



March 2017

Headteacher's letter

Dear Parents, carers and friends

As I write this the news is largely about disruption, unrest and unease. It was therefore heartening to hear one politician talking about how successful it is when we work together; that society is all the better when we welcome our similarities rather than highlighting our differences. This very much fits in with the ethos of Grange Park School where pupils are encouraged to create a positive environment within which we can all flourish. I never fail to be impressed with how much our pupils support each other by being patient, showing acceptance and understanding and wanting the best for their peers. It is also a strength of the whole school how well pupils and staff work together as a team.



This does not just happen on its own; by learning and working together it engenders a sense of self-worth which helps make everyone feel valued. I am sure other staff feel as humbled as I do about the extraordinary level of trust pupils place in we adults and recognise what a profound level of responsibility we have to both pupils and their parents.

Looking through the newsletter at the range of activities, both in and out of school, you may need to be reminded that we do have quite a few ordinary lessons! What is amply demonstrated is that there is more than one way to learn and that learning can be great fun! Trips to museums and exhibitions are not just about the stuff on show, they also teach pupils how to cope with travel, how to deal with different aspects of the wider community and build a bank of experience which in turn has the potential to create more self-confidence. What also strikes me is the range of *shared* activities on display here. Most of the photos and articles are about young people working and playing *together*.

A particular well done to the English and maths staff who worked hard to create lively, fun activities which challenged pupils and staff to look at these most basic of subjects in a new light. Whether it was measuring the area of a room with newspaper or setting up a Reading Nook. Well done to the Duke of Edinburgh team that faced the elements and came through the ordeal successfully and with smiles on their faces. Well done to the football team who never stopped trying.

Robert Yates

PS Red Nose Day has just finished. Good to see so many parents enjoying the activities. Unfortunately, I was seeing them through sponge soaked eyes from a set of stocks! Well done to all the pupils and students who participated so enthusiastically. Special mention for Miss Underhill who worked so hard to make it all happen.

Have a great Easter.

Upcoming Events:

Friday 31st March—End of Term 4

Tuesday 18th April—INSET Day (Wrotham Site) No pupils in school at Wrotham Site

Wednesday 19th April—First day back for pupils at Wrotham Site

Wednesday 19th April—Year 8 Visit to The Wallace Collection

Football Tournament January 2017



What a great day the pupils had at the football tournament. The sportsmanship from the whole team was of the highest standard and their teamwork with one another was really good. We witnessed great goals, saves, and shots from all players, and thanks to Kane, we were able to witness them again through his photography on the day. Despite being under a high level of pressure, the team pulled through with the greatest attitude. The team finished off a lovely day, by being granted special access to a football pitch and were allowed to play their own fun game of football. Thank you boys, you were wonderful role models to other schools, and thank you to the parents who came along on the day.

Well done footballers: Kane, Harry E., Harry. S, Fraser, Josh, Dermot, Jack, Kian, Tom, Emmanuel, Alfie, Henry, and Regan.



Year 10 Trip to the Imperial War Museum

On Thursday 3rd March, Year 9 and the Year 10 GCSE group travelled to London by train to visit the Imperial War Museum. We thoroughly enjoyed the walk to the museum although the Year 10s set a very fast pace! Once there we had time to explore the whole museum and marvel at the planes hanging from the ceiling and jeeps hanging from balconies. We all thought that the World War One exhibit was the best. The exhibits and displays in the museum helped to make it a truly educational visit. Excellent pupil behaviour enabled it to be a very enjoyable day.

Mrs Dawes



KS5 Trip to The Beauty Show

As part of their Hair and Beauty Course, 2 students from KS5 attended The Beauty Show which took place at the London Excel in February. Below is their account of the day.

What we did in hair and beauty. We looked around the salons. The salons were good. The people who were at the salons asked if you need anything but we had to say no because you had to pay for it. When we went on the trip, we saw a celebrity. The celebrity was someone in The X Factor. He was called Bradley Hunt we had a photo with him with all the people in the class. After that we had our lunch, we went back in there to look around.

Anna and Shania



KS3 Forest School



This term we have been learning to light fires with a fire striker. The pupils have loved it! We have boiled a kettle to make our own hot chocolate, cooked hotdogs with onions and made nettle soup.

We passed our main assessment and it can now be called a Forest School. The site is coming on well although we have a constant battle with litter coming in off the motorway. If there are any parents willing to come in and help to do a litter pick and clear some blackthorn thickets, any help will be very gratefully received.

Mrs Dawes



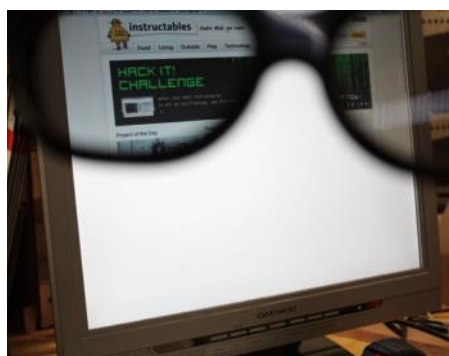
Girls' Group

Girls' Group is a chance for our female pupils to spend one lunchtime a week taking part in fun activities and games to encourage interaction and to develop their social skills. Through conversations of shared interests, our big project this term was to produce small hand-made soaps that could be sold to pupils and staff for Mother's Day. All the girls have worked really hard and produced some lovely work.



Boys' Group

Every Wednesday lunchtime we have been running Boys' Group. The pupils have access to a range of different activities and are being encouraged to share and play together. We have just started a new project to build a "Spy's Computer Monitor", which is a computer monitor enabling the person wearing the special (polarised filter) glasses to see what is on the screen. The pupils are all starting to accept each other, share the activities and work as a team. This is based very much on taking it in turns and supporting each other.



5 Star Award for the Kitchen

Well done to Mrs Hazelden in the School Kitchen for achieving a 5 Star Food Hygiene rating again following a surprise visit from the Tonbridge and Malling Environmental Health Officer on the 3rd February.



Duke of Edinburgh Update

The DofE group are working really hard at the moment to get their bronze award complete by the end of the year. All 7 pupils have completed their physical section and both the skills section and volunteering sections are well under way. Pupils are running their own project in the grounds of Fort Amherst working as volunteers to improve the area for members of the public that visit the site.

As well as both the skills and volunteering sections, pupils have begun training for their overnight expedition in July. We have been on some training walks at the Swattenden Centre in Cranbrook where the group have learned how to put up tents and cook their own food on Trangia cookers. As you can see from the photos below it has been lots of fun.

Not quite as much fun was the 8 km walk in the pouring rain at Shorne Country Park. In very difficult conditions, everybody was able to show resilience and support each other as a team.



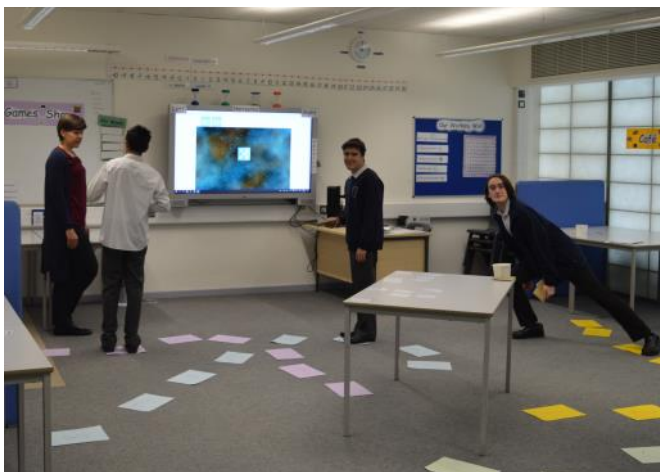
Maths Day



Maths Day took place on the 14th March at Grange Park to celebrate World Maths day. Pupils took part in 6 different Maths activities which were designed to reflect a real life situation. All the pupils took part and seemed to enjoy the day.

Harry in Year 10 said 'My favourite activity was the giant pop to the shops. I enjoyed this because it was fun and made use of real life skills'

Leon in Year 10 said 'My favourite activity was making the smoothies because it gave me a chance to apply my ratio knowledge which I have been learning recently'



English Subject Focus—World Book Day and Readathon

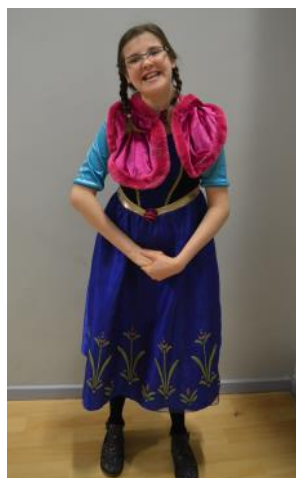
The English Department went all out this year for World Book Day with a whole day of reading related events and workshops taking place.

Pupils and staff came into school either dressed as a character from their favourite book or with a prop to describe a book. The costumes were wide and varied and included amongst others: "Bob the Builder", The Mad Hatter, Where's Wally and "The Cat in the Hat". Prizes were awarded for the best costumes.

Pupils were off normal timetable for the day and instead took part in workshops where they got to make paper, mix potions, write their own stories and draw illustrations. Two of the short stories are below for you to read. Lucy Courtenay, a children's author, was also in school for the day and spoke to the pupils about life as an author and her books.

The day was also the launch of the official Readathon in school with pupils reading as many books, e-poetry, comics (the list goes on..) as they can in a two week period. All money raised will go to buy brand new books and story teller visits for children's hospitals across the UK. In order to launch the Readathon in style, a cosy Reading Nook was set up and pupils had the opportunity to enjoy their favourite books with a bowl of popcorn and a glass of squash.

The atmosphere in school throughout the day was one of fun and enjoyment and hopefully will go some way to fostering a lifelong love of reading and books.



A Short Story by Josh P

A cold morning and I am standing on the Pier awaiting the first ferry of the day.

Casting off from the pier and running engines roaring along the dock. Seagulls flying in the wind, people's voices in the distance and me? Standing alone with a boat that wasn't in service.

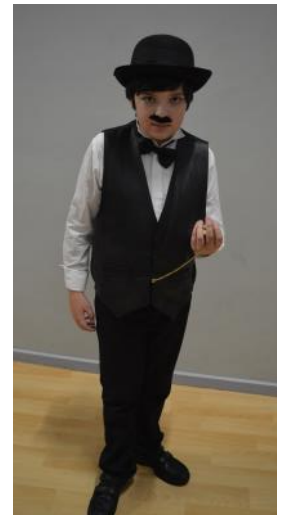
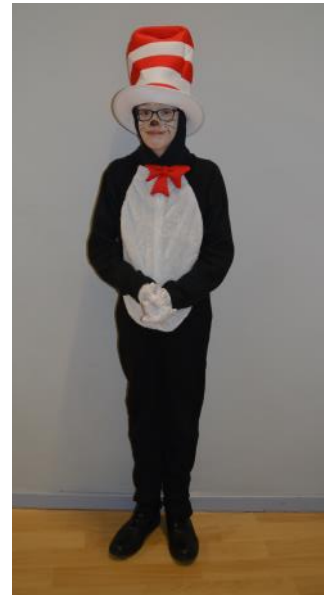
As the ferry left, I walked around the dock area waiting, cold and sunny.

Winter was already closing in and snow had started to fall. But for many, the area looked so dull and old.

Other ferries were seen in the distance and after admiring, it turned dark. I walked back to my home.

Walking back and entering the house that I can hear the ferry's horn as it approached the dark.

English Subject Focus—World Book Day and Readathon



A Short Story by Peter

A dark shadow followed my movement as I was lifted into the misty air and pulled from the air into a ghostly stone grave and was pulled, scratched and clawed into the most darkest of all the grave stones.

A silent noise of a church bell came before me as I gasped for life but no one except I was in the most haunted of all grave yards in deadly valley.

Suddenly a strange old man all dressed in dark black wearing leather came to the graves stone and pulled me out then I saw the midnight sky glisten in the sky.

The moon was bright as a lightbulb, the man had a heart of gold.

Suddenly a dark cruel man came towards me and his eyes were red, his breath smelt like blood from a victim that was brutally murdered.

I felt something rise from the ground. It was a book and it was all covered in metal chains.

The book was called the Book of Death. The dark man pricked my finger and my thick blood was pouring on-to the first page of the book then it felt like my heart was burning.

Key Stage 5

The Best Bits at Grange Park School so far, according to Key Stage 5



"The best bit of Grange Park School is making new friends and teachers. I am enjoying lessons like maths and English but my favourite lesson is gym. My favourite work experience is Rectory Close because you can meet new people who live there and we play card games with some of the residents. Since being at Grange Park School, I have gained confidence in myself."



"I like being able to work on my own at Pepenbury with Mike. I have done lots of work with the chickens. I am also looking forward to the possibility of working in the Co-Op."

"The best bits at Grange Park are: having more people come into Key Stage 5, going to White Rocks to get to see the donkeys, I find it relaxing to groom them. Going to Communigrow, helping Richenda sell fruit and vegetables. Going to Pepenbury as I get to work with the small animals. Meeting new staff. I really enjoy cooking my lunch at school."



"Making friends, feeding the birds at Communigrow, grooming the donkeys (Milly, Jenny, Fred and Rolo) at White Rocks Farm, feeding the guinea pigs and rabbits at Pepenbury, selling produce to people at Communigrow, getting to know the cats and dogs at Communigrow and White Rocks Farm, buying the newspaper at the store, birdwatching at Communigrow, White Rock Farm and Pepenbury."



"I have liked making new friends like Anna and Grace, seeing new teachers like Mr Field. I like White Rocks, grooming the donkeys because I find it relaxing. I like working at Rectory Close setting up tables."



College Partnerships—Work Experience

As part of their college courses and to help with moving towards adulthood and independence, students at our partnership sites undertake work experience. Following are some accounts of the types of work that they have been doing:

A News Report about what I have enjoyed and what I have been doing at Grange Park School. by Michael

What I have enjoyed about my Work Experience is that I very much have enjoyed helping the young Year 8s with their maths to get their grades up so they can hopefully pass their exams in a couple years time.

In my Work Experience I have done over the last few weeks the students I have worked with are mainly the Year 8s and also the Years 9s and lastly the Year 11s who are much older than the Year 8s.

The subjects I have enjoyed helping out is definitely maths because its nice and fun. Plus it will help me a lot at college so I can get my grades up to pass this course that I am doing this year and so I can get into the course I want next year.

I have enjoyed working at Grange Park School because everyone is just so welcoming and I feel at home being there.

But this will be my chosen career to work with pupils that have Autism and that I will choose this as my career after I have finished my 3 years of college that is what I would like to do.

Working at Mcleods by Sam

I work at Mcleods, a restaurant at MidKent College, on Wednesdays. I have got two job responsibilities; one as a chef and one as a waiter.

As a chef, I do the cleaning, washing, make the food mostly as sponges and cakes to serve at Mcleods.

As a waiter I arrange the cutlery on the table, getting the food from the kitchen, serving the food to the customers and polishing the cutlery.

I also clean tables and wash up the plates.

Work Experience by Harrison

I went to Grange Park School for my work experience, and worked with Mr Sim and Mr Greenwood. I assisted in updating the applications on the computers, restocked the printers around the building, and helped out in a few lessons. I also assisted other teachers by cutting things out and filling order slips for more materials.

I enjoyed it rather well, however, I feel that I don't want to become a TA or IT Technician anytime in the future, because those jobs are not what I am interested in doing in the future. I am interested in becoming a game developer however, which means that this work experience was good for me, because I learnt how to fix problems on computers and how to update applications across all computers.

College Partnerships Course Report

Hospitality and Catering by Lewis D

The course that I am doing is Hospitality and Catering Level 1

As part of my course I do English, Maths, Theory, PPD (Professional Personal Development), Practical Cookery and Work Experience.

I have made some new friends in college and they are really cool. I also met Ryan, Zack, Sam, Keighley, Mitchell, Max and Liam who are also part of Grange Park and Mid Kent College. I have a nice friend who is a girl and her name is Carly. We first met back on Friday 3rd February before I left college at 4.00pm.

In Work Experience I work in the kitchen or in the restaurant which is front house. One week we cook the foods in the kitchen and the next one we work in the restaurant where we welcome people and serve them with food and drinks after they choose a table. The restaurant I work in is at McLeod's. It is a very nice restaurant. I learnt how to make bread and sponge in the kitchen and I enjoyed it. In December 2016, I have been doing work experience in the kitchen at Grange Park when I had some time off college. I hope I can do it again in the future. I really enjoy work experience because it is one of my favourite things to do in college on a Wednesday.

On Tuesday, I cook different types of nice dishes or desserts so that I can either eat them now or take them home with me. It depends on whether it is for the restaurant or I can take the food home with me in a container.

My favourite lessons are Theory, Practical Cooking and Work Experience,. I also like English and Maths.

This year I have learnt about Grilling, Roasting, Baking, Stewing and Braising. I have also learnt the different temperatures. On Tuesday 28th February, I have learnt how to make my own pancakes because on that day it was Pancake Day. It was before Ash Wednesday which it was the 1st March. My favourite dishes that I cooked this year so far are Apple Pie, Bread Roll, Fish and Chips, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Pizza, Spaghetti Bolognese, French Apple Tart and Bakewell Tart.

Next year, I am going up the next level of Hospitality and Catering in September 2017.

I am looking forward to it!

Judo by Reece

In my GAP B course I have been doing Judo, I have being doing on a Tuesday

The club that come is called Walderslade Judo club the people that come are called Eddie and Caz .

They are good at helping people to learn the move and hold downs. I have been doing it for two terms, we are working towards a certificate. I like doing it because it has helped me learn a different way of looking at things and having more respect in myself and other people. I will miss doing it when it ends. And also doing part of my course work I have to do some work experience I did mine which I enjoyed.



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 some general exam instructions have also been 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.

Year 8 Trip to the Wallace Collection—Wednesday 19th March

Year 8 are visiting The Wallace Collection to attend a printing workshop on the first day back of term, and will need to bring **packed lunches** (unless in receipt of Free School Meals).

Grange Park School Term Dates 2016—2017

Friday 31st March 2017 End of Term 4 for pupils

Wednesday 19th April 2017 Start of Term 5 for pupils

Friday 26th May 2017 End of Term 5

Monday 5th June 2017 Start of Term 6

Friday 21st July 2017 End of Term 6

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.



Happy Easter
from
Grange Park
School

