

Sunrise Academy Newsletter Autumn 1 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Autumn 1, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a long and eventful half term—eight weeks in total. We've welcomed new students with a wide range of needs, and I'm pleased to share that, as of July 2025, Sunrise Academy has opened its doors to children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). Many young people with ASD also experience SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) challenges, making Sunrise Academy a nurturing and appropriate setting for their development.

We've received some truly positive feedback from parents and carers about the difference the school is making in their child's life. This progress would not be possible without our dedicated and caring team of professionals. Their commitment, skill, and knowledge are the foundation of everything we achieve.

This academic year, we've welcomed new staff members into key roles, including one-to-one Special Teaching Assistants, Safeguarding Practitioners, and a Cover Supervisor. We'll soon be interviewing for a School Chef, as our catering kitchen nears completion (see photographs). Our goal is to have it fully operational by Christmas, serving fresh, healthy, and nutritious meals daily.

I hope the half-term break brings rest and renewal, and I look forward to welcoming all students back on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Warm regards,

Patrick Hamilton
Headteacher



School catering kitchen progress



Messages from the Office

Please log on to ARBOR for communication, adding money for school lunches (if you pay) and other items when they come up



We can only administer medication if the appropriate paperwork has been completed and returned to the office, this includes Calpol & paracetamol.

If you need a form, please contact the office.

Attendance and Punctuality Reminder

Please notify the school office **as soon as possible** if your child will be absent or has an appointment. If your call is not answered, kindly leave a message — we may be assisting another parent at the time.

If your child will be **arriving late**, please let us know in advance so that we can make appropriate arrangements to ensure they have a positive start to their day and inform the staff accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation

Lost Property

Can you make sure that all items are named so we can return the item to you.
Clothes, shoes water bottles, bags etc.

Autumn Term dates

PD Day 3rd November

Pupils start back 4th November

Term finishes 19th December

2026

PD Day 5th January

Pupils start back 6th January

Welcome back and welcome to our new parents and pupils from the office.

Sharon & Lisa

Pastoral Team announcements



Family support

Family Support Workers: are available to offer support and guidance to all Sunrise Academy families, This could be financial support, sign posting to another service, offering advice on supporting your child at home, the list is endless.

We have welcomed Ms Chenery-Down to Sunrise Academy as a Safeguarding Practitioner this half term.
In Autumn 2 we will have Ms Blowers joining the team.
Both staff members bring a wealth of experience with them.

If you have any safeguarding concerns about your children, please contact us.

Parent/carer engagement afternoons

Autumn 2 we will be hosting our first engagement afternoon, keep an eye on emails as dates will be send out soon.

Feeding the family

If you are struggling to feed the family, please look at accessing help from a local foodbank:

[Lowestoft Foodbank](#) | [Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

We also offer small food parcels from school, at a cost of £2 per bag through our FareShare packages.

Please contact the office to order or for more information.

Attendance Matters

Thank you to all the parents and carers supporting your young person in to school each day. If you have any concerns please do contact the Tutor in the first instance.

Our Educational welfare officer will be attending school early in Autumn 2 to discuss ours students and reasons behind absences.

School Uniform

A reminder that all students need to be attending school in their uniforms.

White polo / T-shirt, black joggers / leggings / shorts and black jumper / hoodie / cardigan.

Calls will be made home to those not in uniform, if you have any worries about uniform please call and speak to one of the team.

Moving into Adulthood Evening

We recently held our *Moving into Adulthood Evening*, an informative and supportive event aimed at helping students and families explore the wide range of opportunities available after Year 11. The evening featured local colleges, apprenticeship providers, and support services, as well as guidance on vocational routes and career pathways. It was a valuable chance for students to begin thinking about their future and understand that there is no single route to success—whether academic, practical, or creative. We encourage all families to continue these conversations at home and to explore the many post-16 options that can help each student thrive in their next stage of education or training.



Primary

In maths, we have been learning about the place value of numbers up to 10,000. We have looked at numbers in various representations to cement our understanding of number before moving on to addition and subtraction strategies.

One of most popular lessons for the primary class is Computing. The children have enjoyed learning about carrying out safe internet searches, learning about how to check the security of the websites they visit, as well as learning different methods for copying and pasting images from the web.

It has been a pleasure to meet your children and get to know them over the last few weeks as their new teacher.

I am really pleased with the positive progress children have made with engaging with the learning in the classroom.

A highlight for me has been our Outdoor Learning session where we had all of the children playing team games together on the playground. The primary class enjoyed playing games like Stuck in the Mud and Follow the Leader; all pupils participated and engaged respectfully and had great fun!

On Wednesday 22nd October, we had a special visitor in school to carry out an exciting science experiment with the primary class - the children loved this experience!

In English, we have been reading 'Seven Ghosts' by Chris Priestley. The children have enjoyed listening to several different ghost stories - thankfully they're not too spooky - in preparation for entering a Young Writers Competition after half term. We have studied the book for inspiration before planning and starting to write our own ghost stories. We will continue these after half term and submit our stories before the closing date. Full details of the competition can be found here:

[Ghost Stories: Creative Writing Competition \(For 5-18 Year-Olds\) | Young Writers](#)

Secondary

In Art students in year 7 have been looking at sea creatures by exploring collage, sketching and printing referencing the art of Giles Ward. Years 8 and 9 have been looking at the work of Wayne Thiebaud and creating work based on Cakes. Currently we are making 3D cake slices.

KS4 Art students have been exploring texture through using sketching, painting and print.

In Personal Development students have been focusing on the Being me section of Jigsaw PSHE that we deliver. Year 7 have covered peer pressure, influences, consequences of what I say and do online. Year 8 and 9 have focused on risks, peer approval and consent and 10 and 11 students have been looking at relationships and the law, me the internet and the law and emergency situations. Form groups have been working on building their social skills and using News round to develop discussion skills.

Students in yr 7 NCFE have been looking at make-up skills, exploring techniques, designs for costume make up, equipment and structure of the face.

Secondary

KS3/4 English Update – Autumn 1

This half term, KS3/4 students are focusing on developing their spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG) skills to support confident and accurate writing. Pupils are engaging in a variety of activities including sentence construction challenges, punctuation editing tasks, and vocabulary games designed to expand their word choices and improve spelling. They are also practising proofreading, using grammar checklists to refine their work. These skills are being applied across different writing tasks, from creative storytelling to formal essays. Parents can support at home by encouraging regular reading, discussing new words, and helping students review their written work for accuracy.

In PE, the year groups have been learning and improving their football skills. Students have worked on their teamwork and leadership qualities. Some students have been completing some brilliant theory work on the muscles in the body, and the importance of PE. Next half term, students will be moving on to basketball.

Humanities.

- **KS3 – years 8 & 9.**

Y8 - The students have been studying The Ancient Egyptians, learning about their culture and impact upon the modern world. They have looked at range of sources and are in a fantastic position to make further progress in Year 9.

Y9 – we have been examining the Battle Of Little Bighorn, a pivotal moment in American History. The students have really sharpened their enquiry skills in readiness to start their qualification in September.

Y10 – the students have completed the first year of their qualification and are set to complete this in a years time.

Y11 – I am pleased to say all Y11 students were successfully entered for their qualification. It is the first time in the schools life this has been the case and they deserve great credit for this.

Trips and Visits



Next Trip – 11th November Y7 Panathalon
Extend Tournament

On Thursday 9th October, eight students from Sunrise School took part in an Inclusive Football Tournament held in Beccles. The event featured two squads: an Under-14s team and an Under-16s team. Students chose to split into two smaller squads rather than one larger team, allowing everyone to enjoy more playing time. The tournament was played in a 5-a-side format, with each match lasting 8 minutes per half.

Under-14s Highlights

- **Match 1 vs Benjamin Britten 1.0**

Sunrise borrowed a player from the opposition to complete their team and secured a 3–0 win. The team showed great teamwork and inclusivity.

- **Match 2 vs Benjamin Britten 2.0**

Playing with only four players, Sunrise put up a strong fight and narrowly lost 2–1, showing resilience and determination.

- **Match 3 vs Ness Point**

Both teams played with four players. Sunrise dominated with a 4–1 victory, thanks to excellent attacking play.

- **Match 4 vs Denes**

In a close and competitive match, Sunrise edged out a 4–3 win, ending their tournament on a high.

Under-16s Highlights

- **Match 1 vs Denes**

A strong attacking performance led to a 9–3 win, with standout goal-scoring contributions.

- **Match 2 vs Community Ed**

Despite being a player down, Sunrise held their own and narrowly lost 2–1 in a tightly contested match.

- **Match 3 vs Ashley**

Sunrise bounced back with a 3–1 win, showing excellent ball movement and finishing.

- **Match 4 vs Ness Point**

Fatigue set in for the team, but they still managed to score twice in a 4–2 defeat.

Vocational Learning



Our NCFE students have been busy working with plasterboard and even trying their hand at plastering! They've learned how to repair walls, prep surfaces, and mask areas ready for painting. It's been messy but lots of fun — and the results look fantastic!



Exams

Let me start by congratulating those who passed exams in the summer – we had young people collecting a range of entry level, level one and level two qualifications – and not just year elevens. There were successes across the school.

This is the 'quiet' term in regards to exams, however there is a lot going on in the background to prepare young people for exams.

We are working on making applications for 'access arrangements'. These are things like extra time, supervised breaks or readers. Basically things that will help young people with SEND to be successful in their exams.

Pupils in KS4 are approaching the end of their first Maths qualification – the Entry level certificate – and will be working on their GCSE Maths skills following this.

Many pupils in KS3 have started working on their Entry Level Certificate early and there have been some great results.



Absconding Protocol – Secondary

(Primary – continually follow and notify parent carer straight away)

Always refer to the child's RBA

Office to phone parent/carer initially

Staff to follow at a distance for 5 minutes



Then tell the child you are returning to school



Inform Office to phone home to ask parent/carer to take responsibility



If the parent/carer will not take responsibility the Police will be called

Confirm with SLT first