



Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Friends and Pupils

It has been an incredible two terms for Grange Park School following our success this summer with the best outcomes we have ever had. The staff celebrated outstanding achievements at the beginning of the autumn term following the results achieved by our pupils this summer. I am incredibly proud of their achievements and would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who supported us with the additional revision and coursework sessions. The staff, as always, were completely dedicated in supporting the pupils to ensure they could reach their potential.



In September, we opened our new junior provision located in the village of Stansted with our first 11 pupils. We now have 15 pupils and have been inundated with requests for places. Some of the Key Stage 5 students have been supporting the pupils at Stansted and I am overwhelmed with pride when I see their interactions and the support and guidance they provide. The Stansted pupils have been coming to the main site at Wrotham for PE and will join the rest of the school for enrichment on a Friday from next term.

This term has sped by so quickly and the school days have been crammed with exciting activities, trips, and visitors to the school that support the learning of our pupils. Thank you for giving your support and enthusiasm throughout all of the events since September, including the exceptionally well-received School Quiz that raised over £900 for our pupils. We received a number of generous donations from our community partners including Communigrow. We also received a significant donation of £140 from Fourways Dental Surgery to bring our total to over £1000 which has financially supported the cinema event on the last day of term. The school is exploring additional fundraising opportunities, and we have been supported by a pupil's Grandparent, to whom we are very grateful.

The Grange Park Christmas cards this year were designed by two of our pupils from Wrotham and Stansted, and they have been sent to schools and organisations throughout the county. The designs really captured the festive spirit, and I was incredibly proud of the hard work that the pupils put into them.

We have also held our first Christmas Fair with 35 pupils enjoying tea with Father Christmas, who payed us a visit from Spadeworks. I know that you will join with me in saying well done to the pupils and staff for helping to make such events truly special. We hope to offer more opportunities to come together in the future.

Throughout the year, much work is undertaken to ensure that the environment is maintained and improved so that our pupils have access to high quality provision. We are always looking at new initiatives and creative ways to increase our offer. During the October half term we replaced all the carpet in the corridor in the main building and hope to replace the classroom carpets. This is a tricky job as we have to give ample time for the smell of the glue to disappear. I am also happy to let you know that KCC in partnership with the governing body are working hard to resolve the issues with the roof and they are committed to completing the works essential to keeping us dry.

Upcoming Events:

Monday 6th January : First day of term at Wrotham and Stansted sites

Monday 13th January - Friday 17th January: Year 9 EHCP Meetings

Monday 20th January - Friday 24th January: Year 7 EHCP Meetings

Thursday 23rd January - Parents Group Meeting

This term we have been working hard with our National Autistic Society advisor and have now made the application to be considered for "enhanced status" later in the academic year. Grange Park has been accredited by the NAS for 14 years and with our work in and beyond our school enhanced status is the next appropriate step.

We have been supported by the Variety Club Golf Society in securing a new mini bus for the Stansted site. It was an honour to meet Lady Forsyth as the bus was donated in memory of Sir Bruce Forsyth. All of our vehicles have a name and this one has been appropriately named "Brucie Bus". This vehicle will allow pupils to get out and about into the community and extend their learning opportunities.

The Harvest Festival in October allowed us as a community to think of others. Thank you for the donations of food, these were shared with the community via Wrotham St Georges Church. I am always blown away by the generosity of the parents and pupils when it comes to charity events.

This year we have been working hard to increase work placement opportunities for our pupils. We currently work with Communigrow at East Malling, Holiday Inn at Wrotham, McDonalds in Otford, Holywell Park in Meopham, Shears Green Primary School and Oak Racing Kennels. We are also exploring opportunities for our pupils at the Heart of Hospice charity shop in Borough Green, Buttercups Goat Sanctuary and the Co-Op in Borough Green. Their support allows our students to benefit from real life working opportunities and we are grateful for their support. Some of the residents of Holywell joined us at the church and Christmas Fair.

It is difficult to capture in so few words just how much goes on every day here at Grange Park as we are fortunate to work in such a vibrant community. I hope in reading through the contributions in this newsletter that you gain a flavour of what we have been doing in the first two terms. We look forward with much excitement to 2020 but before then wish you and your families a fantastic Christmas break.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Renukah

Message from the Chairman of Governors

It hardly seems possible that it's almost that time of the year when some may hear the sound of hooves on roofs accompanied by the jingle of bells!

The governing body has increased in size to 14 and our latest governor is Robin Betts who joins us as a Co-opted Governor. Trevor Williams who had been a very successful Parent Governor remains a governor but has changed category also to that of Co-opted Governor. We will shortly be seeking a further Parent Governor to replace Trevor and join Gillian Buisson.

Governors are working towards a badge of success with Governor Mark and the New Year will see us making an application for this award. It is inevitable that sooner rather than later OfSTED will be paying the school a visit and by gaining the Governor Mark award this will demonstrate to OfSTED Inspectors that we are a good support to the school – if not outstanding!

Pupils in our Junior Department are settling in well and finding their feet. Some of our children have been out of school for awhile but are happy in their new surroundings and we have 100% attendance record which is something to be very proud of.

Governors are keen to explore the possibility of 19 – 25 provision, possibly at a college but this is very early days. We also wish to further enhance our Key Stage 5 offer and governors are working with Miss Atwell as to how best to achieve these two objectives.

As ever, the school is buzzing with all manner of good things – our staff getting the very best outcomes for our pupils and I cannot thank them enough for their expertise, dedication, innovation as well as good humour in encouraging all to do their very best.

I would like to wish everyone peace and joy at this festive time of the year.

Sue Murray
Chairman of Governors

Stansted

Trips to Kent Life for Years 4 and 5

In November we visited Kent Life as part of our learning. We got to meet lots of different animals including Rainbow the giant bunny and a cheeky goat who tried to nibble on our coats! We had great fun in the park and play area, did some pottery painting and spent money in the gift shop. Well done Year 4 and 5 for



Year 6 'Viking Day'

Year 6 took a trip to Kent Life for Viking Day.

We took part in a number of workshops including Viking Gods, Viking food, Viking life and Viking warriors. We also saw a number of different animals and loved looking and stroking the horse which was one of our favourite animals. It was a great day out for the pupils, with a range of interesting activities.



New Minibus

In October the school was presented with a Variety Club minibus at the London Club. The bus was partly funded by the Variety's Golf Club and is in memory of Sir Bruce Forsythe. Lady Forsythe, along with other Golf Society members handed the keys of the bus to some of our Stansted pupils, Mrs Murray, Chair of Governors and Mr Cleave, Deputy Head Teacher. The bus will be used by our Stansted pupils to enable them to access the curriculum and community projects.



The bus is now known as 'The Brucie Bus' in honour of Sir Bruce. We would like to thank the Golf Society and the Variety Club for their support of the school.

Stansted

Year 6 have been busy this term with a variety of topics. One of the projects that we have been really proud of is creating a Viking board game, which we created during our Learning Challenge Lessons. We started by moulding clay into different shapes- we needed 1 king, 12 defenders and 24 attackers. We let them dry, then painted them. After that, we created the rules and the board to play on. We really enjoyed playing them.



Winners at the Stansted Autumn Show!



Some of our Stansted students entered the "Make a scarecrow" competition in the Annual Autumn show, organised by the Stansted Horticultural and Handicraft Society.

An inventive team effort from William, Callum and Ahana in Year 6 won first place. Ailish in Year 4 made a beautiful entry which won third place. We look forward to taking part in the Autumn show again next year!



The First Grange Park Quiz Night

At the end of October, we held our first annual quiz night, which was a great success. We were really well supported by staff and our governors and we had one parent team — the Two Watt Bulbs, who were victorious!

We had a bountiful raffle table and had some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. In all, we raised just over £1000, which has paid for the children's cinema trip this Wednesday.

The evening really was a great deal of fun, and we will be having another event next year, so keep an eye out for further details .

Parents Group

Once a term, Grange Park welcomes parents to spend a morning at school where they can meet fellow parents and share their experiences, concerns and advice with each other. Parents are at the centre of the group, so should there be a particular topic that you would like discussed, or anything that you would like more information on, then please get in touch with the office.

The next Parents Group meeting will be on:

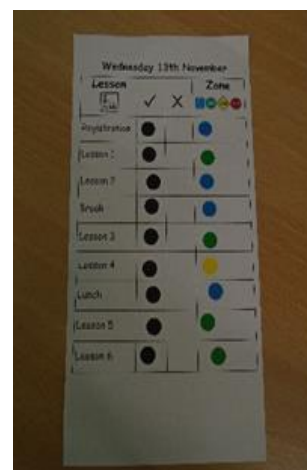
Thursday 23rd January 2020

No Pens Wednesday



This year Grange Park took part in 'No Pens Wednesday' on 13th November. Staff and students at both Wrotham and Stansted sites were challenged to go a whole school day without using any writing equipment. Activities were instead aimed at promoting speaking and listening skills and included a 'Minefield' communication task in the sports hall.

Students were even given a temporary ticksheet for the day, which staff could mark with stickers instead of a pen.



On some of the feedback forms the pupils said 'there's much more to learning than just writing.' And 'We don't only need to write to communicate.'

Fundraising

Once again, our pupils have made a phenomenal effort in fundraising for a number of charities including Wear it Pink, Children in Need and Jeans for Genes day.

So far this year, we have raised a total in excess of £1100 for good causes and the children should be very proud of all of their achievements.

We would also like to thank all the parents for their continued support with the fund raising efforts.



Leading Parents Partnership Award

Over the last 6 months we have been working on achieving the Leading Parents Partnership Award. As part of this process, we are soon going to be updating the website with help guides for various things, starting with some maths! We would really appreciate any feedback you may have on these once they have been uploaded! If you have any suggestions as to any 'how-to' videos that may be of help to you, please let Miss Underhill know!

Snow Day Work

Should the school close due to any adverse weather, we have uploaded some work which the pupils can access, onto the school website. The work can be found under the 'Information' section and covers English, Maths and Science.

The work that has been set is not compulsory to complete, and we fully understand that enjoying the snow may be a more appealing option!

Outdoor Learning

We've had a wet and muddy few weeks, but that's to be expected this time of year and it hasn't stopped us getting outside every session – rain or shine! Pupils have shown a fantastic attitude, creating some wonderful dens and engaging in imaginary play. Popular activities have included constructing catapults and wading through the hidden swamp at the far end of the site. Some of our more accomplished fire starters have managed to use strikers to ignite natural materials like birch bark and horse hoof fungus, showing excellent perseverance and keen interests in survival skills! As we enter the coldest months, it's important that everyone (staff included!) brings suitable clothing as we always strive to get out in all but the worst of conditions. We look forward to the frosty weather and maybe even some snow!



Port Lympne Zoo- KS5 Reward Trip

On Tuesday 15th October, KS5 went on a trip to Port Lympne Zoo, jumping on the minibus for the day. We started by taking a safari trip around the park to see all the animals in their natural habitat. Stopping off for Lunch, the class split off into groups to see any animals they wanted to see in the zoo.

All of the students were so well behaved and were a credit to school and the KS5 team.



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Post 16 Information Event

On the 8th October 2019 we held our first post 16 information event for parent and children at Grange Park for year groups 9-11. With over 50 children and parents in attendance, the purpose of the event was to disseminate information about the pathways available to our children and young people at post 16. For some of our cohort the journey into the college partnership pathway will need early preparation, this event starts that journey for the children and the parents. The event has been followed up with tours around the campuses at Mid-Kent college and these will continue into the new year.

Maths Escape Room

All students took part in a maths escape room on the 14th October. Pupils had to work as a team to solve a number of puzzles which led them to a key to stop their timer. One team managed to complete the task in 43 minutes! Everyone enjoyed the day (including the staff) and we are looking forward to escaping again next year!



Our College Students

We have a number of students who attend College and are working towards a wide variety of qualifications. Here, Ronan who is based at one of our College sites, gives us some feedback on his first term.

'I enjoy coming to classes at Mid Kent College. I am in the supported learning department, where I study English, Maths and my Vocational course. I come to college five days a week. I have three days of lessons and two days in personal study where I could catch up with any work and I also get extra help with my English and Maths. Grange Park staff are there to help me and I get a lot of support. On Tuesdays the class and I would be in the kitchen cooking different things every week. MidKent College is very big compared to the school, the tutors and Grange Park Staff are very helpful. I have also made some new friends and I like to talk to them and hang around with them during my social time.



Harvest Festival

Grange Park held its annual Harvest Festival at St George's Church on October 17th this year. We were overwhelmed by the amount of generous food donations sent in by you all. Year 8 had the job of decorating and packing the food boxes in their World Citizens lesson. The volunteers who read at the Church were brilliant and it was great to have some of our Stansted and Year 7 pupils participating. I am always very proud of the pupils for finding the confidence to deliver a reading to so many pupils and adults. After the service, Key Stage 5 students did an excellent job of serving hot drinks to those who were able to join us. Well done to all pupils who helped out, and thank you once again for the kind donations.

Hever Castle

Year 8 have been learning about The Tudors in terms 1 and 2. To help them extend their learning about King Henry VIII and his family, we visited Hever Castle. The pupils had a guided tour of the castle, where they showed off some great knowledge of the topic and asked interesting questions. After the tour, we enjoyed a walk around the beautiful gardens and finding our way through the maze! It was a very enjoyable trip with excellent behaviour from all pupils.



Bodiam Castle



Year 7 have been learning about Castles in term 2. To help them extend their learning and to see the features we have been learning about, we visited Bodiam Castle. First, year 7 had a talk about armoury and weapons then had a tour of the castle. All pupils had a lot of fun and enjoyed getting to try on armour. Year 7 showed their great knowledge of castles by answering the tour guides questions. We also held an imaginary Medieval feast where everyone had a role such as cook, entertainer and the rich people of the 'upper crust'!



Wear it Pink Day

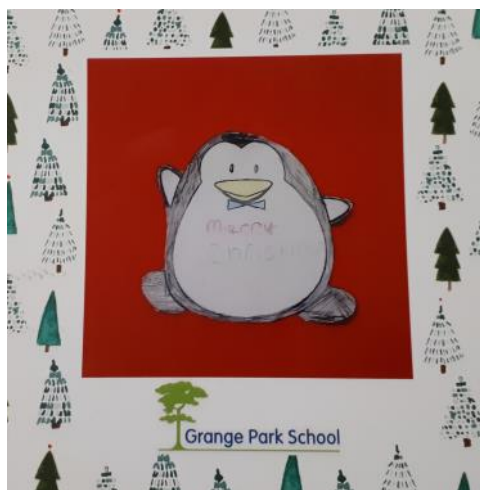
Last term on Friday 18th October, Year 11 organised the charity event 'Wear it Pink' as part of their Citizenship lessons. Pupils collaborated to come up with event ideas, advertised the event and completed research into costings to ensure lots of money would be raised by their plans. Lots of fun was had by the whole school while a huge £415 was being raised. The main event was watching Owen have his legs waxed! Owen gained a huge number of sponsors and was incredibly brave in front of a watching crowd. Events like this would not be possible without the support of pupils and their families who kindly donated cakes and paid for the events that were planned. We are already looking forward to what the next Year 11's plan for our event next year.



Christmas Cards

This year, there were some fantastic pieces of artwork to choose from for the school Christmas card, and picking just two was incredibly difficult. After much deliberation, two festive designs were chosen, one by Ailish in Year 4 and one from Harry in Year 9.

I'm sure that you'll agree, these have made wonderful school Christmas cards.



Severe Snow/Ice Plan

How will we let you know that school (Wrotham site) is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Atwell may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether Grange Park School is open or closed, please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Grange Park School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

We will also endeavour to inform you via our text messaging service (Parentmail), so please ensure we have your current mobile number.

How will we let you know if the college is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions:-

Parents can directly contact Mandie Conington - White on **07591852944** or Jean Moule on **07840506638**

Parents and students should follow the guidance from the college site that their son/daughter is currently attending.

Due to the varied locations of each campus, the college may make a decision to close, one site or all sites, or remain open, dependent on the severity of the weather at each campus.

Parents and students should go to Google, log on to the main MKC or Hadlow home page, the college will provide information should it be open or closed, this is usually highlighted in yellow, at the top of the page. The college will update the information on a daily basis.

Tutors will email students with set work to be completed at home for each snow day.

Partnership students will not be requested to travel or work at the School site, if the college is closed and the school is open.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2019-2020

Please note that the term dates for Grange Park @ MKC and Grange Park @ Hadlow may differ slightly from the above. Term dates for the partnership colleges can be found on the Grange Park website.

Wednesday 18th December 2019	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.30pm Wrotham & 1.00pm at Stansted)
Monday 6th January 2020	Start of Term 3
Friday 14th February 2020	End of Term 3
Monday 24th February 2020	Start of Term 4
Wednesday 1st April 2020	End of Term 4
Tuesday 16th April 2020	Start of Term 5 for Pupils
Monday 4th May 2020	Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May 2020	End of Term 5
Monday 1st June 2020	Start of Term 6
Wednesday 22nd July 2020	End of Term 6



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School

Grange Park School Term Dates 2018-2019

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School