

14 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I must take this opportunity to say thank you for your continuing support of the school. It is so important that our students know that we are working together to support them and that the partnership between home and school is strong. This helps our students to feel connected to Undershaw and their teachers and to understand that all the trusted adults around them want the same thing for them. Your continued positivity makes it so much easier for us to create the right nurturing environment for our young people. Thank you!

It was great to see some Yr 10 and Yr 11 parents in school today supporting the Futures Forum, where we had guest speakers from Surrey Choices, Activate Learning who run Guildford, Merrist Wood and Farnham Colleges, and Amazing Apprenticeships, to talk to the students about some of their options after their Post 16 year, and how our Employability Team will work with them during that year to prepare and support them to take the next steps.

Likewise, we have had two very successful cake sales which parents have supported, the latest of which raised enough money for each KS2 class to adopt an orangutan! We did have to deal with the misconception that the orangutans would be coming to Undershaw ... they will be staying in the rainforest but will be sponsored by Holmes and Watson classes!

Founders' Day

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along on Tuesday to help celebrate our wonderful Founders' Day afternoon. It is always a real pleasure to be able to share in the success of all our young people – not just those who were nominated to win an Award this year – and to have been treated to some wonderful music and poetry performances too from some of our current students. Please see our Facebook page for photos.

PBL for Yr 8

I am very pleased to confirm that next Thursday, 20 October, the parents of Yr 8 pupils are warmly invited to an exhibition on "How can we save the turtles?" Matt, our Humanities Head of Faculty has asked me to say:

"Yr 8 are delighted to invite you to their exhibition, "How can we save the Turtles?", the endpoint of their Project-Based Learning this autumn term. Students have worked hard in Geography, Science and Art to put together an end project highlighting the problems of plastic pollution. In Art, students have been inspired by the work of environmental artist, Aurora Robson, to create their own sculptures out of plastic waste. These sculptures will be exhibited

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alongside displays and newspaper articles created in Science and Geography where students have been learning about how plastic is made, how plastic pollution impacts our oceans and how we can better manage this major issue. We hope you can join us on next Thursday, 20 October from 2:20pm in the Main Hall at Undershaw."

TPS Careers Fair – Thursday, 20 October

As a final reminder, The Petersfield School Careers Fair is taking place on Thursday, 20 October from 6-8pm. Our Yr 9 – Post 16 students and families have been invited to this event which will be a great opportunity to explore potential future colleges, apprenticeships and careers, as well as offering the following guest speakers:

- 6.30pm – A levels and studying at Bohunt Sixth Form
- 7.00pm – T levels and studying at HSDC
- 7.30pm – "What is an apprenticeship?" by PETA

If you are able to go along to this very informative evening, please do. Leilah and Sharon from the Employability Team will also be attending.

KS4 and Post 16 Parents' Evenings

If you are a KS4 or Post 16 parent and have not yet signed up for your appointments (via SchoolCloud) for next week's Parents' Evenings, please do contact Maddy (maddy.annis-wilkinson@undershaw.education) who will be able to help in the first instance.

Purple 4 Polio – Friday, 21 October

As part of our reciprocal work with Haslemere Rotary Club, we will be offering our support as they participate in a worldwide event to eradicate polio. In exchange for a £1 donation, staff and students can show their support next Friday by:

- Wearing an item of **purple** clothing
- Wearing one of our **purple** wristbands
- Enjoying a **purple** cupcake

Pastoral Pulse

Please see the link below for the latest edition of our *Pastoral Pulse* edition:

<https://undershaw.education/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2022/10/Pastoral-Pulse-October-22.pdf>

Staffing

As you may be aware, we work very closely with Project Search, a division of DFN Foundation. Project Search is an international transition-to-work programme, committed to transforming the lives of young people with learning disabilities and autism, and I am delighted to announce that George will be joining them in the New Year. George will be working on increasing the number of supported internships within businesses throughout the UK. Thank you, George, for everything you have achieved during your time here at Undershaw and we wish you all the very best for your new adventure!

Wendy, our amazing School Business Manager, starts her sabbatical this week and is off to travel around Europe. We look forward to hearing about her adventures until she returns next year. In her absence, Heidi will be stepping up from her role as Finance Manager to be the Acting School Business Manager and we are looking to recruit a finance officer to support her.

We have also welcomed some new staff to our team in the last few weeks. Will is a new Teaching Assistant who will be working with Chloe and 9-2 this academic year. James has also joined us this week as a Teaching Assistant, and he will be working with 8-2 this academic year. Chloe and Stephanie will be in touch to offer Teams calls to parents of these groups to meet Will and James.

We also see a change of role for Emilie, who will now officially move over to join the Therapy Team. Emilie will be working as part of the OT team and is completing an Occupational Therapy degree.

Please also take a look at our website, where you will find full details of our current vacancies:

[Work with Us - Undershaw Education Trust](#)

Fireworks at Sundial

Larry, one of our Founders, has very generously offered to host another fireworks event at his home, Sundial, again this year. We are still waiting for final confirmation of the date, but as this is likely to be the first week back after half-term, we wanted to give you advance notice. More information will be shared with parents once we receive it.

Positives of the week!

We really do appreciate it when parents and visitors take the time to email in and give us feedback, so please let us know if you have anything you would like to share. Here are some comments that we received this week...

This from a parent who had worked with staff to support their child through a difficult time:

"Thank you for all of your time in supporting her (and us) and once again, keeping the lines of communication open."

This on Facebook from a parent who attended Founders' Day:

"What a lovely afternoon and as H said ... you are all amazing!"

Upcoming dates

Here are our upcoming dates – and please note these are not exhaustive and updates will be communicated.

Date	Time	Event	Organiser
Wed, 19 Oct	3.30-7.30pm	KS4 and Post 16 Parents' Evening	
Thurs, 20 Oct	am	Open Morning for prospective families	Admissions
	2.20pm	PBL event for Yr 8s (please see above)	
	3.30-7.30pm	KS4 and Post 16 Parents' Evening	
	6-8pm	The Petersfield School Careers Fair (Yr 9 – Post 16) (please see above)	TPS
Fri, 21 Oct	End of ½ term – normal finish time of 3.05pm		

Date	Time	Event	Organiser
Mon 24–Fri, 28 Oct	October half-term		
Mon, 31 Oct	8.30am	Pupils return – first day of Autumn Term 2nd ½	
Date TBC	Evening	Fireworks at Sundial	
Tues, 8 Nov	6.00pm	Post 16 Open Evening at Tower Rd	
Wed, 16 Nov	3.30pm	KS2 and KS3 Parents’ Evening (more info to follow)	
Thurs, 17 Nov	3.30pm	KS2 and KS3 Parents’ Evening (more info to follow)	
Fri, 18 Nov	“Children in Need”		
Fri, 2 Dec	Afternoon	Christmas Fair (more info to follow)	
Fri, 16 Dec	Celebration Assembly Last day of term – finish time of 12 noon		
Tues, 3 Jan 2023	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED		
Wed, 4 Jan 2023	8.30am	Pupils return – first day of Spring Term 2023	

And finally, thank you for your continued support, and please do get in contact should you have anything that you would like to discuss.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards

Emma West
Headteacher