Friday 27th September 2019

Dear young men, parents, carers, governors, taxi drivers and staff of Sunnydown,

I have thanked Mr Lord several times and in different ways already this week for his contribution to ensuring the school functioned very well recently. I take the opportunity again here. For several years Mr Lord and I have worked hard together to ensure we have the systems and practices in place to allow school trips of all natures to go ahead and for a broad, balanced and creative curriculum to be accessible to all students. It is the confidence we have in one another, and our systems that not only do we embrace opportunities like the Florida trip, but that we actively seek additional opportunities; the proposed Year 11 trip to Spain post-graduation, for example.

It is my firm belief that accessing such opportunities only serves to enhance our offer and improve outcomes for children. There is no barrier to a young man’s academic success here at Sunnydown. The teaching is excellent, the emotional support second to none and access to a broad curriculum unrivalled among special schools. Our approach is underpinned by sound philosophical and pedagogical methods. Students who attend Sunnydown have access to experienced teachers and support staff that care above and beyond role descriptions. Our GCSE results again this year demonstrate progress above expectations for many individual students and when our results are compared to other special schools nationally, we will again rank incredibly highly. Sunnydown offers this academic GCSE focussed pathway for those interested and committed to achieving well in this area, but we also offer many alternatives. This does not suggest for one moment that my personal nor professional expectations are lowered, merely that I am meeting my responsibility of offering options for young people.

Thank you to the staff and families that have also been so supportive and understanding of our endeavour to continually improve our provision and more recently as some staffing issues have been resolved. It is this positivity that facilitates the maintenance of an environment conducive to learning.

We achieve wonderful things at Sunnydown. Students and their families, staff and governors, and the wider community deserve this to be recognised. Though there is an official launch in November, The Parliamentary Review is now available online. Please do find the time to read this short and acknowledging review of our school. Please also share this good news story as far and wide as you can as we collectively work to continue to enhance our provision and maintain the sense of pride we have worked hard to develop.

https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/sunnydown-school
The Green Power Education Trust inspires young people around the world to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through a unique challenge: to design, build and race an electric car. I am genuinely excited to be working in close collaboration with staff and students at de Stafford on this project, likely to commence after half term. Please take the time to review the website link below if you believe your son may be interested.

There are only two spaces available in the first round, but this opportunity will likely be extended in some way in the future. A call for nominations of interest from students will go out before half term. [https://www.greenpower.co.uk/](https://www.greenpower.co.uk/)

**Weekend Working Bee – CANCELLED**

It is with great regret that due to forecast weather conditions, I have decided to cancel the Weekend Working Bee scheduled for this Sunday, 29th September.

Thank you for your support though, and to those families that had already registered to attend.

**Ofsted – Parent Views**

With the new Ofsted Framework for judgements, described in recent newsletters, there is also an updated version of Parent View questions which are most often collected during an inspection. I will be inviting parents to undertake this survey in the near future so that we can demonstrate progress against any identified areas for development, but also reflect on the positive observations I am confident that a vast majority of our families can make about Sunnydown School.

**Polite reminder on being polite and respectful**

At Sunnydown, there is an expectation that when one person greets another, with a hello or similar, that it is polite to respond. This applies to students and adults alike in one on one meetings, small groups and even in class or assembly situations.

Further, shaking one another’s hand is considered an appropriate physical contact and importantly, an appropriate greeting. Other physical contact, such as birthday beats, headlocks or play fighting are not considered appropriate. With the level of communication needs here at Sunnydown, such actions are open to interpretation and may cause unnecessary upset.

Not demonstrating polite behaviour will always be addressed and those who are able to demonstrate polite behaviours are applauded.

**Orlando, Florida**

Having returned on Wednesday from Florida, we will now develop a slide show to have on display in the entrance to the school, and some photo books of the experience. It was wonderful to have reported to me the positive comments and questions from students who did not go, being asked of those who did go.

The Children with Special Needs Foundation (CWSNF) were very impressed with the behaviour, appreciation, and maturity demonstrated by the 8 students as they represented Sunnydown School, their families and of course themselves.
Following the newsletter from last week, the boys had a second day at Universal Studios (with a behind the scenes view of some ‘Stranger Things’ props), SeaWorld and LegoLand as well as visiting the Sea Life Centre and Madame Tussauds. Below is a picture from the Air Boat trip as we searched for alligators.

All involved had a special time – one that will have created lifetime memories. A special thanks is extended to Mrs Austin and Mr Moody who gave of themselves above and beyond throughout the journey and in preparation.

Finally, to Gordon and Ann Parris, Pauline, Tom and Gavin who are all associated closely with the charity. I extend my gratitude for the opportunity and I look forward to an ongoing close association in years to come. CWSNF is a truly wonderful charity.

**Emergency contact information**

Below is wording from Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2019 regarding emergency contact information:

*Where reasonably possible, schools and colleges should hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student. This goes beyond the legal minimum and is good practice to give the school or college additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is also identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.*

If we do not have at least 2 emergency contacts for your child, please contact the school office.

**Parking**

I wonder if I may ask us all to reflect back to the letter which went out with the 19th July Newsletter detailing plans for a new and improved layout on the school circuit. We installed bay parking and refreshed all existing lines in a bid to reduce idling cars, ensure a safe crossing space for families, improve congestion and reduce pollution. May I ask those families that do use the onsite parking to be mindful of the new parking layout.
Cam’ron Pindi (Year 8) – Croydon Young Musician Showcase

Cam’ron Pindi is performing in a showcase of musical talent on Friday evening at Fairfield Halls in Croydon. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success and enjoyment for the special event.

50 years after their first concert at Fairfield Halls, join the Croydon Young Musicians in a celebration of Croydon’s musical heritage.

All 400 young musicians, from the Croydon Music and Arts innovative beginner Star Classes through to their advanced bands and orchestras, perform together for the opening and closing pieces. African Love Song Blues is based on a piece written in 1898 by Croydon composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor which combined both parts of his dual heritage, African melody with European harmony. Gillian of Croydon is an old English tune from the seventeenth century. It is also a poem published in 1719 which has been re-imagined for modern Croydon by the award winning Rap Club.

The heart of the concert is the culmination of a London Music Fund supported project involving young musicians working alongside professional groups. They perform a new commission, Take Time, by Jeff Moore with Fairfield’s resident orchestra, the London Mozart Players. They are also joined by the Grand Union Orchestra for Uncharted Voyage with music from China, India, Africa and the Caribbean, a celebration of Croydon’s diversity.

Collaborations also involve the Youth Music funded inclusive groups with partners Kinetika Bloco and Club Soda, and the music technology group leading Awesome World, a piece they have created to celebrate their heritages.

https://www.fairfield.co.uk/whats-on/croydon-young-musicians-showcase/

Art News

Year 11 Monday photographers will go on a photography trip to Dungeness on Monday 7th October.

Oscar Robson is Artist of the Week with his study from Japanese Art, seen below, which has been our theme for this term for Years 8, 9 and 10.
Watch out for Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils’ designs of Christmas Cards for sale in October, to raise money for the School Fund.

URGENTLY NEEDED - If anyone has any old spare digital cameras or knows any companies that would like to donate any digital cameras to be used by our pupils, who are budding photographers, we would gladly accept.

**Friends of Sunnydown**

Do you shop online? Christmas is coming …

We’re registered with Easy fundraising. Easy fundraising is supported by 4,000 well-known brands with sites such as eBay, Argos, Next, John Lewis, M&S & Just Eat. Simply by ordering through their sites via Easy fundraising they donate to us. How good is that?

Please sign up & raise money for us – it’s free to use and your shopping won't cost you any extra.

Visit: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosunnydown/?invite=X2UEKE&referral-campaign=c2s](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosunnydown/?invite=X2UEKE&referral-campaign=c2s)

Using the link above will also raise an additional £5 for every new recruit. Currently we have 93 supporters (4 newbie Year 7 parents since July, welcome and thank you).

Since we enrolled we have raised through this channel a staggering £1,734.79 for the benefit of all our boys. Don’t forget our AGM is being held on Thursday 24th October at 7:30pm. All welcome.

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

**Boarding News**

Another great week in boarding. As the weather seems to have turned we have had a swimming trip to de Stafford, bowling over in Crawley, sports in the gym, ICT, cooking and a film night this week.

We are very pleased to see Mrs Austin and the rest of the Florida trip back safe and sound and look forward to seeing the boarders back in residential next week. We also will be having a visit on Tuesday night from one of our independent visitors. Clare, the Pupil Advocate, is coming over for dinner and a chat with any of the young men that wish to speak to her.

Have a great weekend.

*The Care Team*

**Ski Trip 2020**

Could I please remind all parents of the young men going on the 2020 ski trip to return the red forms that were sent out a couple of weeks ago. I have to provide this information to the ski company as soon as possible. Many thanks.

*Mrs Magson*
Arts Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September are attached.

Attendance

Congratulations to 11C, 10C and 7D for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 20th September 2019.

Forthcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th September</td>
<td>CANCELLED - Weekend Working Bee (10.30am–1.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd October</td>
<td>Year 7 – Parents’ Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st November</td>
<td>Sunnydown Golf Day – Farleigh Golf course</td>
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<td>Monday 4th November</td>
<td>Inset Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th January 2020</td>
<td>Inset Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8th January</td>
<td>Years 9 &amp; 10 – Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th January</td>
<td>Year 11 – Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th February</td>
<td>Years 7 &amp; 8 – Parents’ Evening (4-6pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March 2020</td>
<td>Inset Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 7th June 2020</td>
<td>Weekend Working Bee (10.30am – 1.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th June 2020</td>
<td>Inset Day (School Development Planning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 12th July 2020</td>
<td>Weekend Working Bee (10.30am – 1.30pm)</td>
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Trips next week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd October 2019</td>
<td>Year 10 Creative Media Trip to Tilgate Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd October 2019</td>
<td>Year 8 trip to Hampton Estate farm visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd October 2019</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 SSSSA Winter Cross-country event - JUNIORS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd October 2019</td>
<td>Year 10 &amp; 11 SSSSA Winter Cross-country event – SENIORS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th October 2019</td>
<td>8J shopping trip to Tesco (Caterham) during their Friday food experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th October 2019</td>
<td>Mountain Biking, Kenley airfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th October 2019</td>
<td>Year 9 Humanities Trip – Ashdown Forest (Mr Cassim to confirm details)</td>
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Scientist of the Week

The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Few and Mr Cybuch is Simeon Gordon (10F) for independence.

Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is Monty Rose (11C).
Science guess the picture competition

Picture of the week is shown below. Last week’s answer was a strawberry.

[Image of a blue insect]

Mr Cybuch

Artist of the Week

The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hayibor is Oscar Robson (10F).

Word of the Week

Pugnacious (adjective) – please see end of newsletter (w/c 30th September 2019).

Mrs Jensen

Yours sincerely

Paul Jensen
Headteacher