



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Having now welcomed Year 8 and 9 students back to school, I can proudly report the following statistics:

- 100% of timetabled lessons have been delivered by the timetabled/scheduled teachers
- Physical student attendance is at 94.58%
- Student attendance at lessons (aided by our Google Classroom environment) is at 100%
- Dining routines have been very well managed
- Taxi arrival and departure is an example of a very well coordinated approach

The success of our Covid 19 contingency and recovery plans, especially the online Google Classroom environment has led to an invitation to deliver a short presentation on our offer as part of the Surrey Contingency Planning Webinar, co-ordinated by Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAfE).

To support families in making decisions regarding whether they should send their son to school, a table summarising the possible outcomes of your son exhibiting symptoms is attached. This is an attempt to summarise the information and guidelines available, and does not replace the official guidance. This table is adapted from that used by a local school.

I take the opportunity to remind families of the communication sent this week regarding a staff member delivering lessons remotely as a precautionary measure. Throughout the Autumn, all schools will be affected in some way (student and staff absence for example) as a result of families following government guidelines. Our online system allows staff to deliver scheduled lessons as timetabled (when well enough to do so) but also allows students to access their learning when they are at home for one reason or another. It goes without saying that if a staff member or student is too unwell to attend school, delivering or accessing lessons is not recommended.

Quality education is taking place, and where students are actively engaged, so too is learning. While it may take a small group of students a little more time to settle back into routine, your support in encouraging this is appreciated. In an uncertain year, this applies to all students but particularly Year 11 students who wish to gain GCSE grades in line with their ability.

The focus next week is managing the arrival and settling in of Year 7 students. We are all excited to have our full complement of students onsite.

By way of reminder, Year 7 parents are bringing students to school on Monday for a 10.00am start. Students should wait in their car, or if walking with a parent, wait at a suitable social distance near the entrance of the school (there will be staff on duty to help out).

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have rehearsed our Fire and Partial/Full Lockdown procedures. Communications regarding this were made to families on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The need to have such policies and procedures in place is a sign of the times we live in.

Online social communication applications and opportunities such as Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok, Xbox etc have helped many people get through Covid-19, and even daily lives prior to this pandemic. However, it is also a source of great concern to many, especially the victims of inappropriate comments and unnecessary speculation. As a small school community, we are not immune to this negativity. However, when brought to my attention I attempt to resolve and address as best I can.

As adults, we can support the high expectations regarding appropriate communication (whether online, in writing or in person) by modelling excellent, constructive and positive communications, demonstrating to our children how best to engage with such opportunities and to demonstrate a mature moral compass.

Finally and importantly, a 'Thank you' and 'Congratulations' to the students. The resilience and cooperation demonstrated this week is a credit to them individually and collectively.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen - Headteacher

House Points

House Points will be listed in next week's newsletter. All points recorded so far will be added on and included.

House Captains for this year will also be nominated and voted for next week.

Once the Year 7 pupils join on Monday, they will be allocated a House.

Mr Wright

Word of the Week

Benevolent (adjective) – please see end of newsletter (w/c 14th September 2020).

Mrs Palmer

Thought for this Week - The importance of guidelines and routines

Each week, one class will be summarising their understanding from the thought for the week just gone. This week is from 11C.





Mrs Cybuch

Thought for NEXT week

How can I make a difference and put my positive mark on Sunnydown?

Sunnydown will always be a school that looks to improve and do things differently and where necessary, better. This approach has at its heart, a desire to make it the best school it can be for each student.

However, it is imperative that students are part of the process and feel free to raise ideas about how they believe the school can be improved. With this right and opportunity comes great responsibility as well. The School Council is one way for all students to feel part of making a difference at Sunnydown.

The easiest way to make a positive difference to your own experience at Sunnydown is work hard and engage in all of the learning opportunities available to you, in a growth mindset and positive way. This is taking responsibility for your own active learning.

There are many other ways you can make a difference and this will be discussed during form times next week.

