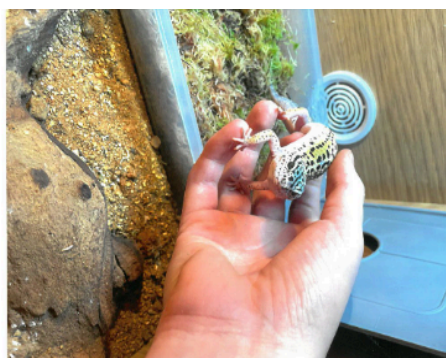
Baton Award

**George McGookin
(7P)**

For supporting others and putting them first

Pet of the Week

George Whatling (11M) has sent in these great photos of his pet Gecko called Gizmo.



House Points

House Points	
Jamie Rogers	900 House Points
Taylor Conway	750 House Points
Harry Vaughan	600 House Points
Logan East	600 House Points
Leo Sumsion	550 House Points
Robert Hall	550 House Points
Antony Harper	500 House Points
Sonny Chater	500 House Points

Forthcoming Events 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Monday 11 th March	SSSSA Swimming Gala
Tuesday 12 th March	Bikeability Level 2 - Group 2
Thursday 14 th March	Bikeability Level 2 - Group 2
Friday 15 th March	INSET DAY
Wednesday 20 th March	KS4 Tag-Rugby
Thursday 21 st March	KS3 Tag-Rugby
Friday 22 nd March	Poetry Workshop
Monday 25 th March	KS4 Basketball
Monday 25 th March	KS3 Football Fixture 1

Monday 25 th March	Years 7&8 - Naturally Talented Me Introduction Session
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 9 and 10 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 28 th March	Early Finish 1.20pm
Tuesday 2 nd -12 th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Wednesday 24 th April	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Friday 3 rd May	Kenley Bike Event - Year 9
Tuesday 7 th May	Kenley Bike Event - Year 8
Wednesday 8 th May	Kenley Bike Event - Year 11
Thursday 9 th May	Kenley Bike Event - Year 10
Tuesday 14 th May	Kenley Bike Event - Year 7
Wednesday 15 th - Friday 17 th May	Year 9 Residential Trip
Monday 27 th -31 st May	HALF TERM
Saturday 1 st June	SunnyFest
Wednesday 5 th June	Year 8 - HPV 1 Dose
Wednesday 19 th June	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 20 th June	Scheduled Formal Graduation event 🎓
Monday 24 th June	Prospero Performance
Friday 28 th June	School trip to The Arc
Tuesday 2 nd July	Prospero Performance - Beauty & The Beast
Tuesday 23 rd July	END OF TERM

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.



FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

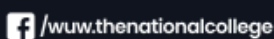
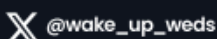
If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: https://pegi.info/en/search-pegi/tekken-8?category=3&age=16&publisher=playstation&release_year=2024&page=1&platform=pc



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