

# THIS IS US

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM UNDERSHAW

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I am very lucky to have an office that overlooks the stunning grounds at Undershaw. Rather than pen you all a desperate attempt at a sonnet, it gave me time to think on my first year here. As many of you know, my previous job was working for the Local Authority, sitting in front of a computer in my living room with only my dog for company (if anyone has seen what my dog looks like, you will know this is a challenge itself!). I arrived at Undershaw looking for a new lease of life which was amplified by my first sighting of the greenery and colours that frame the Undershaw grounds. Over time, these colours have changed from green to brown and reflects a changing season for the SEND strategy in England.

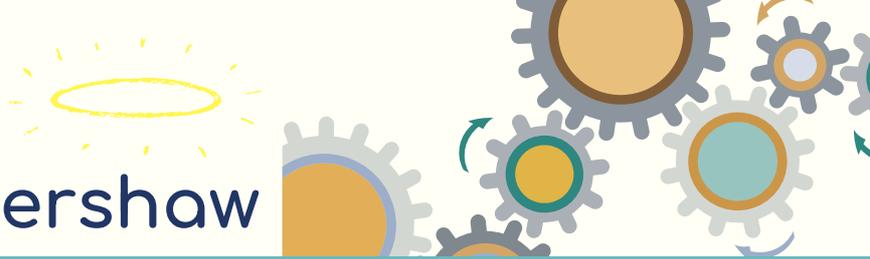
The Department for Education has published its long-awaited plans in a Green Paper, more than two years after its SEND review was launched. It is important to note a Green Paper contains no commitment to action, it is more a tool of stimulating discussion, but is often the first step towards generating traction and changing the law. I've had discussions with many of you regarding the frustrations and weight that the EHCP process has had on your children and families. The Green Paper looks to address some of these issues, including a simplification of the EHCP process 'through digitising plans to make them more flexible, and reduce bureaucracy.' One of the criticisms of this SEND review, and the LA in general, is the time it takes to amend EHCPs.



We will continue to support you during the changing of these seasons by ensuring the EHCP means something tangible, substantial and future-focussed for both you and your children.

This has been one of my goals since I started post at Undershaw: ensuring your children have accurate, up to date plans that truly reflect their personality, their strengths, and an accurate depiction of their needs. With support from the brilliant AR administrator Julie Roscoe, we are communicating continually with the LA to ensure plans are amended following Annual Reviews when it is appropriate and necessary. We have experienced some brilliant reviews this year, especially when the student has been present at the meeting and can express personally what support they need and how they wish to be presented on an EHCP. This is how it should be: the young person being a driving force in how they should receive the support they need in order to meet their aspirations.

# Teacher Feature: TAs make the Undershaw world turn!



**Tracy Stone**  
Pastoral Support Assistant



When I think of Golden Moments most days can at some point have Golden elements. Every day our students never to cease to amaze me with their resilience and determination; but for me it is talking to our parents and hearing of the transformation they see in their children by being part of our community and how this impacts their family so positively. It is a privilege being part of their children's journey and seeing them flourish.

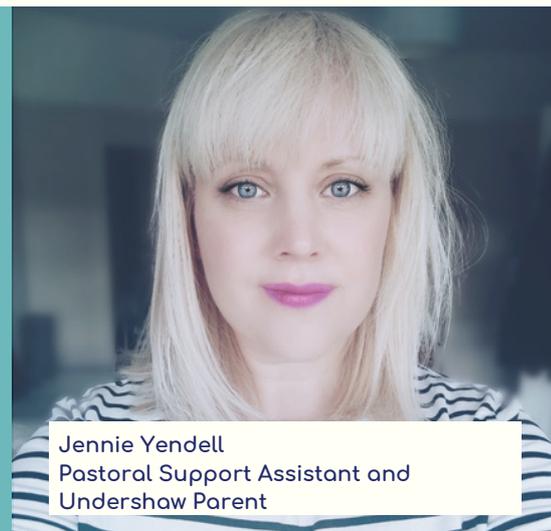
I guess if I had to think of a particular Golden Moment, it would be one of our parents telling me that their child had never joined in any sports activities or played outside at lunchtime then being able to report back to mum at the end of his first day that he had not only played football during his lunchtime but already made some friends. This shy child who had lacked confidence not only achieved this but more recently performed a solo performance at both our Talent Show and Jubilee Celebration. These moments and many more make me so proud and reaffirm what a difference we can make together.

Being able to make a difference and help our children realise their true potential is a true privilege. I can't wait to see what their future holds!

I certainly feel that as a member of staff and parent, it has made me appreciate just how much is involved in the day to day of running a SEN school. Having previously worked in a mainstream environment, combined with over 14 years parenting my own SEN children, my time working at Undershaw has allowed me to experience first-hand the complexities of working in a SEN setting.

For me, working in a SEN environment is an extension of my home life, but for those who have chosen to enter the SEN field, I have the utmost respect for.

I love being part of the Undershaw community as both parent and member of staff and think that everything we have achieved as a school community, in such a short space of time, is both amazing and inspiring. I feel hugely proud to be part of such a wonderful and supportive team.



**Jennie Yendell**  
Pastoral Support Assistant and  
Undershaw Parent



No teacher or TA is perfect, and development is vital for long-term success in any profession. As a TA at Undershaw I have been continuously encouraged and supported by the leadership team to acknowledge my performance, strengths, and weaknesses and how I can best contribute collaboratively and independently as part of the Undershaw community. It's a family, inside and out.

Jennie, KS2





CLAIRE LEWIS  
photography

| EST. 2006 |

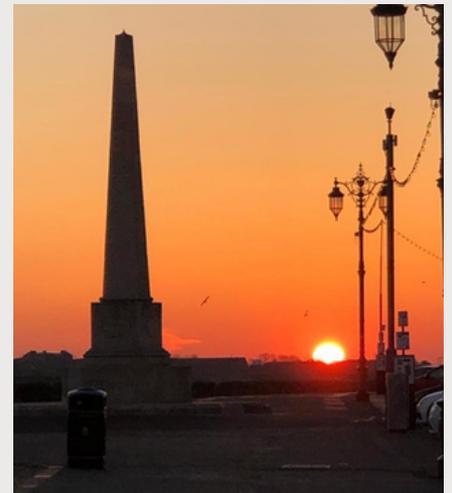
# Undershaw's Summer Photography Competition - and the winners are...



We know we have some keen young photographers in our midst and have been running a school-wide photography competition to showcase the talent. The entries have been coming in from every corner of the Undershaw community – even the staff had a category! Sam Mackey, who launched the competition with the students, invited Claire Lewis, a local professional photographer and a great friend of Undershaw, to judge the competition. Claire set up her own business in 2006 and is the talent behind the school's promotional images. She viewed all the entries and provided judging notes on each one. There were 4 categories to judge: KS2, KS3, KS4 & Post 16, and Staff – all highly contested! Claire was delighted to see the talent on display and is already looking forward to next year's competition!



Staff Category winner:  
Sheryl - Kayak shot  
'Just magical light dancing on the water - well done!'



KS2 Category winner:  
'Southsea Sunset' by Orla.  
'Just beautiful timing as the sun goes down. Great composition with some wonderful leading lines. It was a shot where I wanted to stay a while and enjoy. Well done!'



KS4 / Post 16 Category winner:  
K Bridle - Two ponies at sunset  
'Just beautiful. The light.. the movement. Well done!'



KS3 Category winner:  
Harvey - Landscape  
'Beautiful composition.. the rock leading you into the picture with fabulous clouds and enough space to let you drift around the image. Wonderful.'





# Young Rotary Club 'Interact' set their stall out for the Haslemere Scarecrow Competition



The Rotary Club of Haslemere are once again running their scarecrow competition as part of the Haslemere Festival.

Judging will take place on Saturday June 4th at 3.00pm on Lion Green Haslemere. (Scarecrows will be on display from 12 noon)

Our Young Rotary Club - Interact! have been busy making Undershaw's scarecrow entry. The theme this year is ROYALTY as it coincides with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We are very excited to see the finished scarecrow - Queen Scare-toria. Please come along to the festival on 4th June to support us and see our finished scarecrow.

This was a team effort and the Undershaw Interact Group have done brilliantly planning and executing this project and pulling on all of their Skills Builder skills in the process. This is what they have accomplished to achieve their scarecrow masterpiece:

- Speaking: Contacted Haslemere Rotary Club to apply to enter the competition and secure the basic scare crown materials (sacks and straw!)
- Speaking and Listening: As a group discussed which Royal they would like to create - they chose Queen Victoria as she was on the throne when Undershaw was built
- Speaking, Listening & Teamwork: Decided on some names and had a vote – 'Queen Scare-toria' won the democratic vote
- Problem Solving: Researched images of Queen Victoria by looking through books from the Undershaw Library and searching online
- Staying Positive: Put a list together of all materials that they might need to create Queen Scar-toria and emailed staff for donations
- Creativity: Different members of the group designed Jewellery, the outfit and throne
- Problem Solving: Physically put together the main shape of QV by working as a team to discuss how to best use the sacks, how to cut and fix them together and create the main body shape
- Staying Positive and Problem Solving: Some of the jewellery was hand made using floristry wire and beads and other details such as her face were designed and laminated to protect them from the elements
- Teamwork: Enlisted the help of Tim and another student to build a throne from a log and old crate in Forest School
- Creativity: Designed some attractive lettering to identify Queen Scare-toria (QS) and Victoria Regina (VR) to add to the dress
- Aiming High: Finally created the Undershaw 'U' on the back of the throne (we set our goal and we did it!)

Jenny from the Rotary Club is arranging for our beautiful Queen to be collected before next Friday and then be taken to be judged over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend!

Leilah Sheridan, Interact Club Leader

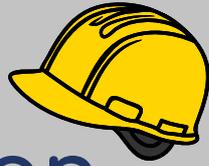




# The World Beckons: Undershaw and Beyond



## Careers Event at Multiplex Construction



Following a fantastic online work experience organised by DFN Move-Forward, 2 Post 16 Students attended a Careers Insight Event at Multiplex in London. Multiplex is a large construction company that has built many impressive buildings over the world including Wembley Stadium.

Our students were joined by another small group of young people from a School in Kent for the event. They were treated to an informative presentation given by Multiplex Construction Director Peter Louridas whilst key department leads were on hand for questions. Everyone put on 5-point PPE for an amazing tour of the huge construction site in central London, witnessing hundreds of construction workers busy at work and the opportunity to meet and speak to Multiplex staff.

Our students learned about the variety of jobs in construction, the equipment used and the stages of a project.



"It was so great to meet the students and you all in person. Our whole team were so very impressed with the group's thoughtful questions, confidence, good humour and their engagement with the hazard-spotting - it was a total pleasure to host you all!"

Lucy Wainwright  
Multiplex Senior Social Value and  
Community Manager



'Transition out of Undershaw and into sixth form colleges or supported internships can be a huge worry for our young people. Our staff team work incredibly hard to ensure that the students are well prepared and have the resilience to manage this change.'

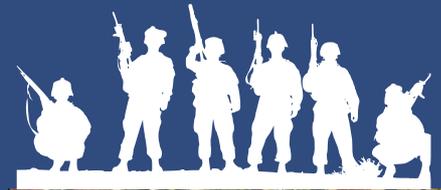


Our students are all supported to attend college 'taster mornings'. They join in with lessons, visit the cafeteria and experience college life with a trusted Undershaw adult onsite. Just brilliant!

Emma West, Headteacher



# We're teeming with culture



As part of our thematic learning in KS2 we have been learning about World War Two. Our students had an immersion day including a fabulous workshop. Dressed as evacuees they have arrived in school to learn about what life was like during WW2. Thank you to The Haslemere Players for supplying the amazing costumes for our staff team.



If you are planning to come to Sundial Festival on Saturday 2nd July (and we very much hope you are!) we have some opportunities for 30 minutes of volunteering to ensure the event runs smoothly.

We need car park marshals and help running arts and crafts stalls for the children. This is a family event and the organisers and everyone at the COINS Foundation would like to ensure everyone of all ages has a great day full of lots of happy memories.

If you wanted to spread the word to others who are not directly connected with the school (friends and relatives) who could help, they could then stay at the festival and enjoy the day. Please email [marketing@undershaw.education](mailto:marketing@undershaw.education) if you would like to help on the day.



## Respect, Kindness, Resilience



Our school values were created by all students, staff, parents and governors, all working together to make sure that they really reflect what we believe in at Undershaw.

We then ran a competition to design a Values Visual to display in every classroom in the school.

The winning design was then put into a digital format in collaboration with our winner.

We are so proud of J and his amazing design. It clearly shows the values, plays on our school logo and uses our house colours too!

Well done! We love it!





A few of our fabulous Teaching Assistants are off for more adventures. For example, one is off to work with autistic adults, and another is spreading their wings in a different direction and trading TA life for teacher training.

Undershaw has provided a fantastic platform for them and distilled their future aspirations. We're delighted to have been part of their journey and wish them every success.



# Join Us #weareundershaw

As you have seen on Page 2 of this newsletter, Undershaw Teaching Assistants make our world turn. We couldn't do what we do without them – they live and breathe Undershaw: our philosophy, our tenacity, and our sense of fun. They support the students with their learning, they chat about triumphs, worries and concerns, they bake, they role model, they get involved, they teach by doing, and just like everyone who works here as part of a wider team, they work incredibly hard.



## Job Vacancies

### Teaching Assistants

There is nothing better than seeing children gain confidence and flourish. Every day is certainly a learning day; building memories for both staff and children.

Tracy, KS3

Full Time (Term Time) Permanent Positions  
Commencing September 2022  
Would suit GAP year students, Health and Social Care Graduates, Parent Returners, etc.  
For more information please visit  
[www.undershaw.education/work-with-us](http://www.undershaw.education/work-with-us)

'Everyday is different. The students are amazing and we laugh a lot!'  
Mollie, KS2

Eliminating the impossible

*'Every day is different. The students are amazing – and I laugh A LOT!'*  
*Mollie, Undershaw TA, KS2*

To work with us is to become truly embedded in a community awash with dynamism, passion, and a lot of laughter! (Who else can say that about their job?) If you, or anyone in your network, would be interested in working with us, please click the link to the right to contact Lynette Dudman, our HR administrator. Lynette has recently joined us and can answer any questions first-hand.





A few weeks ago, members of the Therapy Team attended 'Virtual Reality Therapies' training at Sundial.

At our Therapy Team Journal Club, we looked into the research and evidence regarding the effectiveness of virtual reality for children and adolescents with Autism.

Most studies found an improvement in activities of daily living (e.g. eating, cooking, travelling) and communication, especially social skills, emotional skills, emotional regulation and reasoning. Additional benefits include improvements in executive functioning, attention, contextual processing of objects, cognitive flexibility, increased motivation and participation in therapy.

VR allows for the recreation of any environment – for example, a school corridor, walking down a street, caring for a pet, or speaking in front of an audience. This takes place in a therapist-controlled and safe environment.

Specific skills and scenarios can be repeated until targets have been achieved. We thoroughly enjoyed using the headsets during the training and can see how fun and motivating they are for learning and therapy.

Undershaw has been lucky enough to receive three Virtual Reality Headsets. We are looking into how we can best incorporate them into the school and look forward to bringing Virtual Reality to Undershaw!



## An innovative, immersive and sensory experience!

For more information from The VR Therapies website please click the link below.

LEARN MORE



The latest medical and therapeutic advances are inaccessible to the very children and adults they are designed for, despite the amazing benefits. Medical VR therapies should not be just for those already in the hospital, or the rich, or physically able. We want to change this.

Our goal is to bring VR therapies to those who would benefit most but are least likely to access it. We are the first social enterprise that provides VR therapies for kids with special needs and adults with disabilities. Medical VR is already available in hospitals and has shown amazing results. From supporting children through chemotherapy or physiotherapy to improving social and behavioural difficulties in autism – as well as reducing levels of pain, stress, depression and anxiety!

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).

