

THIS IS US

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM UNDERSHAW

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It's that time of the year when we are all getting a little tired of winter and we are beginning to long for warm summer days and sunny evenings but they can still feel so far away. However, at Undershaw the signs of spring really are beginning to peep through. The heads of the hellebores are nodding in the flower beds and everywhere there are green portents of the daffodils that about to burst into life. The morning frost on the MUGA is disappearing faster each day and so it comes alive with energetic students, a myriad of balls and constant whoops of joy.

With every sunny day there is a little more warmth and increasingly relaxed lunches are being enjoyed on the benches of the south facing Undershaw terrace. The lawn has been rapidly drying out enabling fervid group games of badminton or handball to spontaneously be initiated. Whilst other students dash up and down the slopes and paths playing catch.

We are so lucky to be able to be immersed in nature even from the views of the Undershaw windows. We are looking forward to spending more and more time outside to experience and embrace the wonderful changes in nature as they happen around us.



It was an ideal spring day, a light blue sky, flecked with little fleecy white clouds drifting across from west to east. The sun was shining very brightly, and yet there was an exhilarating nip in the air, which set an edge to the man's energy.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Teacher Feature:

7.1's very fabulous TA...

Claire Bullock



After leaving college I worked in marketing and publishing, having opportunities to travel the country and visit different stores and publishing companies securing contracts with companies such as Guide Dogs for the Blind.

After starting a family, I decided to take a whole new path and moved into adult social and healthcare. I loved every minute of working with neurodiverse adults, teaching them life skills, supporting them to access the community and adult education. Sadly, the adults I supported did not have the access to education and the opportunities that our children do today. After five years I made the change to join a SEN school via an agency, becoming a full-time staff member in September 2022. I feel very lucky to be able to work with a great team all of which are so supportive and have made some great friends along the way.

Outside of school I am a mum to two amazing children (13 and 10). For me, the weekends and half terms are all about family time – we enjoy visiting family, watching films, shopping and eating out :)

My role now is as teaching assistant to class 7.1. It is amazing to see the confidence growing with the students in such a short time. The class have achieved so much so far this year, I look forward to seeing what more they can achieve in 2023.



'Tig' the cat



Every child is an artist.
The problem is how to
remain an artist once
we grow up.

Pablo Picasso

The day we took a walk
through our beautiful
sculpted world

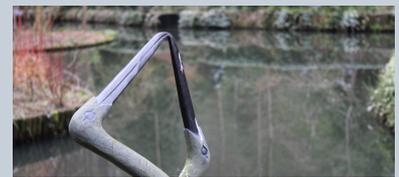
www.the 
SCULPTURE
park.com

On Tuesday, year 9 students attended the sculpture park in Churt for the afternoon. Students explored the park looking at a wide variety of sculptures and learning how to use the new DSLR cameras!

The photographs taken by students are outstanding! Year 9 have been working on a sculpture project within art lessons and this trip opened their eyes to a variety of sculpture materials, subject matter and processes.

This trip was arranged thanks to a generous donation from The Arts Society, Grayshott. Thanks to the generous donation, further year groups will also be able to attend a trip at the sculpture park in the coming weeks and months.

Thank You



Enriching Lives Through The Arts

We are so grateful to The Arts Society, Grayshott for their generous donation. The funding of trips and experiences for the students is such a fantastic way to further the passions of local community groups. If you're a member of a group and would be interested in donating to the school in this way, please contact fundraising@undershaw.education for further details of how you can help.

Eliminating the impossible





Calling all bakers, cyclists and all-round 'happy to help'ers!



You may remember a while ago we announced that we had been selected as the charity partner for the annual Little Lumpy cycling event.

The event is being held on Sunday, 21 May.

We would very much like to enter a Team Undershaw into the event and are asking any staff, parents or family members who enjoy cycling to volunteer to be in the team, cycling on behalf of the school. The money raised will be used to fund play and regulation equipment in the school grounds. There are a number of cycling routes to choose from, ranging from 40 to 100 miles, and children can take part too.



We are also looking for volunteers to bake – part of the partnership involves us providing a selection of baked goodies for the feeding stations around the route. The baking involves supplying a traybake of either flapjack, chocolate tray bake, granola, lemon drizzle, brownies (no fruit cake please as it dries out quickly). The arrangements with Little Lumpy volunteers are that we will provide our traybakes in a bulk delivery well before the event so they can be frozen in their freezers in advance and then defrosted for the day itself. Baking can happen over the Easter break and we can take delivery of the cakes in school on a date TBA (shortly after the holidays). The event needs 700 pieces of cake and they can cut each traybake into 20-24 pieces – so we need a fair few bakers! Please help if you can. So, if cycling is not your thing, but you could provide some bakes, that would be greatly appreciated.



Finally, we are hoping to get our students involved. We are confident that a small group of students might want to complete a short cycle route around the field at Woolmer Hill School, where the race begins. Little Lumpy have teamed up with Alice Holt, who have a range of inclusive cycles that we can borrow, but students can bring their own bikes along to ride if they have one.



We have also said that we would run one of the feeding stations along the route to ensure that all the cyclists are fed on their journey, so if anyone can spare 30 minutes on Sunday 21st May to do a 'shift' on the feeding station that would also be appreciated.

It would be great to get a team of 5 to 10 students who would like to do this, supported by parents and staff, and who could get some sponsorship for each completed lap of the field.



Thank you to those who have already responded - it's great to know we have some helpers but we're in desperate need of more please!

If you are able to get involved by being part of the cycling team, baking some cakes, manning the feeding station for 30 minutes, or you think your child would like to take part in the "Mini Little Lumpy" on the playing field at Woolmer Hill School, please click the link on the left for the MS Form.

Thank you in advance for your support with this, and fingers crossed we can raise lots of money for regulation and play equipment that our students will benefit from!

HELP HERE



Partnership Profile: The Cookie Bar



Another great morning with the Year 9 work experience group!

This week we learned all about the importance of Food Hygiene and preventing cross contamination, hand mixing versus an electric mixer, the process of making cinnamon buns and why kneading the dough brings the yeast to life!

Noah is such a fantastic mentor and our students were really engaged at every step. Here is Noah demonstrating how to knead the dough and our students were naturals at kneading.

The second part of the morning was with David in the brand-new bike bar and we learned how there were lots of similarities with the kitchen environment and the bike workshop, both have tools that have a particular job to do and both areas must be respected and follow the rules. David also shared his career path and how you can find a passion and turn it into a career.



The Cookie Bar is a social enterprise supported by the COINS Foundation. It is a vital link for the school and part of its appeal is that all profits are reinvested in the provision at the café and bike bar.

Business Manager Debbie Seagrove writes 'As a social enterprise we aim to keep costs to minimum and engage with our community. To help with this we run the business with the support of volunteers. We are always looking for an extra pair of hands to volunteer supporting the students, helping in the Cookie Bar baking cookies and serving customers.

If your skills lie elsewhere then we are always looking for support with our garden, our marketing, and even stock taking. You tell us what expertise you have and no doubt we will find you a role! There also opportunities throughout the year to work on the Cookie Bar Bus at local and community events. Please click the advert to email me directly if you could volunteer your time to this vital community enterprise.'



Volunteers Needed

The Cookie Bar is looking for volunteers to help us run the cafe.

We are a social enterprise, part of Pathways Education Ltd, that provides an environment for young students with disabilities to experience all aspects of running a business and helps young people in their journeys to become social and economic contributors.

If you are interested in applying to become a volunteer then please pop in or contact us on our Pathways number: 01428777673 (extension 2005)

(Anyone interested in applying will need to be checked in line with our safer recruitment procedures)



#NSID2023

27 MARCH 2023

DFN Project SEARCH is launching the first-ever National Supported Internship Day to raise awareness of the huge impact that a supported internship can have, not only on the life outcomes of the interns who take part, but on the host organisation and wider society too.

The solution to many problems faced by young people with a learning disability, autism spectrum condition, or both is straightforward: competitive employment.

Yet only 5.1% of people in England (and 4.1% of people in Scotland) with a learning disability and/or autism who are known to local authorities go on to secure paid employment, compared to 80% of their peers.

We need to work together to change that.

At Undershaw...

we firmly believe that supported internships are a fantastic opportunity for our young people. They may be the right fit for some students, whilst Further Education colleges might be a better fit for others. Staying true to our student-centric provision, we highlight every appropriate pathway available. It is a vital part of our bespoke provision. We explore supported internships, apprenticeships, FE Colleges and pathways that lead straight to employment.

Recent Undershaw alumni have had successful placements with DFN Project Search and Surrey Choices and are now in full time paid employment. There is a variety of providers available depending on your locality. Please have a look at the provisions available and get in touch with any questions you may have.

Leilah Sheridan, Head of Employability and Life Skills

GET INVOLVED

A supported internship focuses on getting young people ready for the structure and expectations in a workplace.



For Young People - What is involved?

The supported internship will usually last for a year and include unpaid work placements of at least six months to contribute to your long term career goals. Usually it will be 3 days per week. Most of the internship will take place within a workplace.

What does Surrey Choices EmployAbility do?

Our role is to find meaningful work opportunities and support both the employee and employers to ensure the job is a good match and has opportunities to learn new skills. One of the key success factors is having a job coach on site who can help the young person learn the skills to achieve in their role.

Who should apply?

Surrey Choices EmployAbility are experts in finding work for adults with support needs. To meet the regulations of the programme, applicants must register with a named College, but will only need to attend a one day induction at the college. The rest of the time will be spent in the workplace or on related enrichment activities. This option is open for any young person with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) who is keen to move into work.

[CLICK HERE](#) 



DFN Project SEARCH is a one-year transition to work programme for young adults with a learning disability or autism spectrum conditions, or both.

At DFN Project SEARCH we work hard to challenge and change cultures, demonstrating how young people with a learning disability can enrich the workforce, bring incredible skills and talent, encourage greater diversity and meet a real business need.

We partner with organisations across the public, private, and voluntary sectors to create supported employment internships for young people in their last year of education, helping them to take positive first steps into the world of work.

Our unique programmes around the UK have been established with various prestigious employers including hospitals, local authorities, universities, and a number of private sector businesses. At the end of the programme, on average 60% of DFN Project SEARCH graduates move into full-time permanent roles and 70% of DFN Project SEARCH graduates gain jobs in total.

We believe in empowering all young people to enter the workplace with confidence.

[CLICK HERE](#) 

Eliminating the impossible





We take our Skills up, up and away!



Make the **future** yours!

Year 10 – Certainly “Aiming High” this week... actually into space by attending a ‘Make the Future Yours Live’ event at Old Thorns Hotel in Liphook which explored careers in the space industry.



Year 10 were able to meet and talk to companies from all over the South East which is the UK’s leading area for Space capability with over 450 space related companies.



We learnt how satellites are part of everyday life no matter what area you are interested in; from Conservation, deforestation and animal care, to shipping monitoring, sat nav and weather tracking ... and everything in between. We learnt that careers in the space industry are as varied as they are surprising and exciting.

Year 10 were a credit to the school and were keen to chat to many of the employers at the event, gaining information as well as the odd freebie..!

Sharon Setterfield, Transition Coach



And finally... all the fun of the season*

SHHHH...

(*with all the secret learning)



Pancake Day was 'flippin' amazing!

The House Competition today was such great fun! It was lovely to see the students cheering each other on, testing out their pancake flipping skills and celebrating each other's successes!

Our whole school pancake race champion of 2023 was..... Wilfie in Year 7!

Our staff pancake race champion of 2023 was..... Will!

Lots of house points were earned for all four houses so well done to everyone that took part!



We've had some lovely donations this month and we'd like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone who takes the time to donate to our school. Every donation, no matter how small it might seem, really does make the world of difference. Every penny is spent consciously and with the students' welfare and happiness at heart. We know that times are tight right now so we're very conscious that every pound matters, to everyone.

[CLICK HERE](#)



If you are in a position to donate to the school please do so through our Easyfundraising direct donations portal. You can do this quickly and easily on your phone. We always have fundraising projects running and we already have an eye on the 23/24 academic year for the next items on our wish list. Watch this space!

