

April 2019

Headteacher's letter



EASTER NEWSLETTER

The end of every term is always extremely busy, and often, it isn't until the last few days that we are able to reflect on all of the wonderful achievements of the last term.

You will read in this newsletter about the many fantastic projects that pupils have been working on and supporting. Once again I was reminded of how considerate our pupils are in thinking of others. The Red Nose Day event which was supported by the staff, pupils and our families raised a significant £474.57 - for a school of our size this is amazing. The afternoon events were enjoyed by many and Mr Cleave had his first ever soaking in the stocks!

We are delighted to see the growing strength of the Student Council and the impact that they are having across the School, they have been pivotal in developing classroom rules that they believe all pupils should follow. Pupil voice is helping to shape our school community and develop our provision.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Taylor has been nominated for Kent Teacher of the Year and the Grange Park staff have been nominated for Kent School Team of the Year, an award they fully deserve. The school are awaiting the decision from the judging panel but it is an honour to have been nominated and considered.

Thank you to parents who completed the consultation paperwork for the new Stansted Junior provision. Once we hear the final outcome, which is due to be presented to the Kent County Cabinet in May, I will inform you and invite parents/carers to visit the school. Through our Outreach provision and continual demands on the authority we know that this is a much needed provision. The number of children in Kent with an EHCP and a diagnosis of Autism continues to rise with provisions at capacity. Emma Nuttall has joined the school to advise on the Junior provision and Kent County Council continue to support us in the development of the satellite. All schools continue to face financial pressures. However, I would like to reassure parents that the new provision will not remove resources from the site at Wrotham but build additional capacity.

I am delighted to welcome Lee Cooper, our new Assistant Headteacher. Lee's main focus and responsibility will be Key Stage 5 and he will work alongside Mandie Conington-White, our Partnership Development Manager, to help develop the provision and explore opportunities for 19 to 25. Lee will work closely with Sarah Dobney who joined us earlier in the year, as the teacher in charge of Key Stage 5 at Wrotham. We also welcome Jo D'Amiral as our music teacher. Jo is a very experienced music specialist who is already having a significant impact and creating a real enthusiasm for Music.

Sadly, the roof remains a significant problem, with the school having to manage regular leaks. The authority and school have commissioned an independent report which has led to increased pressure on the school builders to resolve the problem. As you are aware, I had to make the difficult decision to shut a classroom earlier in the term following a significant leak and damage. KCC and the School's Governing Body continue to work to resolve the issues with the roof and we hope to seek a resolution in due course.

Mrs Hazelden, our school Cook, continues to work hard to provide the children with delicious meals. A group of pupils have been to see me to tell that they think she deserves a medal and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work. Unfortunately for the staff her puddings are too tempting! Mrs Hazelden's hard work was commended in a recent Food Hygiene inspection resulting in another 5* Hygiene Award.

This week, I met with a representative from The National Autistic Society following our recent Autism Accreditation. The school are working with the NAS with the aim of achieving Enhanced Status at our next review. I am also excited to announce that the school has been assessed for The Inclusion Mark Award and has been selected as a Centre of Excellence. Thank you to all the parents, governors and pupils who contributed and met the assessor. A special thank you to Miss Wilkins who made a considerable contribution to the assessment process.

Unfortunately, damage to the minibus and the theft of essential parts resulted in the school being left short of a vehicle. Kindly, the First Culverstone and Vigo Scout group lent us a minibus to bridge the gap.

Pupils preparing for examination accreditations this summer are working hard and making the most of revision opportunities after school. Thank you to parents who are supporting the school with after school and holiday revision. The partnership between the school and pupils remains strong and pupil focused.

As the term comes to an end, I wish you all a very restful and safe Easter break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 23rd April.

Miss Renukah Atwell
Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

Bank Holiday (Easter Monday): Monday 22nd April 2019

Start of Term 5: Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Bank Holiday (May Day): Monday 6th May 2019

End of Term 5: Friday 24th May 2019

Message from the Chairman of Governors

Dear All.

As we arrive at the Easter Holidays and the hope that Spring might just bring some warmer weather for all to enjoy, it is a good time to reflect on how well our pupils and staff are doing as we head in to the exam season for many of our students, many of whom find the prospect of working in a formal atmosphere a little daunting.

Our roof continues to cause problems through leaks – some, where the roof leaked previously and others in new areas. It had been hoped that during the Summer Holidays repair works would be carried out but this is no longer possible. It now seems that County and the contractors are entering into a “legal phase” and one day I hope to be able to confirm that the roof is totally leak free.

We had anticipated opening our Junior Department – Grange Park School @ Stansted - in April but this will now take place in September and will cater for 36 pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. We have employed teaching staff and they are currently teaching at Wrotham and absorbing ‘the Grange Park Way’.

The Governing Body is at full strength with no vacancies. In September we will be increasing the number of governors from the current 12 to 14, one Stansted Staff Governor and one Associate Governor to represent the parents.

As governors, we are delighted with the way Renukah Atwell has settled in with her new responsibilities as Headteacher. Headships are not easy! Mark Cleave our Deputy Headteacher has also made his presence felt in a very positive way and after Easter they will be joined by an Assistant Head Teacher to oversee improvements in our Key Stage 5 provision and also how we can take forward our wish to offer 19 – 25 further education. Watch this space for further developments over the months to come.

I hope everyone enjoys the Easter break.

Sue Murray

Chairman of Governors



Parents Group

Parents group meetings have been held once a term since September, and it has been great to see parents from a mixture of year groups. Parents group is a place where parents can chat, seek advice and support from each other and ask questions to other parents and myself. In our last two sessions, a member of the Therapy Team has attended to give tips and advice about visual supports, emotional regulation and sensory strategies. Parents group works best when it is tailored to and meeting the needs of the parents, which is why we recently sent out some questions to find out the best days, times and subjects that would interest people. Information and dates of meetings are available on the school website, or you can contact the office should you need further information.

Miss Wilkins

School Council

The changes that were discussed during the council consultation have now been implemented throughout school and pupils have received the consultation positively. Having a copy of the school rules, as agreed by the school council, (pictured) displayed in all classrooms has helped to make expectations very clear.

School council will be meeting again at the beginning of next term to discuss the change in ticksheets, the pupil well being questionnaire that all pupils have completed and any other issues that the representatives bring forward.



Lunchtime Clubs

This term, lots of new lunchtime clubs have been implemented, following on from the School Council consultation that took place in term 2.

The new lunchtime clubs include: Darts Club, Life Skills Club, Animal Club and Lego Club as well sports clubs including Trampoline, Basketball and Dance. Pupils have been making good use of all of the extra lunchtime clubs available.

Israel - year 8 said that he particularly enjoys Life Skills Club 'as it prepares me to cook on my own and it will help me when I am older'.

Animal club has proved particularly popular this term, since the school purchased a Gecko called Bubbles (pictured), to add to the ever-growing list of animals already onsite, including; Guinea Pigs, Chickens, Fish and Budgies! The students have been braver than the staff and have been pick it up and handling it, whilst the staff look on!



Duke of Edinburgh

The DofE group of Key Stage 5 students are making excellent progress towards achieving their Bronze DofE award. They all successfully completed their volunteering section at Fort Amherst and are now working on their physical section. For this they are working on their fitness by attending weekly sessions in the gym at Larkfield Leisure Centre. The group have also started training for their final expedition. This involves lots of practice walks, planning routes for the walks and navigating these routes. They have all shown great determination and commitment so far, well done!



Grange Park Football Team

As Head Boy I've been running the lunchtime football training sessions. Each pupil has trained and worked exceptionally well to be where they are now. The team and I can see how well we have all improved and I'm proud of all of them. At our last tournament on 5th March we won more games than previously and our best scoreline was a 4-1 win! They should all feel proud of themselves.

Regan - Year 11

Gymnastics Festival

On Thursday 21st March, 5 of our Year 8 pupils took part in a gymnastics festival at Pegasus Gymnastics Club. There were a total of 5 schools there and everyone got to try a number of different activity stations. There were lots of specialist coaches on hand to help and support the pupils in learning new skills. They got to use vaults, the sprung floor, ropes, bars, trampettes and did some parkour. Everyone had a brilliant morning and we look forward to going again next year!





Enrichment

All pupils across Grange Park School have enjoyed another 2 terms of weekly enrichment sessions. Pupils again got to choose which activity they would like to participate in and had the options of swimming, ice skating, bowling, arts and crafts, archaeology, board games/puzzles and cooking. I have been impressed with how many pupils have wanted to try new activities and proved to themselves that they can learn a new skill or improve on an existing skill.

Once again pupils will be able to choose a new activity for Terms 5 and 6 so watch this space!

Outdoor Learning

All Key Stage 3 pupils have dealt brilliantly with the cold, wet and windy weather that has swept through over the past term. Our supply of waterproof overalls has been getting plenty of use; allowing lots of pupils to play in the mud, splash in the stream and return to school ready to learn. Many have taken a shine to lighting the campfire with strikers and cotton wool, climbing trees and cutting back the thorns, while some of our more experienced pupils have been learning to split firewood with the axe and cook snacks for their classmates over the campfire. Creativity has run rampant in our little woods, leading to the creation of fantastic clay sculptures, beautiful pieces of art, improvised shelters and enthusiastic games of Dungeons and Dragons! We look forward to the seasons progressing so we can be more ambitious with our plans for each lesson, and as Spring approaches we will begin foraging for different kinds of wild food to taste each week.



Aladdin Theatre Trip

On the evening of the 4th April students travelled up to the Prince Edward theatre in London to see Aladdin the Musical! Students and staff all had a fantastic time seeing the show, with the Genie being the firm favourite character.

Thank you to all the staff who helped with the trip and well done to all the pupils who went, for their excellent behaviour and patient waiting when the coach was a little bit late.



National Gallery Exhibition

We did it! Our work has been chosen to be on display at The National Gallery in London. A selection of year 8 and 9's artwork will be part of the Take One Picture exhibition which will be open to the public from 9th May – 11th August 2019.

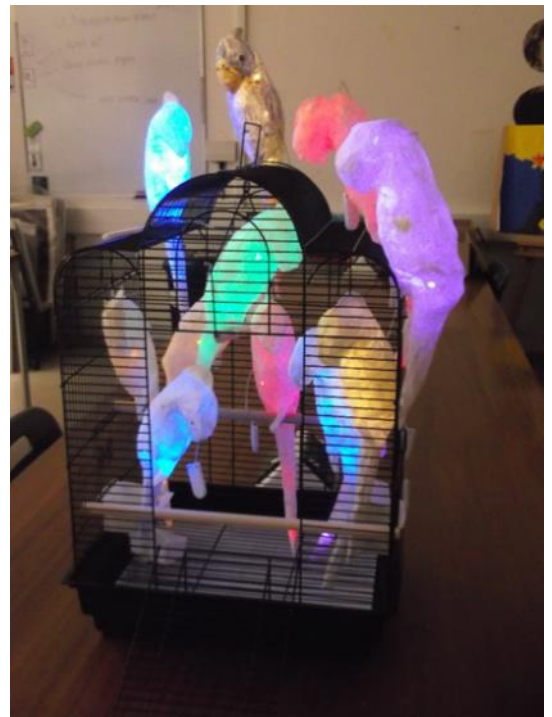
Pupils worked very hard to create paper mache lanterns and bird sculptures inspired by the painting, An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump, by Joseph Wright of Derby.

We will be planning a school visit to gallery to view our work, and pupils are encouraged to take their families and friends anytime during the exhibition.

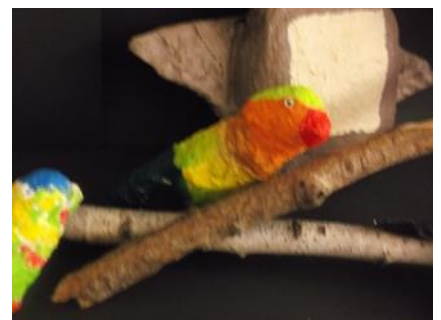
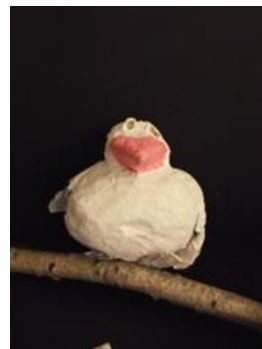
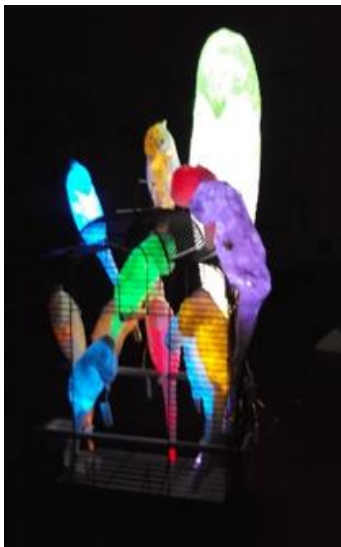
Well done - we are very proud of you!



JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY –
AN EXPERIMENT ON A BIRD IN THE AIR PUMP



Final Piece Photographs!



Silly Science Workshop

On Tuesday 19th March Grange Park took part in the Silly Science Workshop. There were many ooohs! and aaaahs! from the enthralled students as they watched the exciting experiments!



World Book Day



Thursday 7th March saw the school participate in this national event. All of the staff and many of the pupils dressed up as characters from literature.

During the day, the pupils went to Waterstones to spend their vouchers.

Morning walk included a scavenger hunt to find the names of book characters hidden around the playground.

Pupils made pop-up versions of a picture from their favourite books and completed them by adding a quote or a brief retelling of an event from the story.

The theme of this year's World Book day was 'Share a Story'. Each class had time in the library sharing stories and popcorn with each other and the staff.

As a class team, the students worked together to complete the World Book Day quiz. The winning class was year 7 – well done to them!

By far the most liked activity was a visit to Willy Wonka's Chocolate factory where the pupils made chocolate fudge!



Charity Event - Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day at Wrotham

A great afternoon was spent raising money for Red Nose Day. Students set up for a fayre out on the playground but coped fantastically when the weather took a sudden change and we had to move inside. Parents, Governors, Staff and Pupils were all seen taking part in various activities, ranging from splash the staff to a BBQ! £474.57 was raised altogether in just one afternoon! – a huge well done and thank you to everyone involved.



Red Nose Day at MKC Maidstone

We managed to raise £80 for Red Nose Day by selling cakes students had brought in. Our Learning Mentor, Jane made lovely fresh hot homemade scones onsite. These were a huge success as people were drawn to the stall by the tantalising smell from them. We worked well as a team decorating the stall and selling the cakes. We had great fun and raised a good amount of money for charity.

By LF



Red Nose Day at MKC Medway

On Friday 15th March on Red Nose day, me and my Grange Park TA's and friends helped prepare the cake stall in the pavilion at Midkent College Medway for the cake sale. My job was to take the cakes down to the stall, then put the cloth over the two tables to put the cakes onto.

Once the stall was done we prepared ourselves so that we were ready to sell them. I managed to serve a few customers with help from Grange Park staff and my best friend Leon.

Before I went to my lesson we managed to make some money from the cakes that we sold.

After that I had to go to my English lesson.

By PY

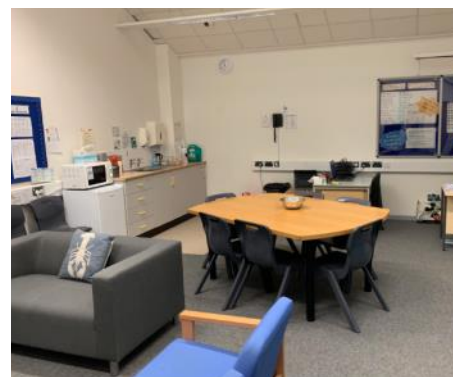


The new and refreshed Key Stage Five!

After Term 3 our Key Stage 5 students came back to a brand-new common room, a space just for them to progress and develop their independence. With new sofas, tables and pigeon holes, we are preparing them for work and all the challenges that this may bring. Students have all also received their own brand new Key Stage 5 uniform, which was designed based on their ideas. Students are also working towards Bonus Points which are awarded for independence, helping around school, supporting others and looking after their new area. Students are thriving and excelling on this new concept and we can see a huge improvement around school. Tick sheets have also been introduced where students can prove how hard they have been working in their lessons and how they are developing their learning experience at Grange Park School.

Well done Key Stage 5, we are very proud of you!

Miss Dobney, Mrs Martin, Ms Moyce and Ms Cave-Brown.



College Partnerships

I am doing my work experience in the Mess Room based in The Sun Pier Gallery. I go there every Thursday from 9a.m. until 3p.m. I prepare canvases for School children to do their projects on. I designed signage for the café and sometimes work in the café.

I enjoy working with the school children and helping them with their projects. I like working there and the people are very nice.

By GO



I really enjoyed my experience working at South East Water. It was my first time working there and all the people were very nice people.

We worked in groups and served drinks to people who are working whenever they were thirsty or if they already have drinks.

I felt a little nervous but I had lots of confidence to ask some people what they want to drink.

We all worked well together as a team as we were split into groups.

When we arrived, we were given smart T-Shirts with the South East Water logo for work to change into before we began working.

We were split into groups of two or three and we've been given a worksheet to show what different types of drinks that people can choose of their choice.

We began asking people nicely what they wanted to drink and we put down their desk number next to their chosen drink.

There was plenty of hot drinks such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, latte, and mocha. However there was only two cold drinks which were orange juice and flavoured water.

We had done this for a couple of hours until we went to lunch break for half an hour.

We then switched places as I began sitting at a desk and listened to people's calls for thirty minutes. It was my first time behind a desk at work.

By LD

I have recently started working at the Royal British Legion for my work experience.

I loved meeting new people and working as part of team constructing small items.

By LF



College Partnerships

On Wednesday March 20th 2019, I went to the Kent History and Library Centre to learn about execution. This was with the English department at Midkent College Maidstone.

In the morning, I left early at 11:00 am to walk all the way to the library at a slow and steady pace, I also used my road safety skills to check if there were vehicles approaching. This trip was also used for a walking travel training assessment.

I managed to arrive around 12:00 pm before my English tutors got here, I put my bag in a locker so that I did not have to carry it around throughout the lesson.

At 12:30 pm, we got called up for the lesson of execution. This was led by our teacher Mark. He gave us a presentation about the execution of John Amy Bird Bell who murdered Richard F. Taylor in August 1st 1831. I enjoyed listening to the presentation and learnt some interesting facts on what happened on that specific day.

After the presentation, we were given a task which involved going around different tables and finding answers in documents which had 19th century style handwriting. We finished about 1:30 pm when it was time to head back to the college.

Overall, I had a fantastic time at the Kent Archives and I will be looking forward for another visit in the future.



At my work experience at Southern Water I had to ask the staff what drinks they would like.

I then had to collect them from the vending machines.

By WJ



College Partnerships - Work Experience

My experience at Canterbury College was quite an interesting day for me. I felt nervous about meeting new people there, however they turned out that they are very nice. I was in a competition to make a delicious healthy sandwich with a scrumptious lunch that was going to be made for younger children. It took me 5 minutes to prepare and 25 minutes to make everything until we all finished. We then looked around the college even though I was shy because of my autism, therefore I was very brave.

Later on when the results were reviewed, I came 4th place out of 6th and I was very happy with the result. It was to enjoy ourselves and experience something new for the first time. We then looked inside a massive library that was a lot bigger than the ones at Mid Kent College. I couldn't decide which one was better, however I liked both of libraries.

When we went to have lunch, our meals were free meaning we didn't had to pay for anything, even though I didn't bring my wallet with me. The dining area was much bigger than the one we had.



A few hours later, we went to theatre that was around the corner of the college and we watched a few plays that involved dancing, singing, acting and musicals. I really enjoyed and it made me think that one day if my college does a MidKent's Got Talent Show in the future, I want to take part in it to sing and entertain everybody.

After when everything finished, it was time to leave and head home. I was very tired and it was getting late. I went on board the coach and listened to some music to make my way back to my taxi then my last journey home.

I had a good time and I really enjoyed it.

By LD

Grange Park School Term Dates 2018-2019

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.

Friday 5th April 2019	End of Term 4
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	Start of Term 5 for Pupils
Monday 6th May 2019	Bank Holiday
Friday 24th May 2019	End of Term 5
Monday 3rd June 2019	Start of Term 6
Friday 19th July 2019	End of Term 6

Happy Easter from Grange Park School!