

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 9th December 2022

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Last week I addressed the expectation that students are to speak politely to one another and staff at all times. This week I will address the fact that Sunnydown is a school and as such, students are expected to be in lessons and complete set tasks to the best of their ability.

Schools are places of learning, both academic and pastoral. It is a fact that a young person who is not in a classroom is missing quality education and learning opportunities. However, only when a student is emotionally stable is that student in a position to complete the tasks set, and hence develop the intended skills, acquire the intended knowledge or develop opinions.

It is the expectation of all students at Sunnydown that they are here to learn and to do this are also expected to be in their timetabled lessons in their allocated classrooms. The set tasks are expected to be completed and actively thought about by each student.

Lessons are structured and tasks differentiated to provide your son with every opportunity for him to complete appropriately challenging set tasks successfully and learn within the lesson. Learning Objectives are displayed in every lesson, giving focus to intended learning.

However, absence from a lesson prevents the young person from accessing these opportunities.

Absence from a lesson is accepted in certain circumstances. Participating in a school event such as drama, sport, a residential trip for example. Absence due to medical reasons is of course acceptable. When at school, if a child is not 'classroom ready' it is understandable that they are not in the lesson. This could be for a short period or extended period. The expectation is that the student returns to the classroom as soon as practicable to start the learning process again.

Students are allowed to take a brief (2 minute) ReST break from a lesson should they feel overwhelmed or find the work too challenging. This demonstrates that the young person is developing their own ability to manage their own learning - a powerful step. On occasion, a student will be asked to take a ResT by the staff because the staff recognise that the young person is possibly disrupting the learning of others, is becoming agitated or anxious or other reasons. The key is that the adults are in control and the direction is to be followed.

The Pastoral Support team work to reduce student anxieties and return them to lessons . If a pastoral member is called to a class to support a student, it is crucial that that student accepts the support as a positive step to help the student. Refusal to accept a ReST or the support of Pastoral can be considered a negative behaviour which may trigger contact with parents.

For clarity, simply refusing to attend a lesson is unacceptable, so is walking out because the work is 'too hard'. Deliberately disrupting the learning of others is also inappropriate.

When calls home are made, please understand that we are sharing observations of your son's behaviours and lack of engagement in his own learning because we care.

Encouraging your son to attend their timetabled lessons and attempt all work set is appreciated.

Activities and events for next Week

Monday

am - Report read through / tutor time

May be some lessons between 11.00am and 12.30pm depending on time needed for report read through

pm - Whole School Drama performance

Tuesday and Wednesday all lessons as per normal.

A group of six(6) students will support Mr Jensen on a trip to Runnymede Hotel for some snacks and to pick up some Christmas gifts for students from the charity Children with Special Needs Foundation.

Thursday

am - Christmas presents from FoS / form time

Christmas lunch

pm - form time

Friday

am - snow machine/form time/Sunnydown's Got Talent

12.30pm lunch 1.30pm all depart

The Caterham Cycle Challenge and The Gibb Challenge

The Caterham Cycle Challenge has become a genuinely community event and our main fundraising opportunity for the year. This year, the Caterham Cycle Challenge is linked to The Gibb Challenge in Australia with two students (Oscar and Ollie) attempting to ride across the top of the Kimberley region, supported by Gabe, Mr Derrig-Adams and Mr Jensen. We also have a music festival (03.06.2023) and golf day (06.06.2023) as opportunities to raise money linked directly to our Cycle Challenge. Local primary schools are being encouraged to participate as well.

These funds are generated to invest in the Mental Health of our students but also the wider community. Your support for all events is appreciated.



I am proud to announce that the major corporate sponsor for the Caterham Cycle Challenge and the Gibb Challenge for 2023 is **GusPeriscopes**. Their donation of £6600 will go a long way to providing essential opportunities for Mental Health Support, but also contribute to the Gibb Challenge.

Report Read Through - Monday

Our report read through is an important part of involving students in their own learning. On Monday, all students will read through their report with a member of staff. Students will be asked some questions about their report, and the progress that is evident. Please encourage your son to take this opportunity seriously and to reflect on their report. Responses such as 'I don't know' are not considered evidence of active learning.

Friends of Sunnydown

Donations - Thank you for your donations of gifts over the past few weeks. We are still in need of some chocolates and sweets, if you would like to contribute. We are intending on gifting these to the boys on the Christmas shopping day, so these would need to be donations of individual packets, small chocolate bars and packets of sweets. Wrapping paper is also required, so if you have any spare or you can contribute a roll or two, it would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Helpers - Christmas shopping day for the boys is on Thursday 15th December. Are you able to spare a couple of hours to help us with wrapping for the boys? If you can, please email friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

Snow Day - We are very excited that the snow day will return! The snow machine will be out for the boys to enjoy a fun filled morning of snowball fights on the last day of term. We are asking for a £5 donation, which will go towards the purchase of this. Here's the link to make your donation: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

A reminder that the Christmas staff fund is now open. If you would like to contribute so that we can thank all of our staff this Christmas, then follow this link:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

We wish the two students attending the Gibb Cycle Challenge (<https://thegibbchallenge.com.au/>) in Australia next year every success for their training and fundraising.

Keep the following dates free. More information will be shared in the new year.

Saturday 3rd June 2023 - SunnyFest - A musical festival for the Caterham Community at Sunnydown School.

Tuesday 6th June 2023 - Golf Day - This fundraising event aims to contribute to our attempt to provide additional Mental Health Support for our community.



Online Safety

Please see the flier attached to this newsletter re 'What Parents Need to know about HiPAL'

Mr Cassim

Thrive

At the bottom of this newsletter is an activity you can do over the Christmas holidays - The Jar of Joy. It is a lovely activity for our young people to do. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Brooks

Attendance

Congratulations to 11P for achieving 100% attendance during the week ending 2nd December 2022.

Friday Curriculum - 16th December 2022

A timetable of events will follow next week.

<u>Mathematician of the Week</u> The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch is Alfie Wilson (9T)	<u>Scientist of the Week</u> The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch for cooperation is Logan East (9D)	<u>Chef of the Week</u> The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull for overcoming his fears and building his confidence is Alfie Tharle (8O)	<u>Musician of the Week</u> The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Cybuch for cooperation, resilience and independence is Alfie Tharle (8O)	<u>Artist of the Week (11/11)</u> The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle for his fantastic art homework is Alex Hennessy (10M)
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Song of the Week

Song of the week was nominated by Freddie P in 7C and was Sweet Child of Mine by Guns n Roses.

Mrs Cybuch



<p><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></p> <p>Ollie Taylor (80)</p> <p>Consistant role model behaviour</p>	<p><u>Employability Skills Award</u></p> <p>Elvina Sermuksnis (11J)</p> <p>Negotiation Skills</p>
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<p><u>Baton for the Week</u></p> <p>George Whatling (10M)</p> <p>For spending a long time figuring out how to get the drum kit working</p>
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<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C: 5th December)</p> <p>Role Models - How do others see us? How do we want to be seen?</p> <p>Racism- respecting differences</p>	<p><u>Thought for the Week</u> (W/C:9th December)</p> <p>Reflection- Spiritual</p>
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<u>House Points</u>	
Harry Vaughan	400 House Points
Toby Chapman	350 House Points
Charlie Histed	350 House Points
Alfie Tharle	250 House Points
Alex Pereira	100 House Points
Freddie Ponsford	100 House Points
Cody Osborne	50 House Points



Jar of joy

This activity focuses the mind on positivity - helping us to remember things that made us feel good.

Take note of joyful days, moments or feelings, write them down and put them in your jar. At the end of the year, open it up and remember all of the things that made you smile!

You will need

- an empty jar (make sure the jar you choose didn't contain something strong smelling - it can be really tricky to get rid of the smell of pickled onions and curry sauce!)
- coloured tissue paper (in small pieces)
- pva glue and water mix (50/50)
- a paintbrush
- a luggage label
- a memo pad

Let's get creative

Find an empty glass jar and wash thoroughly. Once dry, paint the outside of the jar with the pva glue and water mix, then layer tissue paper onto the glue. Work in small sections as it can get a bit messy! Wet tissue paper can also stain, so make sure your table is covered.

Once finished, leave somewhere safe to dry for 24 hours and create a label for your 'Jar of Joy', this can also have your name and the year on it.

If you are creating a jar at home, keep it somewhere you will see it and keep a memo pad next to it so that you can quickly jot down your happy moments throughout the year.

