

March 2018



EASTER NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's letter

Dear parents/ carers, colleagues and friends,

A warm welcome to the Easter newsletter which covers a range of activities, events and some information about pupil learning in school. It has been another fantastic term with lots of new learning experiences including the virtual reality journey into space and Challenger Troop.

We are very proud of each of our pupils, all of whom are making fantastic progress and are taking impressive strides in their learning. You will read about a range of pupil achievements including those related to: sport, arts, vocational skills and fundraising.

As I type, pupils are busily engaged in Sports Relief activities and at the last count, they had raised £418.60. I am always so impressed with how pupils, with the support of you the parents, help support charitable events that we have at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support during the adverse weather conditions. Robert and I were closely monitoring the weather situation as we know it causes high levels of anxiety for our pupils.

Robert continues to support the school from home whilst away on extended leave. This term I have been supported two days a week by Graham Richards who is a member of the leadership team at Meadowfield School. The Grange Park staff continue to work hard to ensure our pupils have the best possible learning experience.

I look forward to working together with you over the coming months to ensure that we continue to provide the very best possible opportunities for our pupils. Please do not hesitate to call in or contact me if you have anything you would like to discuss. I wish all our families a peaceful and happy Easter break.

Renukah Atwell, Acting Head teacher



Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 28th March—Easter Church Service (am) and Lion King Theatre Trip (pm)

Wednesday 28th March—End of Term for Pupils (Wrotham Site)

Monday 16th April—Start of Term for Pupils (Wrotham Site)

Thursday 26th April—Parents' Evening for Years 8, 9 and 10

Monday 7th May—May Bank Holiday

W/c 8th May—Year 7 Annual Reviews

Message from the Chairman of Governors

Dear All

Due to Robert Wyatt's extended absence from school, the governors took the decision in January to appoint Ms Renukah Atwell as Acting Headteacher until he is able to return to school. Renukah has the full support of both the governing body and our staff and the school continues to move forward, not stand still. I know as parents, carers, colleagues or friends you too will be a great support to her in this new role. Whilst writing, our Business Manager, Ms Zoe McNally, has also undertaken increased responsibilities in her role, in fact all staff whether teaching or non-teaching have more than "stepped up to the plate" during Robert's absence.



Despite being absent from school, Robert wishes to remain in contact to complete reports, carry out some administrative tasks, respond to emails and attend occasional meetings.

KsENT is beginning to find its feet as it gradually takes on more of the tasks originally carried out by the LEA and the fledgling KsENT Governor Forum is meeting on a regular two monthly basis.

The roof continues to leak and we continue to have many meetings with the contractor, their suppliers and County in an effort to finally get the roof sorted out. Samples of the membrane are being taken to test to see if there was a fault in the manufacture of it and I really hope that by then end of the summer holidays (work has to be carried out when pupils are on holiday) we will finally be watertight!

I hope that everyone enjoys a great Easter break.

Sue Murray

Chairman of Governors

Gravity Reward Trip

At the end of term 3, pupils who had earned 50 merits or more were invited for a fun morning bouncing around at Gravity trampoline park in Maidstone. The pupils all had a great time, particularly enjoying the dodgeball court!

Congratulations to all those pupils who achieved over 50 merits each!



Kent Choices 4 You

Employability is a huge part of the Key Stage 5 curriculum. On Wednesday 5th March students visited the annual Kent Choices event in Gravesend. This event allows students to actively search for employment, apprenticeships or college courses and get advice and information. The students enjoyed looking at the various stalls and collected information linked to their aspirations. There was also a competition for students who got their cards stamped with their top 3 interests. Ronan C was the lucky winner of £20.



London Metropolitan Trip

History GCSE pupils in Year 10 and 11 have learnt about Medicine Through Time and visited the London Metropolitan Archives to find out more about this topic. The London Metropolitan Archives contains lots of rare documents and pictures which show the history of London. The oldest document is from 1067! Pupils went on a tour of the archives then used historic evidence to make Top Trumps cards about important individuals they had learnt about. The pupils enjoyed the trip and were able to show off their excellent knowledge and history skills.



World Book Day

Despite the weather playing foul to our original plans, we were able to celebrate World Book Day a week late. Pupils across the school participated in a range of activities designed to promote a love of reading and books in general.

Years 7 to 10 went to Waterstones in Maidstone to spend their World Book Day vouchers. All the pupils behaved very well and seemed to enjoy the experience. As a school, we would like to thank the staff at Waterstones for their time and patience and for all the support they gave to the pupils in choosing their books.



All the pupils took part in the Big Fat Grange Park Book Day Quiz. They entered as classes and were allowed the help of the tutors. With 43 points available, we are very proud of Year 11 for proving their book knowledge with an incredible 38 points. Special mentions to Year 9 and KS5 who were second and third (respectively) with 36 and 37 points.



During the course of the day, pupils were able to research authors, find out about illustrators via a video link, design their own book covers and read books, personalise bookmarks or go on a book treasure hunt in the library.

All the pupils enjoyed trying to work out which characters staff members had chosen to immortalise and they voted for the best-dressed staff member. Miss Wilkins, Miss Underhill and Mrs Gould all received an equal amount of votes and so 3 best dressed winners were given prizes. Staff were not the only ones to dress up, many of the pupils did so too and as you can see from the pictures a great deal of effort was put into creating the costumes – for this we thank all our parents and carers. Staff voted for the most inventive costumes; the runners-up prize was given to Medusa and the winner's prize to The Scarecrow.

Well done everyone.



World Book Day continued...

Due to the closeness of exams, Year 11 and KS5 were unable to join in with as many of the celebrations as the rest of the school. They dealt with the disappointment and continued with their studies though in a very mature and sensible way. It was not all noses to the grindstone all day though. Year 11 did find time to do some creative writing based on *The Harris Burdick Mystery*. They all tried very hard with what was a difficult challenge, and there were some excellent results. The prize winning entry for the best creative writing can be found below:

"The Third Floor Bedroom"



*It all began
when
someone left
the window
open.*

It all began when someone left the window open, the room on the third floor suddenly became very quiet, haunting and spooky. I decided to investigate the room to make sure it was still normal. Up the staircase, I climbed, until at last I made it to the third floor bedroom. With my hands trembling like mad, I took my set of keys and put one of them into the keyhole of the door. I closed my eyes as I turned the doorknob, predicting whatever was on the other side of the door will be well and truly awful. However, to my surprise, when I opened the door, it looked well and truly NORMAL! I honestly felt quite silly for thinking that I had let my imagination get the better of me.

When it all looked like nothing else bad would happen, giant cracks started to appear in the walls and roof and a photo covering up a sign fell to the bedroom floor. I saw the sign saying; NO OPEN WINDOWS!. It was then I finally realised the plaster and roof beams were very old and uneven and that letting air into the room would cause the beams to be beaten up resulting in a cave-in. I fled from the room when the first load of plaster started to fall, the beams soon crashed onto the bedroom floor and the CRASH! was so loud and hard, the bedroom floor started to crumble and disappear taking the whole bedroom furniture with it. Meanwhile I had just reached the first floor when I turned around to see the whole third and second floor being reduced to rubble. I ran to the door and was lucky enough to get well out of the way as the entire house take on the form of a giant load of rubble. The house was NO MORE!

From that day on, I chose wisely to avoid unsafe buildings and extremely careful of their atmosphere because we all know the saying: Nothing's what it seems!

By Kieran M

Key Stage 4 and 5 (Wrotham) Exam timetables

The timetables for the exams have now been published and can be found on the school website under both the pupils and the parents' sections. Individual timetables and an exam handbook will be sent home with the pupils. Along with the timetabled exams, there will also be controlled assessments and deadlines for course work to be completed from the beginning of Term 5 until end of June. It is important therefore that all pupils and students in Years 10, 11 and Key Stage 5 are in school during this time.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the exams, please call Mrs Lowman in the School Office.

Space Virtual Reality Workshop

As part of Science Week, Grange Park pupils experienced a journey through space using virtual reality. It was amazing to watch the pupils enthralled by what they were experiencing and even more amazing to hear all the obscure facts pupils knew about Greek mythology and the names of planets.

"I think it's so cool the fact that we can turn our heads to look around." MB

"Great fun" ES

"I like it whenever you turned around it was 3D" JR

"Everybody loved it" AW

"It was very educational and it felt like I was in the space" WMP

"I really enjoyed it" BP

"I was stunned, I couldn't move" JH

"It was awesome" NR

"I think it's pretty cool. It would have been nice if we could have seen some of our classmates with name tags and have control with the stuff around us". HB

"I actually fall in vacuum space" DG

"It was amazing" EM

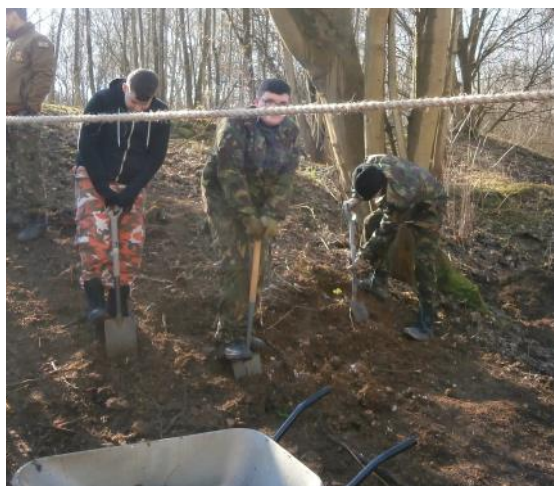


Challenger Troop

Since the middle of January a group of pupils from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 have been attending Challenger Troop each week. The programme is run with a military ethos which teaches the pupils not only survival skills but also life skills such as discipline, self-control, communication and working as part of a team, all of which are important for our pupils in helping them to become successful adults.

The pupils have taken to the challenge with enthusiasm and have covered areas such as bush cooking, first aid in the field, communications, fire building and putting up tents. The programme culminated with an over-night stay with night-time manoeuvres and wide games.

The pupils may have come back tired and muddy but they have all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





"I enjoy making fires and putting camo cream on. I am looking forward to the sleepover" MW

It's fun because you do lots of activities and learn lots." RW



"I really enjoy doing the bushcraft activities" JT

"I enjoy being outside." JS





We are pleased to report that since being introduced by the Speech and Language Therapy Team in September 2017, SCERTS assessments have been completed with almost all of the pupils in the school. The assessment process has involved gathering information from parents, teachers and SALT.

What does this mean for our pupils?





- Key stage and termly targets will be informed and monitored by the SCERTS assessment to be incorporated into the EHCPs
- We will be able to track pupils' progress in social communication and emotional regulation throughout their time at Grange Park School.
- Plans and targets will be based on our knowledge of the core developmental challenges faced by pupils with ASC.
- Goals developed should be meaningful and motivating for pupils based on their functional needs and family priorities.

Your child's assessment data will be sent home at the beginning of the summer term. This will include a social emotional growth chart which looks at your child's performance in areas such as social membership and friendship, their sense of self and flexibility and resilience.

For more information on SCERTS please see: <http://www.scerts.com/> or contact the SALT team.

Zones of Regulation

This term, Year 7 have been learning about The Zones of Regulation during their Grange Park Time lessons. They have learnt to recognise how they are feeling and how to communicate this. We have worked on understanding of facial expressions, perspective about how others react to their behaviours, insight into what triggers their behaviours, calming and alerting strategies and problem solving skills. Pupils have developed their own 'tool kits' of strategies to help them move between zones or get into the expected zone for a certain situation.

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| Running slow | Good to go | Caution | Stop! |
| Blue Zone | Green Zone | Yellow Zone | Red Zone |
| Sad | Happy | Frustrated | Mad/Angry |
| Sick | Calm | Worried Silly/ Wiggly | Terrified |
| Tired | Feeling OK | Excited | Yelling/Hitting |
| Bored | Focused | Starting to lose control | Elated Out of control |

Lunchtime Clubs

The SALT team have continued to run Boys' group, Girls' group and Detective club this term. All of the clubs are becoming increasingly popular and we are trying out new activities every week. The most enjoyable activities this term have included; making slime, playing with water beads, making candles, sharing YouTube clips, making bookmarks and playing board games.



Geography Trips

Year 10 and 11 Geography students have carried out their fieldwork studies this term. Year 10 went to Herne Bay to study the effects of Longshore Drift on the beach. The weather was horrific but they never once complained or grumbled but instead they stoically carried on and completed all the experiments on the beach. We had lunch in the chippy to warm up and then an ice-cream (it really wasn't the weather for it but it tasted good!) and then back out onto the beach.

Year 11 went to Fremlin Walk in Maidstone to look at the regeneration of the area and whether it catered for all groups of people. We completed a shop survey and carried out a questionnaire on the general public, who were extremely reluctant to stop and answer our questions. The pupils were very brave but sent me out to stop people and then they asked the questions.

Both classes are now writing up their fieldwork reports and are preparing for the questions they will be asked on their fieldwork in their exams.

Mrs Dawes

Football Tournament

What an excellent day the boys had representing Grange Park! It was probably the most challenging tournament they have had to date, as all schools within the league have improved upon their football skills and fitness dramatically each time! The boys showed outstanding determination and perseverance both on the pitch, and off the pitch, and made me incredibly proud with their sportsmanship! I would particularly like to praise them on their behaviour and politeness towards other pupils from other schools! I had teachers from other schools telling me throughout the day what a great example all our pupils were.

Congratulations GP footballers, bring on the next and final tournament of the league in April!

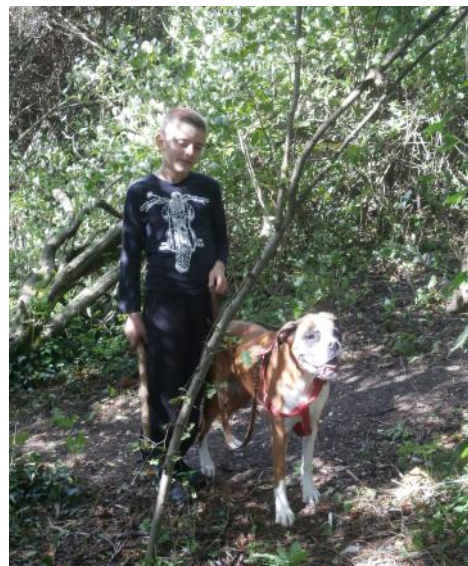


Miss Louise Wilson, PE Teacher



Forest School

Forest School has continued to develop and the pupils have enjoyed observing the changing seasons in the woodland. We have continued to develop the site, having set up a new log store and planting 40 willow trees around the pond. We are hoping to use the trees later on for weaving. The site has suffered from vandalism but our pupils have been quick to respond and tidy up and you can see the great sense of ownership they feel for their woodland. Our pupils continue to thrive in the outdoors and we see more of their character in the freedom that Forest School gives them. With staff taking a step back and the pupils leading their learning we often see great independence, resourcefulness and resilience.



Grange Park @ Hadlow and Grange Park @ Mid Kent College students at Work Experience.

Grange Park Partnership students attending college need to complete a set number of hours at a work experience placement as part of their courses. During February 2018, three students from Hadlow and three students from Mid Kent College worked at the animal part of The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood.

In the morning, they completed all animal jobs working with ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, ponies, donkeys, goats, pigs, chickens, turkeys and cows and of course, not forgetting the favourite job - the muck heap.

Jobs included mucking out stables, grooming the donkeys and ponies, cleaning out the ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs and generally keeping the place tidy for visitors.



In the afternoons the students worked on revamping the old duck pond; they weeded, raked over and moved lots of sand to cover the base before the pond liner could be laid. This is an ongoing project, so hopefully GP @ Hadlow students will get it finished during their work placement day on Fridays.



There was a lot of laughter and hard work during the week and the staff at The Hop Farm were very helpful. I think a good time was had by all, while learning new skills along the way.

By Jacqui Mitchell TA Hadlow

Grange Park @ Hadlow and Grange Park @ Mid Kent College students at Work Experience.

"I am doing my work experience at Game in Maidstone. Last time I was there, I had to change the prices on the merchandise at the start of the day. Then after when I had done all of that, I had to replace or move some of the games on the shelves. I was then asked to take the covers off of those games and replace them with some new covers/game titles. Later on, I had to sort out and swap some games around on the shelves in different orders.

Up until now I have been with my TA Beth to the work experience, but I was thinking I might go by myself next time, as I normally know what I am doing. However, Beth was being pretty helpful last week, as she was helping me sorting out the prices for the clothes at the beginning.

The thing I like about this work experience, is that the staff there are pretty nice people. Especially the guy who I first met when I joined there, he's a chill guy.

The thing that I have learnt throughout all of this, is that everything has to be done right. I need to listen to my instructions and carry out my work to the best of my ability."

Jack M

Grange Park @ Mid Kent College Travel Training

"I go travel training at college to increase my independence, by doing things such as buying train tickets and taking the bus. For example, on Thursday 15/03/18, I went to Snodland and back via train and bus. On the way there and back, we took the number 3 bus, and we knew which platform to get on via using the electronic signs around the station."



Grange Park School Term Dates 2017-2018

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.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday 28th March 2018 | End of Term 4 for pupils |
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| Monday 16th April 2018 | Start of Term 5 |
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| Friday 25th May 2018 | End of Term 5 |
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| Monday 4th June 2018 | Start of Term 6 |
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| Friday 20th July 2018 | End of Term 6 |
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Grange Park School Term Dates 2018-2019

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| Tuesday 4th September 2018 | Start of Term 1 for Pupils |
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| Friday 19th October 2018 | End of Term 1 |
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| Monday 29th October 2018 | Start of Term 2 |
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| Wednesday 19th December 2018 | End of Term 2 |
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| Monday 7th January 2019 | Start of Term 3 |
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| Friday 15th February 2019 | End of Term 3 |
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| Monday 25th February 2019 | Start of Term 4 |
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| Friday 5th April 2019 | End of Term 4 |
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| Tuesday 23rd April 2019 | Start of Term 5 for Pupils |
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| Monday 6th May 2019 | Bank Holiday |
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| Friday 24th May 2019 | End of Term 5 |
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| Monday 3rd June 2019 | Start of Term 6 |
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| Friday 19th July 2019 | End of Term 6 |
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