

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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

t. 01883 342281 / 346502 f. 01883 341342

e. office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

www.sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

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



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Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Academic year. We are back. A short newsletter to start.

Without dwelling on the past, Covid-19 certainly challenged the way schools and wider society operated during the Summer term, and likely for a while to come.

Right now, Sunnydown feels warmer for the presence of staff and students. Though limited to Years 10 and 11 this week, next week sees Years 8 and 9 return.

Looking further ahead, Year 7 starts on Monday 14th September. Once the entire Sunnydown family is back together, the energy and vibe around the school will be even more evident.

A great deal of thought and effort has gone into establishing routines and guidelines to implement the Government guidance in order to keep staff and students safe as we all return.

Please take a moment to review the information contained within '**School Day - From September 2020 - Notes - V3 - 04.09.2020**' attached again today. The changes to the previous version are limited to masks and transport. I am mindful that official guidance will be updated and communicated imminently to indicate that students above the age of 11 should wear face masks where possible in shared taxis, similar to wider public transport arrangements. This also supports protecting our year level bubbles while students are in taxis with students from different year levels.

Regardless of how thorough and robust any school is in their preparations, there will be modifications to the original plans made. To ensure we are all collectively involved in keeping one another safe, I have encouraged staff and students to test our guidelines this week while following and adhering to them but asking questions at the same time.

Many excellent questions have been asked. For example, can we have more benches to sit on in our designated areas? Answer is yes and an order will be placed imminently. Stemming from this was a question about why students need to remain in their allocated areas. I explained that these areas were decided as a way of giving all students access to outside space in a safe and controlled manner. It would defeat the purpose if students from one year level were able to walk through or encroach on the physical 'bubble' of another group.

This question leads very nicely into the **Thought For The Week** which will focus on settling into new routines, the importance of new guidelines, and welcoming new staff and new pupils.



We have decided that the weekly newsletter will only be available in an online format. A copy of this will be put on the website each week. In the near future, we are also looking to create a weekly bulletin to replace the newsletter, but this will include all relevant information that is currently included in the newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen
Headteacher

