



July 2016

# Headteacher's letter

Dear parents, carers, colleagues and friends

A grey damp day reassures me that it really is summer and another Talent Show / Barbeque double bill looms large on the horizon so it must be Newsletter time.

A real 'first' was achieved on Friday when the whole of main school took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for charity. You will not be surprised to hear that there was a lot of whinging about how far it was and how painful it all was but, to be fair, once the pupils had politely asked me to stop moaning and get walking, I did.

The conditions were muddy and wet, there were some narrow lanes which required pupils to walk in single file and it seems that 5 miles was an understatement! The pupils (and staff) all did magnificently and thoroughly deserve the sponsor money you have promised them.

There has been so much going on this term what with theatre trips, sponsored walks, Sports' Day, Year 11 Alternative Curriculum, Year 11 visits to our college partnerships and in a weeks time, the Residential Trip to France. At the same time there is still good learning going on and visitors to the school comment on the extremely high level of pupil engagement in lessons and the positive behaviour of the pupils around school.

This edition of the newsletter covers different areas of pupil learning including learning about bullying. Bullying is something we take very seriously at Grange Park. The outcome of bullying can be a deeply unhappy child who does not want to come to school or who comes to school under duress and cannot perform to his or her best. Creating an environment where pupils feel safe is vital but empowering pupils to speak out against bullying is possibly the most important job we do at Grange Park. A happy child is more likely to be a better learner.

School has invested a lot of time and money in the Year 11 Alternative Curriculum. After exams have finished it isn't easy to keep pupils on track and because they are going to a number of different courses either here or at college it simply is not possible to start Key Stage 5 courses early. Hence the various activities ranging from High Tea in school to high wire at Carroty Wood.

Governors have asked me to send out a questionnaire to parents and carers. Please take a few minutes to fill these in and return them. Your feedback is invaluable to our efforts to improve the school's practice.

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable summer break.



## Upcoming Events

Friday 22nd July — End of Term 6 for Pupils

Wednesday 7th September—Start of Term 1 for Pupils (Wrotham site)

Friday 21st October — End of Term 1

Monday 31st October — Start of Term 2

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## Message from the Chair of Governors

It has been another very busy year for the governors with many meetings and new concepts to get to grips with. There have been moments of upheaval caused by central Government first deciding that all schools would become Academies by 2020 and then saying this is not so. The jury continues to be out but through our co-operative with Kent Special Education Needs Trust (Ksent) we will weather whatever comes next.

As I write this note to you, the formal launch of Ksent is taking place at the Kent Show with short films of the schools who are members of it, a song specially composed for the occasion, a "forest" of trees made by the pupils together with information on all the schools involved in the project.

The end of the School Year is always a great time for everyone with all manner of things taking place and my favourite of them all has to be GPS Got Talent followed by the BBQ!

I hope everyone enjoys a great summer break and that the sun shines on all of us rather than sheets of rain.

Sue Murray, Chairman of Governors



## Governor Workgroup on Safeguarding

Thank you to all families and pupils who replied to governors' survey on safeguarding recently. The governors have looked at all aspects of safeguarding at Grange Park, including policies and processes, and we have talked to staff about how things work in practice. Feedback from families and pupils has been very helpful in discovering the full picture. We found some excellent practice, with all staff understanding their responsibilities in this vital area. We also made some recommendations to make sure that all staff and governors continue to keep up to date with new developments, such as e-safety. A copy of the report is available on the school website.

Denise Eden-Green, Governor

## Mock EU Referendum

On the 23rd June Grange Park held a BREXIT mock-referendum. In assembly, three Year 9 pupils, Harry S, Kieran M and Leon F, made presentations to the pupils explaining the reasons why Britain should either stay or leave the EU. Then throughout the morning pupils and staff came to our polling station and experienced what it is like to vote to prepare them for future elections and referendum when they are able to vote at eighteen.

After the polling station closed at lunchtime, the votes were counted and Grange Park School voted to Remain.



## Visit by Tom Tugendhat MP

On Friday 10th June, Tom Tugendhat, MP for Tonbridge and Malling visited Grange Park. As a school we are proud of our links with the community and our local government offices and we have even been mentioned in Parliament. These links are made even stronger though when we can showcase what we do first hand and this visit was no exception. Tom sat in on a School Council meeting and chaired a lively discussion on the EU Referendum where the pupils showed a good understanding of the key issues. Mr Tugendhat also talked to the Council about his role as an MP and compared it to that of the pupils on the School Council.

It was very successful and informative visit and we look forward to welcoming Mr Tugendhat back again soon.



## Sports Day 2016 by Kieran (Year 10)

*"On Sports Day our teams consisted of different countries worldwide. The Australian team wore yellow bibs, Germany wore light blue bibs, Canada wore red bibs, USA wore orange bibs, Brazil wore green bibs and France wore dark blue bibs.*

*Sports Day took part in Wrotham School Field, unlike previously, when we went to various stadiums/cricket fields. It was better than the stadiums we visited before because it was close to us.*

*The teachers, students and even parents took part.*

*The activities were: 100m sprint, long jump, javelin, obstacle course, skis, shot put and the relay race.*

*My favourite sport was the 100m sprint, and my best time was 28 seconds. My favourite part of the day was the ceremony at the end of the day, where we all got: a trophy, a medal or a certificate.*

*The weather was nice and sunny and we had lots of fun!"*



## Sponsored Walk by Jack G (Year 10)

*"On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, Grange Park had a sponsored walk. Almost all the pupils, staff and teachers entered to do the 6 mile (9.7 km) long walk. The walk started at around 9:30am and ended around 2:30pm and we walked around Wrotham. We all got a bit muddy because we walked through the fields in the rain.*

*Pupils were divided into their year groups and supervised by teachers and staff. The money is going to be donated to a charity. Throughout the walk pupils were struggling with the distance and the mud but almost everyone finished it!*

*Well done Grange Park!"*



## TAG Rugby Tournament

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June we took a team to the Kent School Games disability tag rugby tournament at Kent University in Canterbury. The team of 8 pupils from years 8-10 had limited experience of playing tag rugby and certainly hadn't played together as a team before. The boys had 5 matches in their league playing teams such as Ifield and Rowhill. They all played extremely well, developing confidence, team work and leadership skills as they progressed through the tournament. The boys won 3 of the 5 matches and finished runners up in their league. Jack Gr did an excellent job as Captain and Regan was top goal scorer, getting 7 tries across the tournament. We are very proud of the boys and want to say a massive well done again!

Team – Jack G, Dermot, Thomas G, Jagdeesh, Josh P, Henry C, Leon and Regan.

Mrs Hughes – PE Teacher





## Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, Grange Park Pupils travelled to King's Cross theatre in London to watch 'The Railway Children'. A breathtaking show that features a theatre built around a real train track and includes a fully functioning steam locomotive! The pupils were all very well behaved and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done to all.

Mr Peacock



## French Breakfast

On Thursday 7th July, Grange Park went all continental with croissants, pain au chocolat, baguettes and jam, hot chocolate and juice being served in the dining room throughout the morning. Pupils made place-mats featuring French landmarks and words to decorate the tables and they then put their language skills into practice by ordering their food in French.

Mrs Mundy



## Anti-Bullying Campaign

Teaching pupils how to recognise what bullying is and what to do about it was covered in Year 7 and 8 lessons. Pupils completed an Anti-Bullying programme devised by Kent Youth County Council. This programme aims to develop the skills and confidence of pupils so they can become positive role models and anti-bullying ambassadors at Grange Park.

Over the course of a term, pupils completed a range of tasks such as creating posters (some of which are shown below) which focused on recognising and dealing with different types of bullying. Pupil-led discussions and communication of thoughts and opinions were key elements in this scheme of work. On successful completion of the unit, pupils chose to sign a pledge where they agreed to respect others and take a stand against bullying. This achievement was celebrated in a recent assembly with all pupils being awarded a certificate from Kent Youth County Council.

Grange Park now has some excellent role models to set a great example for the rest of the school to follow.

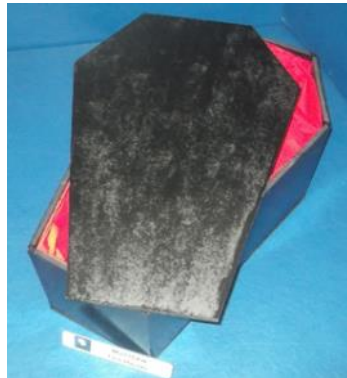


## Design and Technology

Well done to Year 11 for completing their final products and course work for their GCSE Design and Technology. Their design brief was to design and produce a storage item and they all made some excellent products. Below are some examples:



Jack J's design is universal and can be used either as a tower or as a shelf on a wall. Jack's product was stained to make the product look vintage.



Matthew replicated a coffin with red silk material lining the inside. The product looks incredibly realistic and manufactured to a high standard.



Albert used Acrylic to manufacture his storage box. The logo on the sides was produced using the laser cutting machine.



Josh had the most difficult design. He had to work out different angled joints. His product is in the shape of an X to store X-Box games.



Michael was very creative with the design of his CD Storage holder. He used the number 2 for the sides and Flexi-Plywood to shape the sides.



Lewis worked brilliantly on his storage box. His finger joints were marked and cut to precision. His paintwork was particularly pleasing.



Paddy went for a traditional style of storage box. He used MDF for the material. He was particularly skilful with his finger joints. The doors are hinged and the whole product varnished to keep the wood effect.



Alex's storage box was initially manufactured as a whole solid box with finger joints surrounding the structure. The box was then cut in half to create two boxes which were then attached together with a piano hinge.



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## Focus on History and Geography

This term's subject focus is on History and Geography and the summer term is always busy with lots of trips taking place. At Grange Park, we believe that practical geography activities and bringing history to life through first hand experiences is an important way of embedding the learning that is done in the classroom and putting it into context for the pupils.

Below is a round up of the some of the things that we have been looking at this term:

### Chatham Dockyards

Year 9 have been completing a local history project based in Chatham Dockyards. Pupils were taken on a tour of HMS Cavellier (a destroyer), Ocelot (submarine) and the Ropery. They then had to choose one to complete their project on. After spending some time researching in the classroom and compiling their report, Year 9 revisited the dockyards to take some pictures to illustrate their work and ask some final questions. All pupils were well researched and asked the tour guide some excellent questions. Would it be showing off to say that on the second tour it seemed that our pupils knew more about the vessels than the guide?



### Horton Kirby

As part of their Geography work on rivers Year 8 undertook a field study of a section of the River Darent that runs through Horton Kirby. The pupils were investigating "How clean is the river" which involved counting how many different species lived in the river. They also looked at river profiles and the rate of flow etc. It was a beautiful day and as usual most of the class went in above their wellies and got soaked! However the pupils collected some good data and information which they have been analysing back in class to compile their report.

## Focus on History and Geography

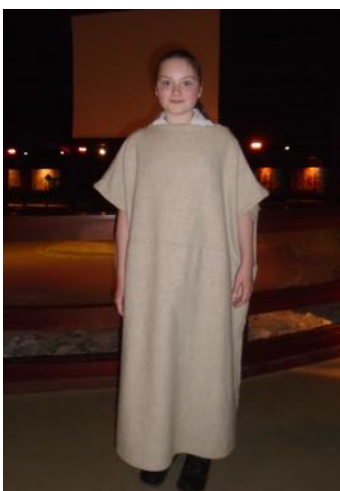
### Herne Bay

In Geography during term 4, Year 9 had been studying Coasts and at the beginning of Term 5 they went to Herne Bay to put all that they had learnt in class into practice. The aim of the field trip was to gather the information that they needed to answer the question 'Is the beach moving'? During the day, the class carried out a variety of experiments on the beach and collected all the information they needed to take back to school to be able to finish their investigation. As they were at the seaside, the class also went to the fish and chip shop (Deans Plaice) for a lovely lunch and then to the ice-cream parlour opposite before heading back to complete one final experiment. Year 9 worked extremely hard and I saw some excellent team work from them.



### Lullingstone Villa

Year 7 have been studying the Romans and went to Lullingstone Villa to collect information to complete a local study. Pupils enjoyed the freedom of being able to choose which parts of the museum to focus their project on. It was an enjoyable day with lots of good research. Pupils then finished the day with a scavenger hunt which took them all over the museum.



Mrs Dawes, Humanities



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## Year 11 Alternative Curriculum

Once Year 11 finished their exams, the curriculum was given over to an alternative timetable which focused on learning some valuable life skills and team building to prepare them for the next stage of their education. There was also some time to have some fun as a reward for all the hard work they have put into their course-work and exams. Amongst these activities, the pupils have been bowling, hosted a pop up café for family and friends, played mini golf, put on a drama production, been on a residential visit to Carrotty Wood and taken part in a CSI investigation. Below are just some of the highlights.

### Bowling and Mini Golf

The pupils went to Maidstone Bowling alley and enjoyed an entertaining trip which gave them all a well-deserved opportunity to relax and spend time together as a year group. They played two games and were split into a number of teams which mixed both form groups, giving the pupils the chance to socialise with friends and enjoy their game. The bowling games were followed by burgers, chips and hotdogs to end their day.

Year 11 also had the chance to go and play mini golf at Sidcup Adventure golf course. They all completed their first course with plenty of time to spare and were therefore able to complete a second course within their small groups. They were able to choose to work in small groups with their friends and all showed a great deal of enthusiasm and determination when competing with one another.



### Grange Park Pop up Cafe

Year 11 hosted a pop-up café for family and friends in the dining hall. They spent the morning preparing afternoon tea including scones, cakes and finger sandwiches. Family and friends arrived early afternoon and were greeted with a dining room set up for a feast complete with tablecloths and cake stands heaving with treats. Year 11 did a marvellous job of serving teas and coffees and everyone agreed that the food was delicious with plenty of "doggy bags" going home afterwards with the left overs.





## Year 11 Alternative Curriculum

### CSI Project

Year 11 were busy in June as trainee CSI Detectives investigating the seriously spotty circumstances of the death of Science Teacher Mr Spotty.

His body was found on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June on the floor of the Science Room and the Year 11 CSI's immediately began their meticulous examination of the crime scene. They dressed in their white suits, over-shoes and gloves. Then evidence was gathered and logged, theories and suspects were discussed in detail.

The following week, the huge amount of evidence was analysed. Our CSI team became experts in blood grouping, chromatography, fingerprinting, and also footprint and handwriting analysis. They found different blood types, a suspicious note and on examining his clothes, they found both human and animal hair.



The coroner's report stated 'murder' and our investigators agreed having found poison in Mr Spotty's water bottle and a serious head injury. A skull cast was given to the team and they ruled out items found next to the body as potential murder weapons as none matched the wound impression or had blood residue.

With all the evidence gathered and collated the trainees determined the suspect was female, blonde, AB+ blood and owned a pet. This narrowed our suspect list down to just two – Mrs Collett and Mrs Gould. Interrogations were brutal and under immense pressure Mrs Gould confessed! She still had the murder weapon in her bag (a metal tape measure) and her shoe prints were an exact match.

HOW? Cyanide in his water bottle and hit over the head with a tape measure

WHERE/WHEN? In the Science Room Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June

WHO? Mrs Gould, the friendly Year 11a form tutor

WHY? Revenge! Mr Spotty had reversed twice into her car.

Year 11 were shocked their gentle Maths Teacher was a killer and they immediately arrested her! Well done Year 11 trainees for solving the case!

Detective Carter (AKA Mrs Barrett)

### Carrotty Wood Residential Trip

Between Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, pupils from year 11 went to Carrotty Wood. While they were there they enjoyed a range of activities including orienteering, high ropes, low ropes, archery, fire building and abseiling. Despite the episodes of heavy rain, pupils also managed to dodge the downpours to toast marshmallows on a campfire on the Tuesday evening. All pupils were very helpful when it came to washing up after meals and were a pleasure to take away. Well done year 11! We know you enjoyed the trip.



## Key Stage 5

This time of year is a time of farewells, some of our students will be moving on to other colleges or employment to continue their journey towards adulthood and working towards independence. For others, they will still be Grange Park students but they are moving on to one of our partnership sites to do vocational courses that will help them on the path to being independent learners and achieving their aspirations. Below are some of the thoughts and memories of our leavers about their time at Grange Park School.

I enjoyed going on the cinema and theatre visits especially watching Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. I thank those that have helped me the most, Mr Davis, and Mrs Harrison. The best thing I have enjoyed is being with my friends. JD

What I enjoyed the most is the Food Tech lessons, being shown how to cook and prepare food. This is what I want to do in the future when I start work.

I enjoyed doing Graphic Art where I made a display stand like they have in supermarkets.

I enjoyed learning food hygiene and safety, this helped in my work placements at the Holiday Inn kitchens, the school canteen and also in the food tech lessons. CT

I like going to Pepenbury, I like cleaning out the Rabbits and Guinea pigs and seeing all of the other animals. I also like seeing my friends at Pepenbury.

I like going shopping for the ingredients for self-cook, then we come back and cook our lunch. It is good eating together.

I like going to Rowhill and doing DT.

JH

I like going to Pepenbury because I like seeing the chickens. I also like going shopping for ingredients and then cooking my lunch. I will miss all of my friends in my class and my staff. TW



I have really enjoyed coming to Grange Park, I have made good friends and have been to lots of nice places. I really like going to White Rocks farm for work experience and especially love seeing the kittens. I also enjoyed Pepenbury and the Guinea Pigs were my favourites. Food tech is really good, I like cooking lunch and cakes!

CC





## Key Stage 5

### My time at Grange Park



To be honest, it wasn't the easiest start. It was a bit rough as I struggled to adapt back into school life again, but over the three years I've spent here, I feel like I've turned it around and I'm ready enough for the world out there. Kind of funny how you can mature so quickly over a short amount of time. Three years already. Time soars right past your ears, doesn't it? I won't sugar-coat things for anyone though, it was hard getting to where I am now. But I've come this far now; achieving my GCSE passes and other courses. It was worth getting back into school, despite how often I keep telling and thinking to myself otherwise. This wasn't the most glamorous journey, not by any means, but it was a worthwhile venture. Now I'm hoping to take what I've learnt here, take my achievements and grades along with me, and find a worthwhile job. Because Good Lord, I'm taking my sweet time with that aren't I? Egh." – DS

Steven joined KS5 at Grange Park three years ago and this summer leaves us for the world of work. Whilst at Grange Park, his programme included lessons, activities and opportunities designed to prepare him for employment. A key focus was Work Placements (on his own) as well as joining groups for Work Experience. Steven was fortunate to secure three Work Placements in Sittingbourne; these were: D&J Motors Garage, Morrisons supermarket and Coop supermarket. Our thanks to them.

Mr Shea



Whilst being at Grange Park (Wrotham Site), I have enjoyed work experience at Leybourne stables and going to White Rocks Farm. I have also enjoyed maths and cookery lessons. I enjoyed our cinema visits. EH

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## Grange Park at Mid Kent College and Hadlow

### Hadlow College by Stephen T

*"I started here in September 2014 and since then I've enjoyed working with the animals and I've met my oldest friend Darren who I was at school with years ago. I've also met some new friends like Anna, Alan, Adam also Anderson and learnt lots of new things but this year is my last year here. So when I leave I'll probably get a job or find a club to join but I don't know yet.*

*Well these are my memories here so I have one last message for Anna, Alan and the rest of Grange Park good luck and prepare for the future."*

### My time at Hadlow college by Megan B

*"I had a lot of experience working with different animals up at the Animal Management Unit such as otters, pigs, ferrets and more. They have aviaries full of different species of birds. So you get the chance to clean their accommodation out and to change their food and water.*

*You need to wear PPE/personal protective equipment as part of Health and Safety whilst working with animals on the site.*

*Here at Hadlow you get given a timetable and like school you get separated into different groups. You go Travel Training on a Thursday and you do some work experience on Fridays to get you prepared in everyday life.*

*They do enrichment on Wednesday afternoons which is basically activities you can do such as watch a movie, go to a freebie stall and more. It has it written up on the Hadlow wall in reception the activities you can do on Wednesday afternoons.*

*Hadlow College has a library for the students to study their work in and to chill. Like any library it's a quiet place."*

### Hadlow College by Adam

*"I've had a lot of mixed moments in Hadlow College like working with the animals, talking and spending time with my colleagues and having more confidence with the outside world as its going to be a tough world out there, along with giving me a better chance in the long run. I wish it didn't go by as quick, but that's just me. "*





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## And Finally

### Go-Karting and Judo Success

Well done to Lewis F and Albert in Year 11 for the achievements in Karting and Judo which they do outside of school. Lewis is currently in third place in the go-karting championship for his club and Albert recently came second in a judo competition in which there were 100 competitors.

Congratulations to both of them.



### Belle the Reading Dog

Mrs Gould's dog, Belle has been a regular visitor in school this term and has proved a great hit with all the pupils and students. She has taking part in lessons through out the school, listening to pupils read in Year 7 and pupils in Year 8 and KS5 have been involved in taking care of her.

A school dog provides a calming influence in the classroom and has also helped alleviate some of the anxieties that some of our pupils have. She also provides good life skills in taking care of others.

We look forward to seeing her in school next year.



## Hot off the Press

### Headteacher of the Year Award—Certificate of Excellence

Mr Wyatt was nominated for the Pearson's Headteacher of the Year Award and on Friday at the Talent Show, we had the great honour of presenting him with a Certificate of Excellence. The Pearson's Teaching Awards are an annual celebration of exceptional teachers and teaching, recognising the life-changing impact of an inspirational teacher on the lives of the young people they teach. This award recognises Mr Wyatt's substantial and sustained contribution to making Grange Park School a very successful setting. We hope that you will join us in offering our congratulations to him.

Miss Atwell, Deputy Head



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## Grange Park School Term Dates 2016—2017

Wednesday 7th September	Start of Term 1 for pupils
Friday 21st October	End of Term 1 for pupils
Monday 31st October	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 21st December	End of Term 2
Wednesday 4th January 2017	Start of Term 3 for pupils
Friday 10th February 2017	End of Term 3
Tuesday 21st February 2017	Start of Term 4 for pupils
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 for pupils
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.



We hope you have a lovely,  
restful summer!

