

# THIS IS US

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM UNDERSHAW

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Vic Walker - Welcome to Summer!*

*Teacher Feature: Our Headteacher, Emma West*

*Sundial Festival is back and bigger than ever!*

*Young Rotary and the 'Super Power Hour'*

*Charity Partner Profile: Just Like Us*

*The Tech Space*

*The Therapy Hub*



When I last had the opportunity to introduce the school newsletter, I opened with a quote from one of my favourite educationalists, Tom Sherrington: 'Exploring possibilities, broadening experiences, building capabilities, and embracing the joy of learning' as a way of describing the conditions in which the students at a school thrive. Working at Undershaw is a truly joyful experience and every day is an opportunity to see these possibilities and experiences come alive for our students.

It has been a busy and exciting start to the new term, with the launch of a new project-based learning topic in year 7&8 arts, the introduction of the WW2 topic in KS2, options for year 9 and the commencement of formal examinations for GCSE, BTEC and functional skills qualifications in May.

We have continued to develop our Discovery Day curriculum, and many of our students are now working towards finishing a certificate or badge in recognition of the subject or activity that they have chosen. Development of the Skills Builder skills through lessons and enrichment is a unique and essential part of the Undershaw offer, and we are delighted to see how many students have worked hard to practice these skills and work towards achieving the certificates which are accredited by the AQA and lead toward the Undershaw Diploma.

It is with great pride that we have welcomed Ofsted's recognition of the 'impressive gains in the development of confidence, self-esteem and independence' that our students make, and it is an exciting time for us as we plan to grow into the 'truly exceptional' school that we have the capacity to become. I know that the school community will have a fantastic summer term and look forward to sharing the many experiences we have with you all.



Year 11 and Post 16 students should be extremely proud of themselves for the focused determination that they have shown as they prepare for their final exams this summer. Sitting multiple examinations can be a challenging time and our students showed exceptional resilience throughout their March mocks. We will be with them every step of the way and look forward to sharing their successes.



I became a teacher 22 years ago and have been very lucky to have had such a varied and interesting career. I have worked in a wide range of schools including inner-city schools, outstanding academy schools, independent mainstream schools, an international school in Dubai, schools with specific SEND provision, secondary phase schools, primary phase schools and now Undershaw.

# When West points True North



I have been an Advanced Skills Teacher, a Head of Faculty, an Assistant Headteacher, A Vice Principal, a Head of Prep and now a Headteacher! I am really excited about the future at Undershaw, we have a really strong team of staff that care deeply about the students and are passionate about ensuring that each one of them is supported to aspire and achieve. We are continuing to develop our provision in all areas and really want to become a Centre of Excellence for SEND Education in the future.



I spend most weekends on the side of a football pitch... which wasn't what I expected when I had two daughters. As a keen 'sight see-er' I try to plan visits to fit in with game locations...not always popular with my family but one day they will thank me for their knowledge of castles and botanical gardens, I am sure! Planning a holiday is also something that I love to do...having spent many years as a Geography teacher planning school trips with schedules, timelines and a well-considered itinerary ...I apply this well-honed skill to family holiday planning too. What is a holiday without a spreadsheet anyway?

Personally, my goal is to overcome my fear of 'extreme sports' and to 'ride' the fastest zipline in the world.....it's booked for this Summer and I hope that sharing this with you all and putting it in writing will ensure that I do it! Wish me luck!



"I feel very privileged to be the Headteacher of Undershaw and work with an incredible staff team and our wonderful students. There have been so many highlights of my time at Undershaw, it's difficult to choose a favourite....Perhaps, Founders Day when we welcomed back some of our Alumni and heard about how Undershaw had given them the confidence to become socially and economically engaged young adults, World Book Day where the school came together as a community to dress up, have fun and celebrate books, or perhaps the fabulous Talent Show where there was barely a dry eye in the house to see the confidence and courage of the performers and the overwhelming support that was shown by the school community for every single performer....

Undershaw is just such an incredible place."

# Sundial Festival: A COINS Foundation Celebration 2nd July



'The first cohort of Undershaw Arts Award students – a small mix of both primary and secondary students, will be performing and entertaining us with their own take on a Shakespeare classic – be prepared for some witchcraft, some royalty and a little bit of bloodshed on the Scottish battlefields!'

Stephanie Wilson, Head of Drama

## BACK FOR 2022!

### SUNDIAL FESTIVAL



## Including very special musical and dramatic performances from Undershaw students

“Following on from the extraordinary success of Undershaw’s Got Talent, the Performing Arts departments are incredibly excited about working towards Sundial Festival. This will be a fantastic event and from the Music department there will be rocking bands, choirs and a range of stunning solo performances to enjoy from students of all key stages. The Drama department are working on a fabulous piece of Shakespeare to enthrall us all. On top of the performance, the Music department are also working on creating a new Undershaw Album to be recorded at Sundial to capture the incredible range of musical talent at the school. We are extremely grateful to Larry for facilitating these wonderful opportunities for our students and look forward to seeing lots of students, staff, and families there.”

James Lindsey, Head of Music

To register  
for tickets  
please [click  
here](#) to visit  
our Sundial  
Festival 2022  
event page!

> REGISTER NOW



This event is free and run entirely for the charitable partners of the COINS Foundation. Our invitation is to all students, staff, and families of Undershaw.

As a free event, registration is password protected. To register for tickets please click the link opposite. The password has been emailed to all families but please contact Karen if you haven't received it or would like it re-sending.

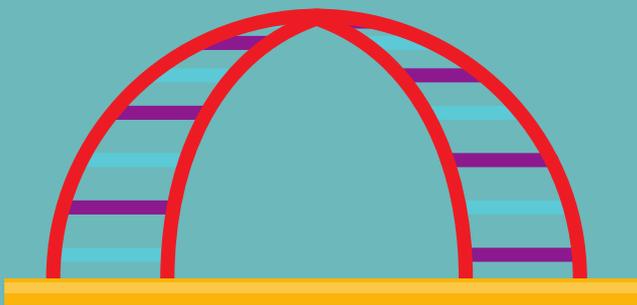
Please come and join us - it promises to be a wonderful afternoon!



# Sundial Raffle: Please Help!

Our raffles offer us amazing opportunities for fundraising and we want our Sundial Raffle to be the biggest and best yet!

If you are in a position to donate a prize, or are connected with businesses that could donate, we would be so appreciative.



This year we are focussing our fundraising activities on new outdoor play equipment for our Undershaw campus. This play equipment will be suitable for our younger Key Stage 2 children and include sensory equipment for use by the older age groups.

Each day we see first-hand how vital our outdoor space is to the physical and emotional development of our students.

We have an idyllic campus at Undershaw and areas that lend themselves to providing a more holistic experience of the outdoors.

Eliminating the impossible

OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO DONATE PRIZES.

## THE UNDERSHAW SUMMER RAFFLE

All proceeds will go to our new outdoor play equipment and sensory trail.  
Raffle to be drawn at the Sundial Festival on Saturday 2nd July 2022.

Please email [employability@undershaw.education](mailto:employability@undershaw.education) for full details of how to donate.

Eliminating the impossible

Please email Leilah Sheridan for details of how to donate by clicking the image.





# Young Rotary Club and the 'Super Power Hour'



The Undershaw Interact Club (part of the Haslemere Rotary Club) was introduced as one of our Discovery Day Options.

The group planned and hosted an amazing event during the afternoon of Wednesday 30th March.

In honour of the National Autistic Societies Super 60 Challenge, the Interact Club decided to put together an afternoon of fun called the 'Super Power Hour'!



Students could choose to join School Disco, Read-a-thon, Scavenger Hunt, Geo-Guesser and Staff v Students Football activities!

Everyone had a wonderful time and found their fun raising £45 for the National Autistic Society.

Jenny from the Haslemere Rotary Club who visited during the event, commented "You should all feel very proud of how it went."

"I am extremely proud of our Young Rotary Club, they have worked so hard to pull this together in just 6 weeks using their teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills.

They have shown great respect to each other during our discussion sessions. It has been a wonderful experience for them to get to know fellow students in other classes working towards a shared goal of raising money for a charity close to their hearts.

Following the success of last half term, we now have additional members and lots of things planned! Watch this space!"

Leilah Sheridan, Interact Club Leader



If you'd like to donate to the Interact Club's fundraising activities, please scan the QR code with your phone's camera and donate directly online.



# The world really is... 'Just Like Us'



All students were fortunate enough to have a school-wide talk from Just Like Us ambassadors recently. Our work with relevant and impactful charitable partners is so important for the life of our school and the well-being of our students, staff, and families. Just Like Us is a national charity that support LGBT+ young people and their experiences in education and employment. For more information about the charity and the work they do, please click the image below. There will be some follow up resources available shortly but please contact the school through the usual channels if you have any questions.



**The LGBT+ young  
people's charity.**

- What it's like growing up LGBT+ and allyship
- Age-appropriate explanations of key terms and concepts
- Supportive, positive messaging, which research has found is linked to all pupils having improved wellbeing (regardless of whether the pupil is LGBT+ or not)
- How young people can tackle anti-LGBT+ attitudes
- Myth-busting and breaking down stereotypes
- Examples of positive and diverse LGBT+ representation, including LGBT+ people of faith

All school talk LGBT+ speakers are aged 18 to 25, making their talks really relatable for young people.

"We are very keen to ensure that Undershow is a place where we have an open and honest dialogue about all issues surrounding our young people.

Giving our young people the confidence and security to speak out for both themselves and each other.

Today's session was really important to help raise and awareness and open up that dialogue."

Clare Wickens, Safe Space Leader



"It was great! The speakers were excellent and we were so happy that they spoke about their neurodiversity as well as LGBT+ identity. Two of the speakers had autism and one had ADHD that meant the students had an opportunity to hear about someone like them sharing their experiences."

Sam Mackey, Safe Space Leader



The planning for transition for this term is in full swing as this 'final term' of school is such an important period for all students. Leaving secondary education to go to further education, apprenticeship or work is a significant change in a young person's life. While it can be a very exciting time, it can also have its challenges.

The Employability team have been busy preparing our students for this transition with communication sessions with our Speech and Language therapist, work experiences and activities in the wider community for their organisation and social skills, and trips to various colleges to get a feel for life on an FE College campus.

Building on our relationships with the learning support and admissions teams at the colleges that our students have applied to, we ensure that they have as complete a picture as possible of the young person who will be joining them. Transition packs that follow them to college include One page profiles written by the student themselves so they are busy drafting these at the moment.

A busy but exciting term to come ... notwithstanding organising this year's unforgettable Leavers Prom!

Sharon Setterfield, Transition Coach

In a three-month period during 2021, no fewer than 45 million people in the UK experienced a suspicious attempt at being contacted via their mobile. Phone scams are a common form of cyber-attack where fraudsters engage directly with their intended victim through their smartphone. As our phones carry so many sensitive (and therefore potentially valuable) details about us, it's vital that trusted adults are alert to the tactics that scammers use to get access to user accounts, personal data and private information for financial gain.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as sim hacking, smishing, and impersonation.



Click the link below for the latest National Online Safety advice for parents and carers.



# Phone Scams



# Tech Space



**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PHONE SCAMS**

In a three-month period during 2021, no fewer than 45 million people in the UK experienced a suspicious attempt at being contacted via their mobile. Phone scams are a common form of cyber-attack where fraudsters engage directly with their intended victim through their smartphone. As our phones carry so many sensitive (and therefore potentially valuable) details about us, it's vital that trusted adults are alert to the tactics that scammers use to get access to user accounts, personal data and private information for financial gain.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- SMISHING**: Smishing is 'smishing' is one of the most common forms of mobile-based phishing. It involves sending a text message that appears to be a legitimate text from a trusted source, but is actually designed to get you to click on a link that leads to a website where you are asked to provide sensitive information such as bank details and passwords.
- IMPERSONATION**: Fraudsters often impersonate trusted contacts such as family members, friends, or colleagues. They may use a caller ID spoofing service to make their calls appear to be from a trusted contact. They may also use social media to impersonate trusted contacts.
- NUMBER SPOOFING**: This is a technique where a caller uses a service to make their calls appear to be from a trusted contact. This is often used to impersonate trusted contacts.
- FAKE TECH SUPPORT**: Attackers contact a target, pretending to work for a legitimate company, and offer to help with a technical problem. They may ask for remote access to the target's device to 'fix' the problem. Once they have access, they may steal sensitive information or install malware on the device.
- SIM HIJACKING**: This is a technique where an attacker gains access to a victim's SIM card. They can then use the victim's phone number to receive calls and text messages. They can also use the victim's phone number to access their accounts and other services.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

- DO SOME DIGGING**: If you've received a call or text asking for sensitive information, it's important to do some digging. Check the caller ID, the sender's name, and the content of the message. If you're unsure, it's best to ignore the message or call the sender back using a different number.
- VERIFY THE SOURCE**: If you're contacted by someone claiming to be from a legitimate company, it's important to verify the source. Check the company's website, contact details, and social media profiles. If you're unsure, it's best to ignore the message or call the company using a different number.
- BE WARY OF LINKS**: If you receive a text message or email with a link, it's important to be wary of links. Don't click on links from unknown sources, and don't click on links that look suspicious. If you're unsure, it's best to ignore the message or email.

Meet Our Expert: **National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

National Online Safety Vision: Helping schools meet their statutory safeguarding and curriculum requirements through the most comprehensive online safety programme for educators, parents and children.

NOS works with leading experts in education and online safety to create our training and resources. NOS collaborates with leading experts, education institutions and charities to create the highest quality online safety training available.

Click here to visit the website and read more about their goals, safeguarding approach and the experts behind the guides.



# The Therapy Hub



Every fortnight one therapist reads and presents a journal article to the rest of the therapy team. This is not only to meet our clinical guidelines but also as a way of staying up to date with current research.

Our most recent journal club was around 'camouflaging' in autistic girls and we would like to share some highlights of what was found in the article.

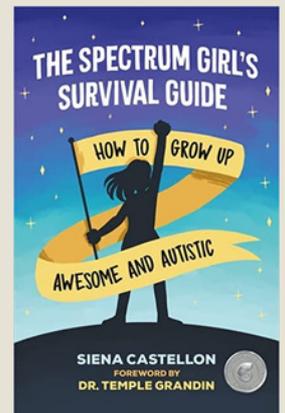
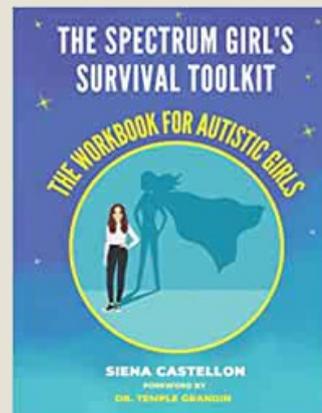
Autism presents itself differently in girls as to boys and as a result are diagnosed late or are mis-diagnosed. There are different theories around this but one is that there is a 'female autism phenotype' – in other words autistic females have characteristics which don't fit with the profile.

What does Autism in girls look like?

- Girls are more likely to mimic others in social situations as they want to fit in with others.
- Their special interests might be more sociable in nature, e.g., celebrities, fictional characters, animals but are just as intense.
- They tend to obsess over friendships and can develop one or two very close friends.
- Reportedly, parents of boys with ASD tend to be more worried about their son's isolation and withdrawal behaviours whereas parents of girls' parents reported more concerns about emotional outbursts.
- Several studies have shown that girls control their emotions better at school, where they act far differently than they do at home. For many with ASD, but especially girls, they manage to hold it together at school but then come home and release the pressure built up during the day of pretending to be someone else.

## Our reading list:

Click the images for the Amazon links.



If you are in a position to donate much needed items to your local food bank for families in need, please [click here](#) for the Trussell Trust website where you can search your local food bank and ways to donate either food or monetary donations.



## Undershaw Family Support

The last few years have presented difficult circumstances for many families across the UK, and the impacts of the Covid-19 situation are still felt by many.

If you are struggling to provide food or essentials at home, please don't hesitate to reach out for support.

Katherine is in contact with the local food bank and other organisations who will be able to support you.

Please do contact her in confidence on [katherine.bourne@undershaw.education](mailto:katherine.bourne@undershaw.education).