

THIS IS US

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM UNDERSHAW

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As well as the usual business of school with its mock exams, exams, planning residential trips and looking towards transition season, we have also been preparing for Sundial. This month we have been borrowed to be audience members for two students perform their musical pieces (one of which was their own composition) in preparation for their Sundial performances – needless to say there was not a dry eye in the house. This newsletter is bursting with news of Undershaw students entrenched in the community – their fundraising activities for the food bank continue and the ripples from the great success of Sundial are still being felt through the school. What a term we're having!

It feels eons ago that I unfortunately missed the appearance of a very authentic-looking regal quizmaster as part of our Jubilee celebrations 😊 I was really sorry to have missed her but was very proud as the Director of Safeguarding to hear a student commenting on the Queen not wearing a red 'visitors' lanyard. We adhere strictly to our lanyard rules and teach the students to have the confidence to speak up if the rules aren't being followed – even in the case of royalty! If I'd have seen Her Majesty I would have highlighted the oversight!

So back to 'Summer' - it has been so heart-warming to see the team games taking place on the lawn during break times – the kindness and good spirit shown by the students of all ages completely embraces our school values. (And the speed with which the staff can throw together a volleyball net is really something to see!)

The summer term always sees the culmination of so much academic and pastoral effort over the year and is the chance for the students to genuinely enjoy the fruits of their labours. Enjoy the June newsletter and all that summer life at Undershaw entails.



I hope you're being regaled with tales of daily adventures, games and friendly repartee? We certainly see it a-plenty during the school day.



hello



Teacher Feature: 'Admin Angels'

Abby Dove - Office Administrator and Receptionist



I joined Undershaw as receptionist in April this year. I was in my previous job for over 12 years, so making the change to come to Undershaw was daunting to say the least. Daunting, but definitely the best decision I've ever made! Undershaw is an amazing place to work – the staff and children have both welcomed me in such a lovely way, I already feel a firm part of the Undershaw family.

I love being 'front of house' as it means I get to interact with the children daily and every day is different. One of my favourite moments of being here is when a KS2 student asked me personally if I'd like to go and watch her assembly – which of course I did!

The ethos of Undershaw really does say it all – eliminating the impossible. Nothing is impossible here and that's the reason I love being a part of Team Undershaw.

I am the Annual Review and SEN Administrator which in a nutshell means I organise Annual Reviews for all our students. Before working at Undershaw I had never officially worked in a school before. I had done the usual volunteering stints in my children's schools – in the library and I was the Fundraising Co-Chair of the PTA for a few years.

The people are what make Undershaw so special, I have honestly never worked with such a caring, empathetic, genuine, cheerful, friendly group of people and the students are just amazing in every way and are what makes it all worthwhile. The highlights of my job for me are when we hear real success stories during our Reviews and attending any of the students concerts/shows etc.

I lived in Boston, USA for 20 years from 1999 to 2019 and I have one son who lives in Washington D.C. and one who lives in Denver. I try to go back as often as I can, and they come here fairly frequently. It's nice being back here but I miss my sons and my friends overseas.

I have a 20 month old mini labradoodle called Delilah. I play and watch a lot of tennis and have recently started Bowling and Archery.

Julie Roscoe - Annual Review and SEN Administrator



Undershaw at Sundial Festival: A Celebration

On Saturday 2nd July a number of Undershaw students took to the stage at Sundial to showcase their talents. #teamundershaw came together for a sunny afternoon to celebrate every aspect of our wonderful community.

The Music and Drama departments have been operating at full tilt for months readying themselves for this unique showcase – and it didn't disappoint. Each musical performance on the 'nearly-hot-off-the-press' Sundial Album was performed at expert level and the actors took to the stage for a wonderful rendition of The Scottish Play. What an afternoon, all interspersed by food, drink, fairground stalls, mini-Teslas, pony rides, a climbing wall, laser tag, arts and crafts, ice creams, and an all-round family festival atmosphere.

We had worked so hard in the build-up by canvassing local businesses (large and small) for raffle prizes. The Post 16 students had taken to the pavements of local towns and villages to tell everyone about Undershaw, our work and our current fundraising projects. Tickets had been sold, prizes collated and numbered and the Undershaw stall provided quite the talking point as people wandered by to find out more and actively discussed opportunities to help us. What a team effort!

Watch this space for more pictures of the day...



COINS Foundation

Undershaw 

I speak on behalf of Undershaw (staff, students and families) when I say we feel very lucky to be supported by the COINS Foundation in so many ways. The most recent Sundial Festival was a perfect example of this. The festival gives Undershaw the opportunity to showcase not only the wonderful talent that we nurture but also the growing confidence of our students - this came to the fore in droves on Saturday afternoon. What utterly mesmerising performances!

Working in partnership with the COINS Foundation and The DFN Foundation, we are aiming to continue our vital work and raise much needed funds to further develop the provision for our students. We currently have two fundraising campaigns running, one for some outdoor play equipment to support sensory and regulation needs alongside the development of an indoor regulation space. Please see the click through links on the next page for details.

A huge thank you to the COINS Foundation for hosting the Sundial Festival 2022, raising awareness of our honourable vision and values, and bringing our community together in such a wonderful way!

Emma West



A MASSIVE...

THANK YOU SO MUCH



Thank you to everyone who helped make the festival such a success. Thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to staff the stalls (both the Undershaw stalls and some other attractions that needed people), the team back at school who worked tirelessly to prepare for the event, some of whom weren't able to join us on the day, people who travelled a vast distance to support us at the festival, to Larry and the team at COINS for providing us with the opportunity to showcase our marvellous school (and for the remarkable cake!), to James, Stephanie and the performing arts team who have been planning, preparing, rehearsing and pulling together a wonderful programme of performances for the past few months - and lastly, the biggest thank you and well done to our awe-inspiring students who bought their very best to Sundial on Saturday - we all saw the Undershaw values alive and well on that stage!

The sun shone on you, and you shone on all of us.



It was an immense privilege and joy to perform with all the students at Sundial this weekend. Every performer, from key stage two to four, did themselves proud both in their performance and in the way they worked. There is so much talent in the school, and I was so impressed by the leap in confidence these young people have made this year, performing in front of such a large crowd with dynamism, commitment, and passion. The performances were immensely varied, from the beautiful singing of the Undershaw Choir to a tender trumpet performance, to a student composition performed on voice and piano, to roaring rock classics from Pink Floyd, Blur and Queen.

Regardless of the style, every performer gave it their all. They have all worked so hard to get here and throughout the rehearsal process they have all been so committed. They have been the perfect embodiment of the school's core values-working with respect, resilience and kindness for one another and staff at all times. The album should be with us in a couple of weeks, and I cannot wait for you all to hear it. It will be something to treasure for years to come. I am already looking forward to next year and for many more performances in between. Thanks to all the parents for the support they give the school and to their children. They did you proud!

James Lindsay, Head of Arts and Communication Faculty





And the Grand Total is...



U
Undershaw
THE SUMMER RAFFLE

£1854

Thank you for your generous support. This is an unprecedented total for us and whether you donated prizes and/or bought tickets, please know you have helped us on our way to funding our latest campus projects.

U Eliminating the impossible **U**

We were blown away by the response to our plea for raffle donations. In the months running up to the festival, our Post 16 students were out and about visiting local businesses. The kindness of our businesses big and small from our neighbouring towns was also reflected by the donations that came in through our social media posts. It really is testament to our local community that we were able to raise such a significant amount and we have been so touched that our students are at the heart of, and will benefit from, the immense generosity and warmth shown to them. We all feel very grateful.

Leilah Sheridan

Head of
Employability
and Life Skills



Undershaw needs you!

If you missed us at Sundial and would like to read about our current fundraising projects, please click through to see how you could make a difference to the students at Undershaw.

Regulation

Play

The Lythe Hill Hotel donated not one but two incredible prizes and this sums up the sentiment of why so many wanted to help in some way:

'Supporting organisations like Undershaw is so important. Their work helps not only their students, but the community itself. We continue to choose them as our main charity because we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.'

Graciela Figueroa
Sales Manager, Lythe Hill Hotel,
Restaurant & Spa

LYTHE HILL
HOTEL, RESTAURANT & SPA

Eliminating the impossible



Undershaw News from around the web*



(*You can follow us on our social channels. Just search 'Undershaw Education Trust'.)

Learning (and quite a bit of fun) at Staunton Farm



Discovery Day at the farm is always a fantastic experience for our students. Sheryl and the farm team plan such wonderful experiences for our students.

As well as working towards AQA Unit Awards in Animal Husbandry, a few weeks ago they got to meet Sheila the snake, stroke a bearded dragon and walk alpacas!



Let's get Practical!



What better way to understand science than through practical experiments? Year 9 have been learning about endothermic and exothermic reactions through the chemistry curriculum this week.

We are really excited to be able to increase the number of science lessons for students next year having recruited a second full time scientist to support Leanne. We look forward to introducing her to you all soon.

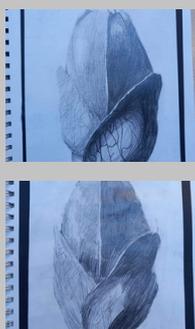
Filming on location



For the year 10 media studies mock exam we went out to film on location.

Students planned and filmed their shots which they will now edit into a final film which meets the exam brief.

Students also had the opportunity to demonstrate high levels of skills, especially leadership and problem solving when filming in the Hindhead micro-climate!



Year 10 BTEC students have been looking at photographer Karl Blossfeldt to explore drawing natural forms using a wide variety of tone. These drawings are the outcome of 2 hours work using the grid method.

KS2 and KS3 have been learning about primary and secondary colours and learning how to mix a range of colours using paint with only the primary colours as a starting point. They have learnt how to make every colour including grey!

Chloe is now running Art enrichment on Wednesday lunch times.



WIN £1,000
FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY

#rebuildthelibrary



CLICK HERE

Undershaw: community matters



National Book Tokens are giving five schools £1,000 of National Book Tokens each, plus membership to the School Library Association, to help them rebuild their range of books and encourage reading for pleasure now and for generations to come. Please take the time to nominate Undershaw using the link below, and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also win a £100 National Book Token for yourself!

Winners will be drawn at random after Friday 29th July and announced in September 2022. Your support is really appreciated

PRIDE!



To mark Pride Month we had a wonderful poem read to the whole school by Hetty, a rainbow cake sale to raise money for Just Like Us, the LGBT+ Young Person's charity who presented to the students last term, and rainbow balloons.

Thank you to Clare and Sam for helping the Safe Space club to organise everything.

Thank you Emilie for the rainbow face painting and thank you to Maddy and Lin for the beautiful rainbow cupcakes. Thank you Debonair Balloons. Students were also asked to dress in bright colours and decorate their tutor room doors! The school was full of rainbows and acceptance!

The cake sale raised £60, so thank you to everyone that donated.



Exam Season: a 'well done' and 'thank you' from Vic



Following the pandemic, and the cancellation of exams over the last 2 years, this year we saw the return of normal GCSE, BTEC and functional skills exams and our year 11 and post 16 students have had their first experience of a full exam series. Sitting formal exams can be a very anxious time, and we are extremely proud of the resilience shown by our students – particularly the year 11s who sat a considerable number of exams over 6 weeks. It has been a stressful time for some, and we recognise the hard work and determination that students and their families have shown to ensure that they are able to sit every single exam. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Maddy, Leanne and the team of invigilators who ensured that the students were supported throughout. We look forward to celebrating with students on results day in August!

In addition to the year 11 exams, year 10 have just sat a series of mock exams. These are important at the end of year 10 for a number of reasons. Mock exams help students and families to know what to expect from exam-time and therefore, will help everyone to know what to do to prepare for the actual exams in year 11. Mock exams also help me and George to know which access arrangements the students need and can ensure these are applied for and secured by the exam board at the beginning of year 11. Perhaps most importantly, the mock exams tell teachers the strengths and areas for improvement for everyone, and therefore are a vital part of curriculum planning ahead of year 11. Year 10s will sit a further mock series in November and again in March, so that they are very well prepared for the final exams next year.

We are exceptionally proud of all our students for sitting mock and real exams this year – we know that this is a challenging time and all students have shown resilience and a superb positive attitude towards the exams they have sat this term – well done!

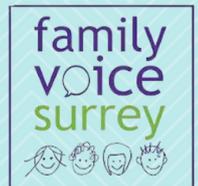


Thank you for the immense response to our appeal for Teaching Assistants in the last newsletter. We had a vast number of strong applications. We all know that Undershaw TAs are the cream of the crop, and our new recruits are no different.

We are looking for character, a 'get stuck in' attitude, a relentless drive for the very best in pastoral care, and a great sense of humour, amongst other trademarks that you don't often find on traditional job descriptions. We're looking for the 'real people' that can make Undershaw tick.

Our rigorous training ensures that every person filling a TA role is adept at fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the job, and we know that our new cohort will personify everything Undershaw stands for from our very first INSET day in September.

We look forward to welcoming them to the family.



Eliminating the impossible



Eliminating the impossible

