

THIS IS US

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM UNDERSHAW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Partnerships

Teacher Feature:

A welcome to our new 'Admin Angels'

Alumni, on film

Post 16 Open Evening

Work Experience

Ribbon-cutting on outdoor equipment

Undershaw partners with HHH Concerts

NOS - Gaming



'If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.'
Sir Isaac Newton



This is Us is awash of tales of partnerships this month. We are so proud of the profile Undershaw is building in the local community. Everyone, from work experience partners, fundraisers, and local events, is a relationship we nurture. Each and every partnership we develop goes such a long way to enriching the lives of the students.

TEACHER FEATURE(S)



Welcome to our new 'Admin Angels':
Claire (Admissions) and Karen (ARs and SEND)



Claire

I look after the administration of our admissions process. I enjoy helping our prospective families find the right school and the right fit for their child. I understand the challenges involved in researching schools, navigating processes with the Local Authorities and the emotional rollercoaster parents and carers are involved in – I hope I can help and make the process as straightforward as possible.

I believe Undershaw is a unique and wonderful school, and I am so proud to be a part of it. It is wonderful to see children's faces light up when they realise they are coming to a school where they feel they fit in and can be happy.

In my spare time, I like walking challenges (Surrey has a lot of those!), cooking and spending time with friends.

After a long career as a personal assistant in Advertising, I felt I wanted to do something meaningful and work, in some capacity, with children.

Before working at Undershaw, I was at a SEN School for seven years working firstly as a receptionist and then as an Educational Visit Coordinator.

After spending my time working alongside their SEND staff, I knew that was the type of role I really wanted, and I was lucky enough to get the role of SEND Administrator here at Undershaw.

I love seeing the progress our students make and feel privileged that I work in an environment that is a part of that.

Outside of school I like decorating, photography and walking my little pug, Jeff.



Karen

ALUMNI

The Alumni Series



Larry and Joe

We have many gifted Alumni.

One in particular has captured a unique view of the school's legacy through his filmmaking. The Alumni Series was filmed and produced by Joe Johnson who, after leaving the school and travelling the world, has since established himself as a gifted filmmaker.

Working with Free Bird Film, Joe showcases some of the incredible stories, talents, and achievements of other inspiring young people, all of whom have chartered their own paths since leaving the school. They are all following their dreams. We hope you enjoy watching their stories.

The full length versions of the films can also be found on our website...

[CLICK HERE](#) 

'Hi, my name's Joe. I'm a film producer and I'm making a series of films about alumni from my old school.'



Ollie



Joe



Dylan



Amie



Sorcha



Ola

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTER NOW



Bespoke Programme
Targeted Curriculum
Embedded Life Skills
1:1 Specialist Career Guidance
Community Work Experience
Specialist Faculty staff
Supported Transition

Undershaw



Post 16 Open Event

Tuesday 7th November

6pm - 7:30pm

Post 16 Hub
Arts and Media Centre
Tower Road, GU26 6SU

admissions@undershaw.education



Undershaw

Eliminating the impossible



Key Stage 2



Key Stage 4



Post 16



Further
Education



Employment



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



'A strong focus on developing key life and employability skills in the sixth form ensures that pupils are well prepared personally, as well as academically, for the next stages of education or employment.'

OFSTED, Feb 2022

Eliminating the impossible



point of view.

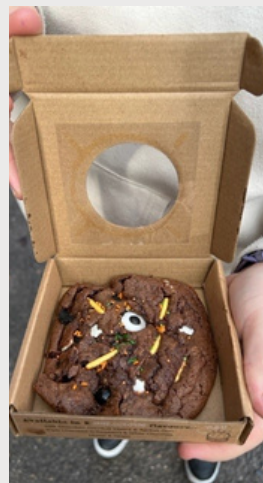
Experience

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One of the highlights of my week are the Year 9 work placements at the Cookie Bar and Bike Bar where our students have their first immersive offsite work experience. This is so much more than an Industry Insight; it is the opportunity to develop essential skills and build confidence. When we think about work experience, we think about Careers but in fact we are talking about life education. At Undershaw we have a multidisciplinary and cross curricular approach to support everyone to develop and become a confident individual, with the tools to self-reflect and to feel proud of their progress. I am so proud that at Undershaw we recognise how vital it is to have this type of opportunity and it is an absolute joy to witness our students embrace the experience in their own individual ways.



Leilah





BREAKING NEWS

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the Little Lumpy Sportive 2024 into school last week to officially open our outdoor gym equipment.

We were very lucky to be the charity partner for the cycling sportive last summer and benefit from a generous donation that funded the play equipment.

Not only is the equipment used for play but also as part of our physical activity sessions led by Will and also to support gross motor skill development and regulation, giving more autonomy to our students to manage their needs independently.



L-R: Emma West, Rupert Maude (LL), Ken Griffiths (Chairman, LL), Will Milner-Smith and Nicky Ryan



James Lindsay and Rob Stock (parent) cycling the event in May 2023



'As Occupational Therapists, we're always looking for opportunities to promote the students' insight into their needs and ways that they can self-regulate. An important aspect of this is adapting the school environment and the resources we have available - this equipment is already making such a difference to our school life.'

Nicky Ryan
Occupational Therapist, Undershaw



KS4 test the waters at world class classical music concert



It's wonderful when our network pulls together for the students. Last year one of the Little Lumpy committee members introduced Undershaw to HHH Concerts, which began life as the 'Haslemere, Hindhead and Headley Music Club' in 1934. HHH Concerts delivers world class chamber music concerts at St Christopher's Church in Wey Hill, Haslemere.

James took the KS4 GCSE music groups to see a wonderful concert and we are very grateful that they invited us to share in such a wonderful experience.

The Year 11 group saw Julia Pusker on violin and Renata Konyicska on piano, playing music by Beethoven and Bartok.

Year 10 saw a cellist and pianist playing music by Beethoven and Shostakovich. The students were both calmed and thrilled by the beautiful music.

"It was so relaxing and if I'm honest I felt a tear coming down my cheek because it was so good. I would love to go to more concerts like it in the future. The last piece (by Bartok) was just amazing."



"They played so fast and it was such good violin playing and the piano made me calm".

'I just wanted to send a huge thank you to the team at HHH Concerts for a very memorable trip. Our KS4 students loved the concert having never been to anything like it before. It's wonderful that people in the community know about the school, our students and get in touch with innovative ways they can help. Undershaw has a very positive profile within the community and the students are benefitting from these new connections - it's so wonderful to see it happen and to be involved.'

James Lindsay
Head of Pastoral Care, Teacher of Music

'It was a joy to see the looks of concentration on the pupils' faces as they listened to the musicians. This could be the start of a deep appreciation of music and maybe they will be encouraged to take up a musical instrument. I would like to extend my gratitude to Waitrose in Haslemere whose donation helped make these concerts happen.'

Stephen Dennison
Chairman, HHH Concerts



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Uppcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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