



Friday 25th September 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

It is always great to hear from an Alumni and I would like to share with you a message we have just received from a student who joined us in 2012. Though Noah mentions some staff by name, I know that his sentiments are reflected in all staff.

*Dear Mr Paul Jensen*

*I have recently gone onto university and I'm currently studying zoology. All of my progress wouldn't have been possible without the support from the amazing staff at Sunnydown such as Mr Ben Wright (the P.E teacher), Mr Ian Matthews (my old maths teacher), Mrs Lucy Palmer (my old form tutor) (providing that they are still there), Mrs Lynne McCarthy and all of the other Teaching Assistant team and your amazing wife/my English teacher, Mrs Andrea Jensen for making sure that I achieved great grades. Of course I also thank the Care Staff such as Mrs Emma Austin, Mr Phil Worsfold, Mrs Heather Magson and Miss Krystle Thompson (when she was part of the care team).*

*Thanks for making sure that I reached my full potential and thanks for being there for three memorable years at Sunnydown as you joined when I was in year 9. Joining in Year 7, I felt like an outcast as I had SEN and needed more support than most other pupils. Thankfully I have met great friends from school that I have kept a long bond with.*

*Hope all is well back at the school despite all of this mess due to COVID.*

*From an old student - Noah Williams*

Exceptional progress is clearly evident time and again when families, school and young people, your son, are able to work collaboratively. Sunnydown offers every opportunity possible to every young man for them to achieve their potential.

The Pastoral Team and Mr Lord have had reason to work closely with some young men recently regarding how they communicate with other people. I too have needed to become involved in some circumstances. Inappropriate use of social media, use of foul language often directed at adults and peers, and the 'playing a joke' scenario of calling other people silly names, even excluding them from conversations or deliberately making comments to wind up a 'friend' are some examples. More recently, the group of boys using the Chat function within the GSuite applications are likely to have been distracted from learning while 'chatting' with one another during lessons. This too is being looked into.

Chromebooks are for education only, and breaches of the AUP can lead to a suspension of use. Being physical with another person is also a means of communicating. Play fighting has never been condoned at Sunnydown for the young men who attend here as these situations can get out of hand very quickly. Right now, social distancing precludes unnecessary physical contact and ongoing breaches of this will be reviewed.

It is absolutely correct that we are a school for young men with communication difficulties and educating your sons regarding appropriate communication is high on our agenda. Success though is enhanced when, as demonstrated by the student letter above, school, family and young persons are working together. On this occasion I write to one and all and ask us to unite in discussing and demonstrating appropriate communications with one another. Thank you.

Further to this, I have spoken to several classes and individual young men, to remind them of a mantra that 'bad things happen when good people do nothing'. This does not mean that a witness to an incident must step in, but sharing any relevant information with trusted adults is appreciated. No student should feel told off for not stopping an incident, or reporting it to an adult, but will be encouraged to do so in the future. With all staff and students working together, mindful of their interactions with one another, we can continue to see the welcoming warmth of Sunnydown be demonstrated.

I have previously sent a table which summarises information that helps in making decisions about whether to self isolate or not, and whether to send a child to school or not. This week, for further clarity, please find attached a letter from Public Health England.

By way of reminder, students who are at home possibly self isolating but are well enough to do so, should access their lessons via Google Classrooms. Until further notice, lessons will continue to be delivered according to the timetable currently used. All students have a copy of this in their school diary. This is part of our Remote Learning plan.

Following updated guidance from our Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, through the week, the intended Weekend Working Bee (Saturday 10th October) will need to be reviewed. While it would be wonderful to have families onsite (socially distanced of course) I would not wish to increase any unnecessary risk. Please do continue to register your interest by emailing [office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk) but do be mindful that the event may need to be postponed.

The changing circumstances due to Covid-19 mean that we need to be extra vigilant at all times. Please do remind your sons of the '**Hands. Face. Space**' message being promoted nationally at present. In addition, your support in reminding your son that social distancing applies at all times, even when in lessons, is appreciated.

Thank you to our bus driving volunteers - a team made up of parents including Mrs Millar, Mr Jackson and Mr Barnes. Additional drivers of our school minivans, particularly on Friday, are welcomed.

This week we have employed the part-time services of Matty Horkan, an ex-student who now runs his own gardening and landscaping business called 'Shabby Goat Services'. Matty has transformed some areas this week, and helped maintain the grounds to a very high standard. A massive thank you from all of the staff and students for your help this week Matty.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen

## **Boarding News**



We are pleased to announce we are reopening our doors to the boarders on Monday. For those who are staying you will have received an email today. If you have not received anything, and think you should, please get in touch. We look forward to seeing the boys with their bags next week.

**Mrs Magson**

### **SMSC - Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural**

Thank you for all the generous donations made on Friday 18th September. We raised a total of £77.00 for the Jeans for Genes day.

I hope all the boys enjoyed cake and juice at the end of PSHE today. This was to help raise awareness for the MacMillan Cancer charity. Thank you all for your kind donations.

**Miss Drake**

### **Pupil Premium Funding**

Just a reminder for parents/carers to complete the form for eligibility for Free School Meals. Even if you do not think you qualify, I would encourage every family to complete this form. If you do qualify, the school is entitled to extra funding for your son. If you have any questions or would like a further copy of the form, please contact me in the school office. Thank you.

**Miss Lawson**

### **School Uniform**

Please note that with effect from Monday 5th October 2020, the uniform costs will be increasing slightly. This is due to an increase in the cost from our suppliers. The new costs are detailed below:

<b>Item</b>	<b>New Cost (from 5th Oct 2020)</b>
Tie (junior or senior)	£6.00
Jumper (30")	£14.00
Jumper (32" - 38")	£16.00
Jumper (40" - 44")	£19.50

The blazer badge, cooking apron and cooking hat all remain the same price.

### **School Office Hours**



Please note that from Monday 28th September, the school office will be open from 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday during term time. If you contact the school office outside of those hours, please do leave a message on our voicemail and this will be picked up as soon as possible.

**Miss Lawson**

### **100% Attendance**

Congratulations to 8M for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 18th September 2020.

### **Friends of Sunnydown**

We have a few dates for your diaries. Our next meeting is our AGM - everyone is welcome to join us as it will be held via Zoom, so you don't need to leave the comfort of your sofa. Kelly and Tom Barnes (Joshua, Year 9) are happy to remain as joint Chair, but with our son graduating last year, it would be great to hand over the post of Secretary and Treasurer to new hands. Anyone interested in getting a little more involved please kindly email for more details or just join us online on Tuesday 22nd October at 7pm. The link will be sent out nearer the time.

We have a virtual Quiz Night planned for November 6th, details to follow soon but meanwhile gather your teams. We are also planning a Christmas raffle but due to the current climate, we are looking for vouchers to compile as prizes, so ask your favourite restaurant, gift shop, garden centre, garage, hairdresser and dog groomer if they would be kind enough to donate a gift voucher to help raise funds for our amazing school.

If you haven't done so already, please join us on Facebook 'Friends of Sunnydown' for community, friendship and news.

**Lesley Anderson**  
friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

### **Word of the Week**

**Conundrum (noun)** – please see end of newsletter (w/c 28th September 2020).

**Mrs Palmer**

### **House Points**

Certificates and prizes for earning house points for last week go to:

Joshua Benton            200 House points

Certificates and prizes for earning house points this week go to:

Max Mahboobani        200 House Points  
Alexander Neale        200 House Points



Ty Small	200 House Points
Jack Reid	350 House Points
Connor Mason	450 House Points
Ethan Crouch	750 House Points

The weekly top scorers are also detailed below:

KS3	Burntwood	Taylor Conway
	Buxton	Jayden Smurthwaite
	Portley	AJ Harper/Finley Marley
	Whyteleafe	Andrew Hendry Smith/Jensen Powell
KS4	Burntwood	Declan Giddings/Ethan Crouch/Simeon Gordon
	Buxton	Ryan Foster
	Portley	Miles Eliatamby/Cameron Castle
	Whyteleafe	Charlie Gocher

**Thought for THIS week was:**

Each week, one class will be summarising their understanding from the Thought for the Week. This week is from 10W.



**Mrs Cybuch**

**Thought for NEXT week: The REST strategy**

Stress to some degree is a normal part of life. We all get stressed! Learning how to cope with stress is really important for our wellbeing. At Sunnydown, previous students came up with the REST strategy. REST stands for **RE**start **ST**ategy. It's an opportunity to take a time out and speak to an adult or take a deep breath and calm down. We all sometimes need to take a break when things get difficult. Using the REST strategy can help support your learning and relationships by helping you cope well with difficult moments.

**Mr Wright**

**KS3 Friday Curriculum - 2nd October 2020**

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Clothing and other information
7D	RICE Challenge	On site	School Uniform
7T	RICE Challenge	On site	School Uniform



8C	Food Experience	On site	School uniform
8M	School Project	On site	School uniform
9J	Humanities	On site	Roman Day - School uniform
9P	Humanities	On site	Roman Day - School uniform

**Astro Turf Rota**

In order to maximise the use of the facilities during breaks and lunch in as safe a manner as possible, we are extending the use of the Astro Turf as from Monday 28th September. The rota for lunchtime for the weeks ahead will be as outlined below:

	12.30pm-1.00pm	1.00pm-1.30pm
Monday	Year 11	Year 8
Tuesday	Year 10	Year 9
Wednesday	Year 11	Year 8
Thursday	Year 10	Year 9
Friday	Year 7	Year 8

In the interest of equity, we will be speaking with the Year 7s and Year 8s early next week regarding an additional resource for the boys to engage them further during lunchtimes.




**Mr Lord**

Word of the week w/c 28th September 2020

**conundrum**                      **noun**

A confusing and difficult problem or question.

It was a **conundrum** for the experts.

Synonyms: problem, difficult question, enigma, mystery, quandary.

**FoS Zoom Meeting: 17/9/20**

**Present:** Tom and Kelly Barnes (KB), Lesley (LA) and Brian Anderson (BA), Paul Jensen (PJ), Carol Edwards (CE), Tara Gellet (TG), Amanda Scott (AS), Melanie Bridges (MB). **Apologies:** Lucy Young.

**Chair Report** - KB welcomed everyone, especially nice to see some new faces too.

**Smartie Challenge:** KB to contact local supermarkets to see if any willing to donate all or some of the 88





tubes needed. Tubes to be labelled and sent in, with 72 hours quarantine period prior to sending out for Half Term. Returned tubes filled with cash to be entered into a prize draw for an Amazon Voucher (last year raised approx £300).

**Quiz Night (virtual): 6th Nov tbc.** KB to contact the Quizmaster used by a neighbouring school to confirm the number of teams/procedures etc. Fees discussed as QM will need a small donation to his charity and, although primarily a social event this year, we still need to see a return for the effort involved. (Historically an onsite event would raise approx £1,000 with a raffle, catering and mini games included in the evening).

**Funding Requests: Outdoor Chess set:** Arrived. KB to put a photo up on Facebook. Invoice of £380 to be sent to BA.

**Benches:** PJ asked for a contribution towards the £3,500 bill. BA pointed out that as we are registered with the Charities Commission it could be an issue if we are not seen to be spending the monies raised, therefore with almost £13,000 in the kitty it was agreed to pay for the benches in full. Regarding the minibus PJ said that it probably won't be needed until the Spring term (originally £10,000 set aside). No other projects currently lined up.

**Non-Fire Night:** PJ asked FoS to help promote a Rotary online event currently being planned as a CV19 alternative to their usual local bonfire and fireworks fundraising evening.

**Amazon-Smile:** TB requested with Christmas fast approaching that this and the EasyFundraising link is promoted via the Newsletter and Facebook.

**Newsletter:** MB offered to take over the role of writing this from LA. KB to link contacts on the FoS WhatsApp group.

**Lockdown Quiz Cup:** KB to retrieve and pass to BA for engraving 'Portley House 2020 winners'. **Christmas**

**Fair/Sunnypound Cards:** FoS discussed the possibility of holding a fair regarding the current government guidelines. PJ explained some of the key points and CE expressed that FoS do not want to add extra pressure to teaching staff. After discussion the following was agreed - \*Design a Christmas Jumper Competition. \*Guess the number of sweets in a jar (one jar per bubble). \*Source selection box donations for the boys. \*Request donations to pay for a snow machine for the last day of term.

**Raffle:** LA to investigate online raffle tickets. Prizes in the form of vouchers to be sourced.

**50/50 club:** Prizes drawn for August and September.

**Social Distanced Working Bee:** PJ requested FoS support for 5 families to help out with groundworks followed by lunch, 10th Oct tbc. KB and MB volunteered.

**AGM 22nd Oct, 7pm:** KB and TB happy to continue as joint Chair. Following LA and BA's son's graduation the position of Treasurer and Secretary to be advertised.

**AOB:** MB asked if her daughter could run a bake sale at Sunnydown in conjunction with World Autism Day (2/4/21). PJ agreed this would be most welcome. BA asked PJ to ask for a cheque from last term to be banked before our year ends on 30th September.

**There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:05pm**

**Next Meeting: AGM - Tuesday 22nd October, 7pm via Zoom**

