

April 2020



EASTER NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Letter

As you are aware I have tried to keep you up to date with as much information as possible over the past two weeks. I can only provide what I know, which on some occasions has been very scant, however I am committed to being open, honest and transparent.

I understand that at this difficult time some of you need the school to enable you to do key worker jobs, but I would ask that you note that the overarching message from Government and Local Authority is that children are safer at home; this is the best way to limit the virus. In our school community we have both pupils and staff who are vulnerable to this virus and we have a duty of care to protect all. I am grateful to all of you for your continued support.

Despite the recent challenges, it has been a busy term as usual at Grange Park and the pupils have been engaged in a verity of activities. We have been fortunate to have been donated a new mini bus from the Variety Club with Keel Toys sponsoring most of the cost. This is greatly appreciated as this allows us to get pupils out and about and in the community. Unfortunately, the official presentation was cancelled but in true Grange Park style I will be asking some of the older pupils to write to Keel Toys to thank them. All of our vehicles have a name and a Key Stage 5 pupil has suggested "Beenie" Bus as this is the name of one of the bears manufactured by Keel Toys and this matches our previous Bus "Brucie" who had been presented to us in dedication of Sir Bruce Forsyth.

This term I have introduced a new Headteacher's award which is presented to pupils for personal excellence, achievement, outstanding work or significant contribution to helping others. Each week Mr Cleave, Ms Nuttall and I present pupils with pupil of the week certificates. This term we have started to share this celebration with you by email each week. If your child does something special while we are away from school, I would love to hear all about it. Please email or send a picture to the school office.

We have been working hard with our National Autistic Society advisor towards enhanced status and hope to complete our assessment at the end of June. Whilst we will remain accredited we believe that working towards the enhanced status focuses us on providing the best possible learning environment and opportunities for our young people.

I thank you for your understanding and partnership as we navigate these challenging and dynamic times. I will continue to communicate with you regularly as we receive updates on the situation.

With best wishes

Miss Renukah Atwell
Headteacher

Message from the Chairman of Governors

What strange times we currently live in, the enormity of social isolation has been hard for most of us to come to terms with but there have been uplifting moments such as opening our front doors at 8pm last week and applauding all carers. As well as being an emotional experience I also felt a tremendous sense of togetherness and wellbeing knowing that friends and family were also doing the same thing at the same time.



Term, as we all know, finished rather abruptly and I would like to thank you as parents/carers and our staff for coping so well and I hope most are "enjoying" home schooling.

Before the Coronavirus struck, governors had attended an in-house training session on OfSTED as we are due to receive an Inspection sometime during the next year. In October it will be four years since our last one, obviously for the time being all Inspections have been put on hold.

We have monitored a number of subjects – English, Humanities which included World Citizenship (formerly known as RE), Careers and Maths – this only partially completed. We were pleased to find that all pupils were engaged in whatever subject that was being monitored and that tasks set were differentiated to allow all pupils to take part in the lesson.

As ever, the roof continues to leak in some new places as well as the old ones and as I write this the scaffolders are due to come in over the Easter holidays to erect more scaffolding, so that should remedial works be able to take place during the summer holidays, the scaffold will be in place to allow safe working.

Kent Special Education Needs Trust (KsENT) continues to provide support to all special state schools in Kent and is an invaluable resource to the school. KsENT governors met in early March to discuss how better able KsENT could support both governors and schools.

Looking forward to the start of the next Academic Year, in September we will be holding elections for a Parent Governor to join Gillian Buisson, so please watch out for further information in September.

The governors are pleased with how our Junior School is developing and hope that come September we will have more pupils than at present. Our Secondary School is, however, currently full.

These past few weeks have been testing times for all, and certainly increased the work load on both our teaching and non-teaching staff. My very grateful thanks to all of them and hope that it is not too long before we are able to return to school.

Keep safe,

Sue Murray
Chairman of Governors

Stansted

Year 6 have had a great term, focusing on a variety of topics. We are using more resources up at the Wrotham site, specifically with Science. We are now working with Mrs Taylor and using her expertise and resources to participate in experiments and develop our knowledge - this term we focused on light.

We have been doing our enrichment afternoons up at the Wrotham site too. Some of us have been learning about animals and encountering them, while others have been doing art or cooking. It has been great to be able to work with others at the secondary site and have even more opportunities to do things that we love.

We have also been adapting well to changes in our timetable that help us to be ready to learn. This includes morning walks, where we now walk around the field at Stansted. We also have Energise and Sensorcise as movement breaks between lessons to make sure that we are in the right zone, ready to keep on learning. It has worked very well.



Year 4 & 5 Learning

This term in Year 4 and 5 we have been enjoying our new topics of the Romans.

We started by learning some of the Roman communication phrases such as 'Parati' which means Ready! We have also made some delicious Roman bread whilst visiting the secondary Food Tech room and showed some great kneading skills, whilst overcoming the unusual texture of the dough.

In Science, we have been exploring Space in practical ways by creating a scale model to show how far the planets are from the sun on our playground and creating a 3D model of the solar system.

In World Citizens we have begun to explore the importance of Fair Trade as part of Fairtrade Fortnight and showed great teamwork skills when engaging in board games that help us learn about the process.



Sport Relief 2020

A big well done and thank you to everyone who participated with enthusiasm and determination in the Grange Park 100 mile Challenge. Lots of pupils put in extra effort and some were even running every morning!

I am yet to calculate the overall number of miles we covered as a school but I am confident we managed over 100! We also held a 'Sporting Challenges' afternoon which the Year 11 pupils lead.

Pupils had lots of fun attempting the challenges and almost £50 was raised from this. Unfortunately we cannot give a current total at the moment but I will update you all in due course.



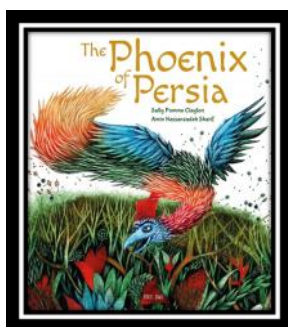
Author Visit to Grange Park

On the 27th of February Years 4 through to 7 were lucky to have workshops delivered by the author Sally Pomme Clayton. Pomme (her preferred name) based her workshops around the book *The Phoenix of Persia*.

The pupils enjoyed an interactive telling of the story and were able to join in with various role play and musical activities relating to it.



The pupils were so enthused and had so much fun that they had asked us to arrange another visit from Pomme to work on another of her books.



World Book Day 2020

'The best World Book Day I've ever done!' – Year 7 Pupil

Thursday 5th March saw the whole school participate in this national event. All the staff and most of the pupils dressed up as characters from their favourite books. This year many departments or teachers and Learning mentors in year groups adopted a book theme. Can you work out all the different books and characters represented here?



The day started at Wrotham with a scavenger hunt during morning walk (that then continued for the rest of the day) where staff wore pictures of their favourite books for the pupils to find. Three pupils managed to complete the task and were rewarded with chocolate in the following week's assembly.



The junior pupils came to Wrotham to join in the fun once they had completed their registers.

During the day, the pupils completed a range of activities all relating to books:



A trip to Waterstones in Maidstone to spend the World Book Day Vouchers and to learn the life skills of shopping – using money, interacting with shopkeepers and making choices.



Enjoying time, popcorn, biscuits, sweets and stories in The Reading Nook.



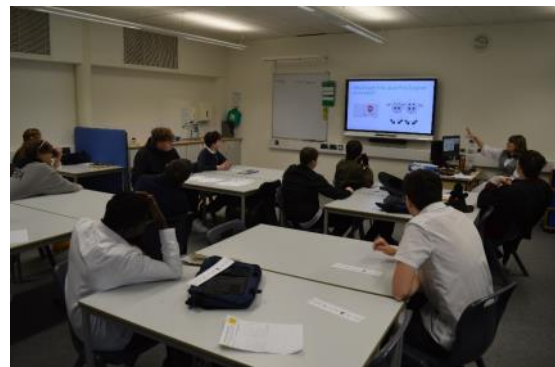
Making literary drinks in The Leaky Cauldron – Froboscottle, Pan-Galatic Gargle Blaster, Poirot's hot chocolate or Butter Beer.



Delighting in a game of Quidditch!



The Design a Book Token Competition.



The Grange Park World Book Day Quiz – The Juniors won!

Art

Take One Picture 2020



Men of the Docks

George Bellows 1912

KS4 Art

Year 8 and 9 completed the Take One Picture project and I am pleased to announce that some of their work will be on display at The National Gallery in London. The date of the exhibition is yet to be confirmed.

Well done! This is fantastic achievement and your work will be on display alongside the other masterpieces in the gallery!

Pupils responded to the painting "Men of the Docks" (1912) by American Artist George Bellows, by creating paintings, collages and clay figurines. Some of the figurines have been chosen for the exhibition. Well done—you are one of the 30 schools to be chosen among the 400 that entered!

Details of the exhibition will follow.

Final Pieces



Take one picture: The process

Pupils made their Men of the Docks out of clay. The models were then fired and painted.

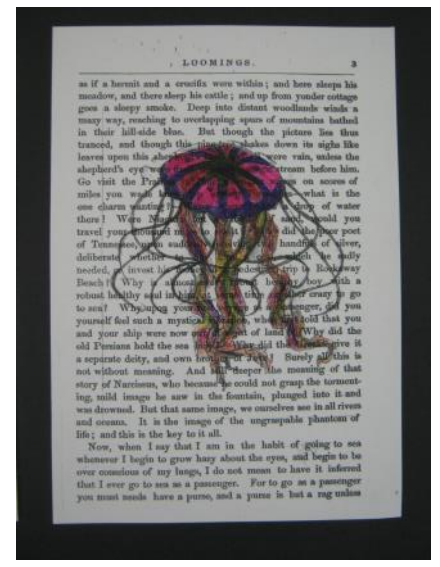


Year 10 GCSE Work

Year 10 have been working hard on pencil portraits and watercolour paintings for their GCSE project.



Preview of Year 11 GCSE work



Girl's Sleepover

We are delighted to report that the first ever Grange Park School Girls Sleepover was a huge success.

14 of our girls joined us for an evening of traditional sleepover activities with 4 Year 9 girls enjoying turning the Maths classroom into a cosy bedroom for the night.

The food room was in use all night with girls making cookies for movie snacks (though some did not last that long) and preparing their own pizzas for tea.

Classroom 1 was turned into a beauty room, with curlers, straighteners and makeup galore! With many experienced staff on hand the girls were looking like they had stepped out of a salon. There were a few girls who also enjoyed experimenting with makeup on staff.

Meanwhile there was a distant hum of YMCA, Macarena and a whole host of cheesy disco dancing coming from the hall.

For a little chill time, girls could enjoy some arts and crafts, mindfulness and gaming on the Wii, in the KS5 room.

All of the girls are eager for another sleepover with suggestions of dance performances and maybe even camping outside. Hopefully we will be able to offer another sleepover in term 6.



Key Stage 5

Work Experience in KS5

Over the previous term we have started some excellent new work experiences for our Key Stage 5 group. At Buttercup Goats Sanctuary in Maidstone, our students are working alongside the sanctuary staff feeding the goats, cleaning up and tidying the areas where the goats roam. Our students come back weekly with huge grins on their faces showing a clear improvement in confidence and speech.

London History Museum

As part of the student's reward trip in Term 3, students had the opportunity to visit the London History Museum. We travelled up by train, some students travelling independently, and spent the day exploring the museum and all it had to offer. The students behaved impeccably and all enjoyed themselves. Well done Key Stage 5!

Planning the new allotment

Through the student's Gardening Short Course this term we are working and planning our new allotment, with the plan to plant a range of vegetables to be able to use in our cooking lessons. We are also completing a unit in 'Art in the Garden', through the use of recycled materials and paint we are making the allotment a calm and sensory place for our students to go. Pictures to follow in the next newsletter.



Parent Group Afternoon Tea

KS5 student's have been finding ways to raise money to fund their residential coming up in Term 4. One way they have done this is by arranging an Afternoon Style Tea for the parents attending parents group. The students were very successful and raised a total of £75, bringing the total raised so far to £216. Our students shopped and chose all the ingredients, created advertisement, set up the room, made sandwiches, presented and made tea for the parents.

Well done to all students involved.

Key Stage 5 pupils and staff with our brand new Variety minibus. Our thanks to Variety Club Golf and Keel Toys for their very generous donation.



College Partnership

Hadlow student News

Unfortunately Hadlow students did not have time to write an article for the newsletter before the college closed so I thought I would write a few words to say how proud Charliiee and I are of our students.

Harry who is doing the first year of a level 3 Animal Management course has taken and passed both of his exams in Animal Biology and Animal Welfare and Ethics.

Before the college closed Harry was involved in a 3 week work placement at The Hop Farm where as always he was working hard looking after the animals and gaining knowledge, they are so pleased with Harry's work that the manager told me she was thinking of offering him a weekend job. Well Done Harry.



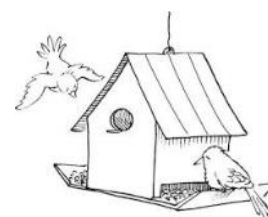
Maria is on a level 1 Animal Care course is becoming more independent and gaining confidence daily in and out of class.

When Maria started at Hadlow she had a fear of snakes, she is now cleaning out their vivarium changing waters and has even touched a snake (with staff supervision) .



Joel has been taking part in the Jim Green Project this is a competition run by the South of England Agricultural Society.

Joel has been building a hanging bird feeder, he is very good at practical work and has enjoyed completing this activity, unfortunately the competition was cancelled this year.



Charliiee and I would like to say a big thank you to our students, keep working , keep safe and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

SalT

Grange Park to support with Camouflaging in Autism Research

The speech and language therapy team at Grange Park will be supporting Dr Laura Hull and her team at University College London to develop the CAT-Q assessment tool.

The CAT-Q assesses Camouflaging (also commonly referred to as Masking) in people with Autism. Camouflaging is defined as hiding unwanted autistic behaviours and/or explicitly using more socially acceptable behaviours.

We are looking forward to supporting with this very important research.



LPPA (Leading Parent Partnership Award)

As part of the LPPA we have uploaded our first online tutorial video - Addition, the Gange Park Way.

We appreciate any feedback and requests for further videos, so please contact Miss Underhill if you have any more suggestions or feedback and we will look to add these topics.

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.

Start of Term 5 for Pupils:	Tuesday 16th April 2020
Bank Holiday:	Monday 4th May 2020
Bank Holiday:	Friday 8th May 2020
End of Term 5:	Friday 22nd May 2020
Start of Term 6:	Monday 1st June 2020
End of Term 6:	Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Regular updates regarding the current situation are being uploaded onto the Grange Park Website and can be found under the Information tab.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2020-2021

Term 1:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Tuesday 1st September 2020 (Stansted, Year 7 & KS5 Only) Wednesday 2nd September 2020 (Rest of School)
End of Term 1:	Friday 23rd October 2020
School Holiday:	Monday 26th October 2020 - Friday 6th November 2020

Term 2:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Monday 9th November 2020
End of Term 2:	Friday 18th December 2020
School Holiday:	Monday 21st December 2020 - Friday 1st January 2021

Term 3:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Monday 4th January 2021
End of Term 3:	Friday 12th February 2021
School Holiday:	Monday 15th February 2021 - Friday 19th February 2021

Term 4:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Monday 22nd February 2021
End of Term 4:	Thursday 1st April 2021
School Holiday:	Monday 5th April 2021 - Friday 16th April 2021

Term 5:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Monday 19th April 2021
End of Term 5:	Friday 28th May 2021
School Holiday:	Monday 31st May 2021 - Friday 4th June 2021

Term 6:

Start of Term for Pupils:	Monday 7th June 2021
End of Term 6:	Wednesday 21st July 2021