

July 2018



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## Headteacher's letter

Dear parents/ carers, colleagues and friends,

Weather reports have announced that June this year has been the hottest and driest on record. Those looking forward to dull rainy days only have a week or so to go when the start of the school holidays will surely guarantee the disappearance of the sunshine!

What has been remarkably impressive is the way in which the pupils and students here have persevered even in the wilting heat. Only two rooms in the school have air conditioning the rest have to make do with wedging open doors and doing their best. And they have.

When it comes down to it, the best we can do is our best. It doesn't matter what anybody else is achieving (or not) the important thing is that we try to improve. Sometimes we need someone else there to point out where we have gone wrong and show us what might be a better path to follow. Hopefully that person will work alongside us as a partner. It is really helpful if that person understands us, knows about how we perform and can tailor their advice to our level.

And that, of course, is what school is all about.

It has been an absolute joy for me to see how well everybody has got on over the last months. Pupils and students have worked hard, learnt well and, in the process, enjoyed themselves. Those parents who were able to attend Sports' Day commented on two main areas: that the whole school joined in enthusiastically and also how well the school team - pupils and staff - supported each other. I think these comments can be made about every school day. The mixture of enthusiasm and determination to do well as part of a team is a winning one. (Without mentioning the World Cup, the England team did not disappoint because they all did their best. I am also personally convinced that Gareth Southgate has been copying the Grange Park Way).

This edition is packed with photos showing a range of activities both in and out of school. Each photo carries its own story. Please take a moment or two to read the articles by two students who are leaving us. One of the most important judgements on the school is our ability to prepare our pupils for life *after* school. Yes, it is our job to teach towards exams and accreditation but it is also our job to help pupils understand that they can cope and that they can do well in the wider community.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the Talent Show and Barbeque. A truly memorable evening. I hope that the summer is an enjoyable time for you all despite the gloomy weather.

*Robert Wyatt*



### Upcoming Events:

Friday 20th June—Leaver's Assembly

Friday 20th June—End of Term

Thursday 23rd August—GCSE Results Day (School open to collect results 10am—12.30pm)

Monday 3rd September—INSET Day (Wrotham site—no pupils in school at Wrotham site)

Tuesday 4th September—Start of Term for Pupils at Wrotham Site

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## Message from the Chairman of Governors

Dear All

As I write this on a blisteringly hot June day, my thoughts go back over the last school year, the progress and achievement that our students have made both academically and emotionally, the joy I feel when visiting the school is so hard to put into words.

It has been a very busy year – when isn't it – our staff have been asked to "step up to the plate" more than ever, to take on more responsibility in the absence of our Headteacher, Robert Wyatt. Initially Robert was granted leave on compassionate grounds that subsequently became sick leave, I am delighted that he was able to return to school at the beginning of June, working two days a week for the foreseeable future.



The Governors have agreed to this new working arrangement and have also decided that Renukah Atwell should remain as Acting Headteacher as a constant presence in the school. All our staff, teaching and non-teaching, have been extremely supportive throughout Robert's absence and I would like to give them an especial thank you for this support.

During Robert's absence it has been very difficult indeed to get suitably qualified staff to assist Renukah, nothing to do with the school but all to do with a shortage of teachers not only in Kent but nationwide. This has placed an extra burden on Renukah who has remained cheerful throughout whilst ensuring the school continues to move forward successfully.

On the administrative side, Zoe McNally, our Business Manager and her team, have also taken on greater responsibilities in Robert's absence and ensured the smooth running of the school premises amongst other things.

At the beginning of Term 1 we will be holding Parent Governor elections seeking to appoint one Governor to join Trevor Williams on the governing body. Following the resignation of one of the Co-opted Governors two months ago, we are looking for a governor of this designation.

In closing, a thank you to all students and their families who will be moving on at the end of term to college, apprenticeships or the workplace; I wish you all well.

Sue Murray,

Chairman of Governors

## Family Cook

On the 22nd May 2018, Mrs Hazelden held a Family Cook afternoon. The afternoon was well attended with pupils, parents, siblings and grandparents from a mix of year groups getting together to stretch their culinary skills. The menu for the evening was meatballs and tomato sauce with apple turn-overs for dessert.

The pupils enjoyed working with their families to produce a meal that they could then take home for dinner that evening. It was lovely to see pupils and their families interacting without the usual distractions of home.

Well done to everyone involved.





## Sports' Day 2018

Sports' Day 2018 was another huge success. Pupils across the entire school participated in a number of events ranging from traditional athletic events such as javelin to team building activities such as the obstacle course and fun relay races. A number of parents commented on how well the pupils encouraged and supported each other throughout the day which was wonderful to see and made for a lovely atmosphere. So I'd like to say a massive well done to the pupils and thank you to our spectators for supporting the event.

Mrs Hughes

### New Grange Park School Records

#### Year 7

Alfie S holds the new shot put record at 9.4m.

Harvey holds the new javelin record at 10.2m.

#### Year 8

Emmanuel holds the new shot put record at 10.6m.

#### Year 9

Owen holds the new javelin record at 16.1m.

#### Year 10

Regan holds the new 100m record at 14.3 seconds.

#### Key Stage 5

Reece holds the new javelin record at 21.2m.

Well done to all of our record breakers!!!

The following pupils were nominated by their team leaders for being the 'stand out pupil' in their team. They either showed excellence in team work, leadership, performance, significant improvement or in being consistently good all day. The pupils who achieved these awards were: Victoria, Daniel G, Regan, Leon, Erin.





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## Geography Field Trips

### Year 9 Trip to Herne Bay

Year 9 went to Herne Bay in May to investigate whether the beach was moving. We carried out various experiments and determined that yes, long-shore drift was in action on that beach. It was colder than expected but all pupils were fully involved and thoroughly enjoyed the day out. The pupils enjoyed being able to put into practice the theory from our lessons and the fish and chip lunch in the chippy where we all got to warm up was an added bonus.



### Year 8 Trip to Horton Kirby

This term Year 8 went on their geography field trip to Horton Kirby. Year 8 have been studying rivers and our question was 'How Clean is the River Darent in Horton Kirby?' We did various experiments on the river looking at depth and velocity to find the answer to the question. By far the most popular experiment of the day was hunting for minibeasts. The types of river life you find is a good indicator of how clean a river is. The weather was excellent and a great day was had by all.





## History and RE Trips

### Year 7 Lullingstone Roman Villa

A part of the history curriculum in Key Stage 3, pupils have to complete a study about their local history. At Grange Park we have linked it with the topic of *Romans* that Year 7 have been working on. So that the pupils could experience life in Roman times first hand, they visited Lullingstone Roman Villa near Eynsford. Whilst there, pupils worked hard and completed a booklet about aspects of Roman life. They were also able to see Roman artefacts and gain more knowledge about what life was like in Roman Britain.



### Year 8 Synagogue Trip

Year 8 have been learning about Judaism in Terms 5 and 6. To help pupils with their learning about artefacts and worship, we visited Chatham Memorial Synagogue. Pupils were able to see and experience the sort of features of a synagogue and Judaism that we had learnt about. Pupil behaviour and engagement was brilliant, and the trip was enjoyed by all!

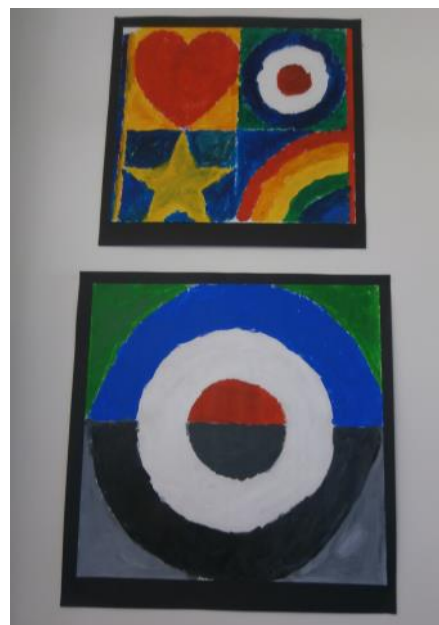




## 2018 GCSE Art Exhibition



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# Highlights of the Year

As we come to the end of another busy and successful year, here is a round up of some of the highlights.









## Grange Park School Football Team

This year the boys have worked incredibly hard taking part in the 2017-2018 football league, and they can be really proud of their achievements. In April, the boys tackled the scorching heat at Aylesford football ground, and coped well both on and off the pitch with the blazing sun and pressure from other teams. The top goal scorer was Regan.

For the last tournament of the year, the flowery shorts were left behind at school, but unfortunately, the yellow caps still found their way onto the mini bus. We went along to Kent University to participate in the Kent School games, and the event was televised on ITV News! Over 1000 students from across Kent took part and Grange Park achieved a commendable 3rd place.

This year the boys have taken part in high-level discipline during weekly football training, and have been learning how to conduct themselves as well mannered, young sportsmen both on the pitch and around the school.

The boys' behaviour and determination to do their best has made every fixture enjoyable. Thank you to those parents who came along to cheer on the boys in both the rain and sunshine!

Miss Wilson





## Basketball and Kinball Tournament

### Pupils VS Pupils Basketball

As part of the Year 11s' Sports Leaders qualification, they were challenged to arrange a basketball tournament for the whole school. What a success it was! Teams of pupils were motivated to succeed and enjoyed playing against the other year groups in the sports hall. The Year 11s did very well at being officials for the tournament and pulled off a great afternoon. Well done to everyone who took part in organising and playing a brilliant tournament!



### Pupils VS Staff Kin-ball

Along with the inter-year Basketball tournament, the pupils also took on the staff in a large Kin-Ball tournament! Kin-Ball is a giant inflatable ball, which reaches a huge 1.22 meters in diameter when pumped up. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with lots of cheering and anticipation, and by the laughter coming from the staff, I think it is safe to say that they enjoyed themselves too!

Miss Wilson



## Lunchtime Clubs

Earlier this term, the PE department purchased some new outdoor equipment and games for pupils to use during lunch times and it is certainly proving to be a hit. Popular games are giant dominoes, hula hoops and catch.





## KS5 at Wrotham Best Bits



"I feel that I have learnt loads about animal care at White Rocks, I have been lucky to look after pigs and donkeys." SS



"I hadn't noticed that I was fast at running until I joined the gym at Larkfield and the staff said I should find a running club to join. I'm looking forward to joining a club soon. I have also enjoyed my time at communi-grow selling vegetables to the local residents." KL

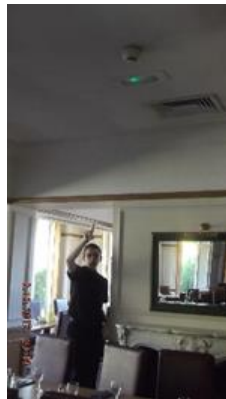
"I have enjoyed learning about health and safety at the Holiday Inn and making my mini van bookend in DT." KH



"I have enjoyed my cookery lessons and swimming at Larkfield Leisure Centre. I have also enjoyed feeding the birds and selling vegetables at Communigrow and feeding the pigs at White Rocks Farm. I've also learnt about Japanese culture in English." JM



"My swimming has really improved since I have been going to Leisure Centre each week and thank you Mrs Brooks for helping me enjoy DT again." EB



"My favourite thing at Grange Park School this year has been work experience. I've been working in the kitchen and I have got my Level 1 and Level 2 in Food Safety. I have learnt how important health and safety is in the kitchen." MD



"Most of all I have enjoyed my work placements. These are Holiday Inn and White Rocks Farm. I like working as part of a team with my friends. I was pleased to get my Level 2 Food Safety certificate." GE



"I have learnt a lot at Rowhill doing mechanics. I feel that next year other students will enjoy this course too." TG

"I work at Coronation Garage twice a week learning more about mechanics. I am looking forward to moving to college so I can learn even more." GL



## Moving on

### Moving On from School

*As I got to the middle of year 11 I had to start thinking about how I was going to continue with my education. Why I have to stay learning till I'm 18, I don't know. Blooming Government Laws!*

*I knew I didn't want to go to college near school, not because I hate school, but because there is a college near my home and that would mean less travelling on that long taxi journey, especially since I travel on my own all the time, up to London and all.*

*So, I went to my local college to see what they had to offer. I was lucky to be offered a place studying mechanics. I was very happy.*

*Then things got even better. Looking on line I found that I could apply for an apprenticeship. I discussed it with my parents and they helped me to find a local company offering the scheme. I went for the interview and was amazed to be taken on. It was easy really;*

- *I researched apprenticeships online at home*
- *At home I went on 'indeed.com' to find a local company that offered mechanics apprenticeships.*
- *I put in a couple of applications and got interviews for them both.*
- *I went for the first interview and got offered the place.*
- *I turned down the second interview.*

*I am very proud of the fact that I did this on my own and that I am the first year 11 student in the school to enter this route of continuing education.*

By HC

### So this is it...

*My final year at Grange Park has come to an end and I can't quite believe it. What am I going to do now? How will I cope?*

*I started here in year 10, I was 14 and scared. My previous school hadn't been great and I thought this school would be the same. How wrong I was. I'm now 19 – the oldest pupil in the school, year 14! What's more the scared boy has turned into a man who is confident, able to socialise and control his temper (well, most of the time I can!) To tell you the truth I really don't want to leave, I've learnt so much, had some amazing experiences and met some great people (teachers and pupils).*

*For work experience I have been to many different places. I spent a year at CEX, the Computer Exchange company. Here I learnt to work with others and how the company worked. I work in a Comic Book store near to my home. I learnt how to organise the books and keep the shelves stocked. I still work here and I really enjoy it, it's quiet enough that I don't get stressed, but there is enough to do to keep me occupied.*

*As part of my learning I have been to Communigrow, the Holiday inn and White Rocks. These are all places that the school uses to help us improve our independence skills.*

*In school I had the opportunity to take a range of subjects. Although learning and academics have never been my strong point I am proud that I achieved qualifications in Biology and PE. This year I am proud to hope that I will finally get 'pass' grades in Maths and English.*

*I have played in the school football team, helped to organise the quizzes at Christmas and Easter and helped out with charity fundraising.*

*All in all it has been a fabulous experience and one that I will look back on with fondness for the rest of my life. Thank you for the memories and for putting up with me, Grange Park.*

By JA



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## Moving On

Some of our current school partnership students have written about their experiences and how they have found settling in to college life...

What surprised me? Getting more freedom than Grange Park to do my own thing, and the size of the college compared to the size of the school. Before I started college, I felt nervous, anxious, etc. But now, I feel a lot more confident, and a lot less anxious. I'm actually participating in lessons, along with talking to my peers and teachers. I'm also communicating better as well, along with participating in class more often.

One thing I enjoy about college compared to school, is the freedom I get, and how open the college is. There are a wide variety of areas accessible around the college, and two main buildings. I would recommend college to students from Grange Park, since there is a large variety of courses available, and plenty of assistance if you are struggling. Some of the courses include: Catering, Sports, Media, Photography, Video, IT and Child Care, along with different levels of them, ranging from Level 1, up to Level 3. I personally did IT for two years, then did Level 2 Media for the last year, and am planning on going onto Level 3 Photography next year. By HP

### My article about my transition to Mid Kent College from Grange Park School.

My transition to Mid Kent College from Grange Park School I think went ok. At college I have learned about how to take care of animals I wouldn't usually work with. I am getting a little bit more confidence and also I am not that afraid of snakes as I was.

I have also made some new friends with all of the other students on my animal management course.

All of the other students on my animal management course care about me because they can see when something is worrying me or upsetting me because they look after me but they also try and help me with all of my problems that I have got as well, I get that they can't always help me with my problems but they do their best to calm me down when I am worried or upset.. They all talk to me and I like talking to them because if I am ever upset they make sure I am alright and if I have got a problem they try their best to help me. By KT

I think it's safe to say that Mid Kent College is nothing like Highschool musical, but it still has social groups like the jocks, the nerds, goths and class clowns, sometimes these people are hardly friendly, but you just need to get on with what you need or want to do.

College is a good place to learn new things and acquire new skills but for me it's about who I am as a person. I like that there's more freedom in college than school. I would recommend college to pupils at Grange Park. I've grown more independent at college because on occasion when I'm free I go on outings with my course mates and I even go to the gym every week. It can be tough but if you focus you'll do alright. By DB

After leaving school and coming to college the first thing that surprised me was that I couldn't believe how big the building was. I had mixed emotions before starting college in September because I did not know what to expect.

I feel so happy that I came to college because I have made a lot of friends and that I was so happy that I chose performing arts as my course. I had fun when I did performing arts because we are starting to use areas of performing arts I have never used before.

The college staff have been so kind to me and they treat me how I want to be treated as well as being treated as an adult. The lunchtimes and break times are better in college than school.

I would recommend the college for the Grange park students. I am more independent in college than I am in school. The college staff always give me a kind welcome. By PY

Well done Murray I, who is the first ex Grange Park student to graduate from university. Murray achieved a 2:1 in Game Design and Development BA (Hons) at London Southbank University

## KS5 Alternative Curriculum at Wrotham

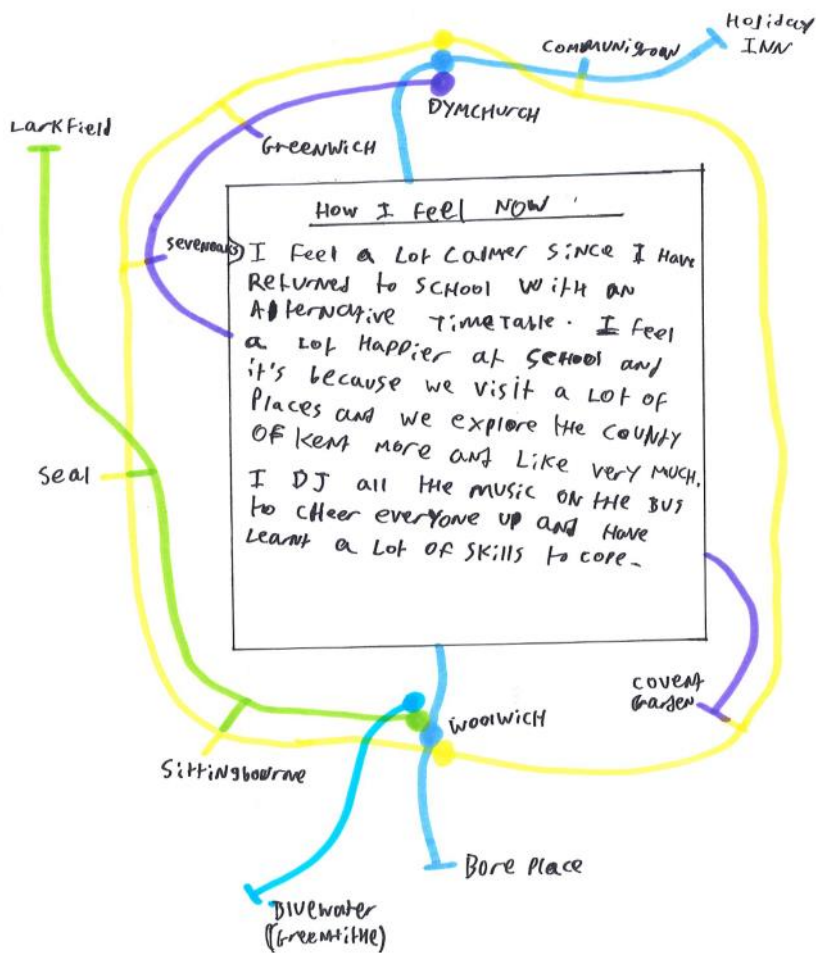
*We have visited a fair few places as part of my timetable now.*

*I loved the careers event because I didn't think anyone would be offering me a job or be interested in me but Mrs Moyce kept showing and telling everyone how amazing I was and a lot of people were interested in me.*

*I met people from Dovetail Games and they were very interested in me because of my memory.*

*My skills before were limited to the ability I have. Since I came back, I feel my skills have grown loads. Examples: cope, manage situations, enjoying life more, more people to meet, doing outside work, persevering.*

*By JP*





## My Day Today—the Panic Room Trip

*Today I went on a school trip with my friends and my teachers.*

*The school trip was The Panic Room. It is a place where people go in and they have to solve puzzles and problems. There are different kinds of puzzles and problems. There are also stories in each puzzle. The one we did was called "The Defective Detective". There were others to choose from such as "The Don", "The Dollhouse" and "How to sell a Haunted House".*

*When we were there a woman came and told us what to do. She then took us to another building where there were four or five different doors with names on them and the door with yellow tapes saying "Police Crime Scene. Warning, Please Do Not Enter" was the one we were going in to. Before we went in, the woman gave us a phone to take pictures that could be a clue to help us solve the game and a walkie-talkie to contact her to let us know we are on the right track and to help us out with some of the problems. Before she left, she told us what the story was about. It was about a person being murdered and no-one knew who did it, as a detective came by and told the police that the person who they thought did it, wasn't the person because that person was on holiday at the time. We are left to try and solve the murder. When the woman left we opened the door and went into the room. We had one hour to solve the murder.*

*When we finished the game, the woman came back and gave us a certificate each to show how much time we saved. We gave the phone and walkie-talkie back and left the room. As we left we said "Goodbye" and left the building. After the Panic Room, we went to MacDonald's for lunch. After lunch we went back to the minibus and went back to school.*

*Did I enjoy what I did today? Yes, I enjoyed what I did today and I hope that we could go to The Panic Room again soon.*

By GE, KS5



## Grange Park Defibrillator

Earlier this term, Grange Park School staff received training from South East NHS Paramedic Dave Hawkins on our new defibrillator. The defibrillator was purchased with the sponsorship from last summer's Sponsored Walk and means that Grange Park can now offer first aid for anyone in cardiac arrest.

Dave Hawkins provides this training for free for organisations in Dartford, Gravesend and Sevenoaks and campaigns for defibrillators in all schools and communities.



## Child Protection Policy

Grange Park School's Child Protection Policy can be found on the school website (<https://www.grange-park-school-kent.co.uk/page/?title=Grange+Park+Policies&pid=23>).

If you require a hard copy of this or any of our other policies, please contact the school office on 01732 882111.

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## 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.

Tuesday 4th September 2018	Start of Term 1 for Pupils
Friday 19th October 2018	End of Term 1
Monday 29th October 2018	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 19th December 2018	End of Term 2
Monday 7th January 2019	Start of Term 3
Friday 15th February 2019	End of Term 3
Monday 25th February 2019	Start of Term 4
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

PS. Don't forget to have your say for Autism Accreditation. The deadline for responses in the 17th September.

Autistic People

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AutisticPersonGrangeParkSchool/>

Families of Autistic People

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamiliesofAutisticPeopleGrangeParkSchool/>

Professionals

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ProfessionalsGrangeParkSchool/>



We hope you have a lovely,  
restful summer!

