

July 2021



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Pupils,

It's hard to believe that another academic year has come to an end. It has certainly been one none of us will forget, but I do hope you will be able to draw some positives from your experience in lock down. Pupils should be commended for their resilience and ability to cope in an incredibly unpredictable time. It is important to reflect on, and capture all the events of the past year, which will have a mixture of memories and emotions for all of those in our school community. We have been working hard to plan many new and exciting learning opportunities for the pupils in the next academic year. Despite the challenges, we are all privileged each day to work with incredible young people and you as their families. I am so incredibly proud of all the pupils have achieved and I have had great pleasure reading all the school reports from our Stansted and Wrotham sites.

A broad, enriched and exciting curriculum will await your child in the new academic year. This year, we have again tweaked the options offered to our Year 9 pupils who commence their Key Stage 4 curriculum in September. We will also offer rich and varied enrichment opportunities. We work incredibly hard, despite the rising costs, to create as many new and exciting opportunities for the pupils as possible, without passing on the financial burden. Mrs Hughes and Mrs Eyre have been working on the enrichment timetable for the new academic year and taken into account pupil views and requests. The core subject teachers will also be available during this time to offer additional support in numeracy and literacy, which we know, can move the children on significantly.

Moving into a new academic year with a certain amount of unpredictability, is certainly not what any of would have wished for but I, with the full support of the team at Grange Park will work hard to ensure pupils have the opportunity to enjoy what we have planned, despite Coronavirus. This will mean that we may have to make changes to trips and activities; I do promise we will always try to reschedule or move trips and events whenever we can if needed. I want to take the opportunity to thank parents/carers who have been in contact to offer their support, this has eased the pressure and it is great to know that we have your support. I, like the pupils, am really looking forward to Chessington and fingers crossed, the weather will be good to us and we may benefit from a quieter park in September.

Sports day was incredible and despite us having to manage without Mrs Hughes, it was an incredibly successful day. I know for many pupils sports day is difficult, as they have a fear of failure, coming last, not winning or feeling like they cannot succeed. However, the staff work hard to make the event

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 1st September 2021—Start of term for Stansted, Year 7 & Key Stage 5

Thursday 2nd September 2021—Start of term for rest of school

Friday 3rd September 2021—Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Thursday 9th September 2021—Year 10 & 11 Interim Review Evening

Wednesday 15th September 2021—School Photographer

Thursday 23rd September 2021—Parents Group & Year 9 Interim Review Evening

Friday 24th September 2021—Chessington Trip

inclusive and encourage teamwork and collaboration. This year I shed a tear when I saw some of my most competitive pupils select those pupils who they knew struggled with sports, first for their team. They showed compassion, understanding and empathy; skills many of our pupils lack and struggle with. The staff were also encouraging pupils and taking part themselves. Sports day is more than sport, it is about being part of a team, learning new skills, showing resilience and all we ask is that pupils try. I was also delighted when some Year 10 pupils challenged Mr Cooper and Mr Cleave to a race! Following their defeat, there was a rerun and once again, the pupils were victorious.

The talent show was also incredible, with pupils sharing a wide variety of talents. One of the Year 10 pupils has been making incredible short videos, some of which can be viewed on the school website, I have also asked him to make a video about Grange Park which I hope to share with you next year. I do hope (and plan) that next year we are able to share these school events with our wider school community.

The pupils have all made progress, grown and matured throughout this year and continue to be a credit to you and the school. I am so proud of them all. This term the Head Boys welcomed the new KCC Director of Education and Director of SEND following a letter they had written inviting them to the school. Both Jude and William showed them around with confidence and responded well to questioning but they also had some incredible questions for our visitors. I want to thank Jude and William for their incredible work this year as such positive advocates of the school. They have been supported by Daniel and Carmen the Deputies and members of the school council. Pupil Voice is a key part of our school and they always have an integral part in the recruitment of teachers and meet external visitors from the Local Authority; I believe the pupils are the voice of our community. We have invested in some new equipment this year as requested by the pupils via the School Council, but I have been unable to agree the request for an Axe Throwing Club!

I would like to thank all the staff and Governors at Grange Park School for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the pupils this year. I am privileged to work with such a wonderful group of people.

I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school in September and hope that I get to see more of our parents next year. I hope you enjoy a lovely summer with loved ones.

Best wishes



Miss Renukah Atwell
Executive Headteacher

Message from the Chairman of Governors



It was Charles Dickens who remarked "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times". The resilience and determination shown by our whole school community over the past 18 months is something we should all be very proud of. Parents coping with lockdown whilst getting to grips with homeschooling; our pupils having their school lives disrupted but rising to the challenge of learning remotely via Zoom etc. and our staff who worked tirelessly under difficult circumstances, many with children of their own to juggle, delivering excellent lessons remotely with compassion and support for those struggling to adjust to these new ways of working.

I am especially proud of how staff worked extra hard to support each others wellbeing as well as the telephone contact maintained throughout the various lockdowns with calls to pupils and their families to check that all were managing as well as possible.

It was, I think, a relief to all when school life returned to what is the new "normal" after Easter. The governors, however, continue to meet remotely and have yet to visit the school so the only monitoring we have been able to carry out has been done remotely - including a virtual tour of the school. In September we will review our meeting arrangements and perhaps will mix virtual meetings with face-to-face ones, all dependent upon rules in place at the time!

Elections for the Parent Governor vacancy we have will also be held towards the end of Term 1 and I hope if you haven't already done so, you might consider putting your name forward.

Since the start of the pandemic, our world has been turned upside down on more than one occasion but, I am pleased to say that Grange Park School has been flexible, creative and resilient in delivering education as it should be and whilst there has been some sadness with the loss of a valued teacher and a parent, the majority have weathered the storm Covid brought with it.

I hope the summer holidays bring some respite from the trials and tribulations of this past year or so and that we all enjoy some sunshine which generally makes us feel better.

Sue Murray

NAS Autism and Mental Health Conference

In March this year, several members of staff virtually attended the NAS Autism and Mental Health Conference. The day consisted of talks from many inspirational speakers. There was a focus throughout the day on coping with uncertainty, what we have learnt from the global pandemic and Interoception. The keynote speaker, Dr Peter Vermeulen, gave a very thought-provoking talk on strategies for wellbeing. He reminded us that we cannot change uncertainty, but we can change how we react to it. This reinforced to us the importance of the pupils' (and our own!) Zones of Regulation toolkits in developing self-regulation. Another talk that we found particularly interesting was Professor Sarah Garfinkel's on 'Anxiety and Interoception'. We are in the process of developing our Interoception curriculum at Grange Park and are very excited to see how an increased awareness of their internal state will support many of our pupils to become less anxious and more able to self-regulate.

School Council

This term, the school council representatives have continued to be proactive in meeting pupils' rights and sharing pupil voice. The school council discussions have led to a number of positive changes in school. Including;

- An increased range of lunch clubs, including pupil-led clubs such as Dungeons and Dragons
- Purchasing new football goals for the playground
- Holding an ice cream sale to celebrate and raise money for the NHS's birthday
- A Key Stage 5 project to update the sensory garden
- Identifying more challenging and diverse books to add to our libraries

Lunchtime Clubs & Activities

Lunch clubs at Grange Park are still proving to be very popular. In Detective Club we have had great fun doing a wide range of activities like bubble snakes, foam explosions and lava lamps.

In Girls and Boys Group, the pupils have enjoyed taking part in lots of different arts and crafts; it has been great to see pupils from all different years working together on different activities.



In Life Skills Club, we have been making a selection of different foods; each week the pupils like to plan together what they can cook for the following week. There has been some fantastic organising and ideas!

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

We are delighted to have been awarded SILVER—Rights Aware in Rights Respecting School.

Our school is explicitly embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its policy, practice and culture. We are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community.

We are putting into action and developing the plans

outlined in our Action Plan for Silver, which we submitted to achieve Bronze: Rights Committed, and we are beginning to see the positive impact of these actions on children and young people, staff and on the schools ethos, practice and environment.

Children and young people are beginning to see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and advocates for fairness and children's rights, both locally and globally.

We have committed to continuing our journey by going for GOLD next year! Thank you to all who helped make this possible.



School Visitors

This term we welcomed Christine McInnes who is the new Director of Education for Kent and Mark Walker, the Director of SEN and Disabilities for Kent to Grange Park. Our Head Boys had written to them both personally, and we were delighted that they had accepted our invitations.



They met with some of our pupils and saw lessons in progress. A big thank you to Jude and William for representing the school so well.

Transport

KCC will be reviewing the transport contracts over the summer, so there may be changes to drivers and escorts for the 2021/2022 academic year.

School Gateway

From September, all school meals will need to be booked in advance via the School Gateway app. May we ask that you please download the app, and if you have any problems logging on, then please contact the school office over the next week, and we will be happy to help.

Stansted

Interoception

Interoception Lessons help notice different body signals, gives us clues to our emotions and helps develop awareness, self-regulation and problem solving.

Year 4/5 at Stansted have been using their detective skills to find out how different parts of their bodies feel when they do different experiments.



One of these body parts was the mouth and the experiment included blowing on a kazoo, sucking on a piece of lemon and having some space dust in the mouth to see how their mouths felt. Descriptions such as "crackly", "tight" "full" and "bubbly", were identified during the experiments!

Our Gardening Project

The students at Stansted have enjoyed getting their hands dirty in their gardening lessons! The sensory garden has been filled with fragrant herbs to smell and taste, including lemon balm, mint and rosemary. The children have learnt how to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables such as beans, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, peas, radish and strawberries. The vegetable patch is blooming with produce and the children have eagerly enjoyed



tasting all of the varieties.

They experimented planting slices of tomatoes and discovered new tomato plants can be grown in this way! Besides watering and weeding, they have also learnt that frosts and pests can ruin crops too! As well as growing all the edible delights the children have taken pride in keeping the entrance of the school looking

beautiful, planting pots and flowers in the flower beds, and making 'fat snax' for the birds to feast on.

Lastly, we mustn't forget to mention Geoff our resident scarecrow our little gardeners made from old clothes and straw, who watches over everything we have planted for us!



Stansted

Year 6 Visit to Kent Life

Year 6 went to Kent Life for a trip. Here is a recount of the day from the children:

Firstly, we went to the Oast house to learn about World War 2. We then went into groups and saw things like an Anderson shelter. Next, we looked around and we saw the church. We saw all of the animals: donkeys, owls, turkeys, pigs, goats, horses. There was even a chance to go on a tractor ride. Eventually we went to the play park and finally went to the shop.

We had such a great time!



The Stansted Chickens

On 1st April 24 eggs arrived at Stansted, the children carefully placed these into an incubator and monitored them daily for any progress.

On the morning of 22nd April, our first chick had hatched and by 23rd April, eight more had hatched! Over the course of the next few days, 18 chicks successfully hatched, the children handled the chicks very carefully and showed brilliant dedication and care to teach the chicks how to find their water and chick crumbs. Once the chicks had grown their first feathers, they were big enough to be moved outside. They now live in Mrs Lovelock's garden and have lots of space to roam around.



PE

The children have enjoyed taking part in PE and have engaged in lots of different sports including tennis, football, multi skills and athletics. It has to be said that the firm favourite amongst all of the children has been rounders! The children have worked together to understand and apply the rules and have shown fantastic team spirit during games.

Performing Arts

In Performing Arts, we have been building our technique toolkit by looking at different dramatic styles and characterisation techniques. This term, we have been focusing on freeze frames; exploring body language and facial expressions. The children have loved performing as part of a group and sharing their performances with their friends. Can you spot which word they have spelt using their body language?



Year 11 Textiles Visit to Kew Gardens



In May, the Textiles pupils went on a school visit to Kew Gardens. We were looking at colour and texture and this was on full display in the amazing gardens.

The pupils had printed off maps and had identified key locations of the gardens before we left.



Pupils took a wide range of photographs which will be used in their portfolios. We spoke to lots of the gardeners who were incredibly knowledgeable.



We had a lovely lunch in the Café and before we left, pupils visited the gift shop.

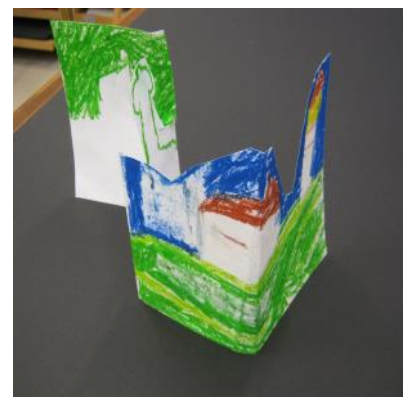
In addition to our textiles work, pupils also learnt about the critical conservation work that Kew does.



Art @ Wrotham

Year 7 & 8

Year 7&8 participated in a series of drawing lessons on zoom. They learnt how to draw objects accurately and how to apply shading and tone to enhance their work. When they returned to school they completed a project about perspective drawing. They created 3D landscapes, and have most recently designed and constructed their own model of a surreal room.



Year 9



Year 9 have focused on Pop Art this year. They looked at the work of the artist Andy Warhol and designed and created their own Pop Art style everyday objects. They also studied the artwork of LGBTQ+ artists in depth and experimented with printing techniques to produce some expressive and positive messages about their identity.



Year 10

Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE coursework about Portraiture and Identity. They have been busy using a variety of techniques to produce some excellent pieces. They also participated in an interactive online lesson with the Victoria and Albert museum which we hope to visit next term.

KS4 all participated in a project celebrating their identity for LGBTQ+ month in June where we looked at the work of the artist Keith Haring.



Year 11

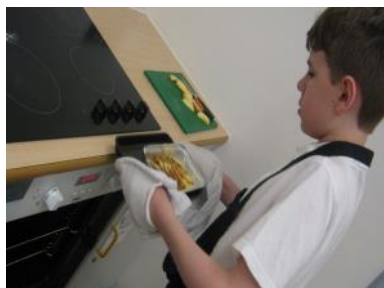
Year 11 have worked particularly hard to complete their GCSE coursework. They have produced some incredibly talented pieces and have become very skilled artists. They should be proud of their achievements and I wish them every success for their future.



KS4 all participated in a project celebrating their identity for LGBTQ+ month in June where we looked at the work of the artist Keith Haring.

Cookery @ Wrotham

We have some very good cooks at Grange Park! Pupils have been baking, roasting, grilling, frying and boiling ingredients to create some very tasty and well presented dishes!



Science Activities

Wildwood

Over the past few weeks, both year 7 and 8 have been to visit Wildwood Nature Reserve in East Kent. This really does complement the students understanding of Biology. They were divided into three groups. During the day, the students photographed, observed, discussed and reflected on what they saw during the day. They all now have a greater understanding of biodiversity. This issue is so important to understand in danger species that live in the UK.



Radish Project

During this term, Year 11 have been growing radishes from seeds. They planted two sets of seeds. Each week they have been measuring the growth of each radish stem and leaf and taking photos to keep a weekly log. This project is to evaluate if radishes grow better in a larger or smaller group of seeds. It is likely that the smaller groups of seeds will grow larger and taller. The students have been amazed by all the results.

Our Newest Additions

The students have seen chickens hatch from eggs. It started with the eggs being incubated. The students have been fascinated with the process of the growth of the chicken from the eggs in the incubation tunnel, to the eggs hatching into chicks and growing into chickens.

They have also been learning to take care by feeding and looking after the animals on a daily basis during the term.



Key Stage 5

Reward Trip to Dymchurch

On Thursday 10th June, KS5 visited Dymchurch for their Reward trip.

We started the day with a trip on the Dymchurch Railway, starting at New Romney to Dungeness, where we got off the train to have some lunch on the beach. We then travelled back to New Romney and onto Dymchurch, where we enjoyed some ice creams and fun by the sea.

All students had a lovely day, they were extremely well behaved and showed a huge improvement in their independent and social skills. It was lovely to see them interacting and socialising in a laid-back environment, enjoying the reward of them all achieving over 20 bonus points last term!



The KS5 Allotment



KS5 have been really busy this year in the allotment, they have been thinking of all things to do with nature and our environment. They have built a bug hotel from an old pallet, and have collected the items to fill it up for its new residents and they have also made wooden bird boxes to hopefully encourage nesting birds next year.



Pupils have planted an array of vegetables and have also made good use of our new lawnmower.

The range of skills that the pupils have shown has been fantastic, and fingers crossed for a bumper autumn/winter crop of vegetables!



College Partnerships

Success stories

We are extremely proud of students Laurence, Aiden and Toby, all of whom passed their Level 2 ICT course; Laurence and Aiden with Distinctions and Toby with a Merit. In a year where Covid- 19 meant learning new and unusual ways of working, as well as confusion and change, they coped magnificently and were an example to the rest of the cohort.

We have also been delighted with the level of commitment from the GCSE Maths and English students. They had most lessons on Zoom, they turned up on time, every time, and most importantly on camera!

They were engaged throughout and produced accurate, thoughtful, and imaginative work week in, week out.

I am confident that their grades will reflect the level of hard work and extra effort put in by James, Jasmine, Laurence, Michael and Reuben.

What a great end to the year!

Transition Days

We had a great few day welcoming all of the new students coming to Grange Park Partnership at MidKent College Medway for the new academic year. We had a lovely 3 days getting to know each other and having fun.

We are looking forward to our future students reaching their full potential and achieving amazing goals.



End of year lunch at Medway Campus

Grange Park Partnership at Midkent College celebrated the leavers of Class 2021.

We had a great day with all of our students, celebrating achievements for both the leaver's and progressing students. There were lots of fun things to do, even though the weather was a little wet we took the party indoors. We had several activities going on to encourage the students with their social interaction and to allow them to celebrate their achievements for this academic year.

After the one of the most challenging academic years, our students have shown both strength and resilience and are on the path to achieving the following predicted grades:

Ameron has been with us at the Partnership for a year studying Level 3 Games Design. He has worked very hard this year and will be carrying on under Midkent College to complete the second year of his Games design course.

Ella has completed Level 2 Health and Social Care with the predicted grade of Distinction. Ella has also got a part time job working in a local Residential home for the elderly with dementia. Ella has also been accepted onto Level 3 Health and Social Care.

Enrique has completed his Level 2 Animal Care with the predicted grade of Distinction Merit. Enrique has also moved onto Kent Supported Employment and is hopefully working towards getting a job in the future.

George had completed his Level 2 IT and is moving onto Canterbury College where he will be studying Level 2 Media.

Kieron had worked so well this year on his Level 2 Uniformed Services with the prediction of Merit for the end of this year and will be progressing onto Level 3 Uniformed Services under Midkent College.

Manjosh has completed his Level 3 in Business Studies with the prediction of Distinction* for the end of his course. He will be going onto to study Criminology, at University of Kent Medway Campus.

Leon has completed his Level 3 year 1 Performing Arts. Next academic year he is progressing onto Midkent College to independently study his Level 3 Year 2 Performing Arts.

We are immensely proud of each and every one of our students and wish them every success for the future

College Partnerships: Hadlow

Harry

Harry has been at Hadlow College for 3 years, his first year he completed a Level 2 course and the last 2 years completing a Level 3 qualification in Animal Management. Harry has also passed a 4 week pet sitting course.

Harry is progressing onto a Foundation Degree in Zoo Management at University of Greenwich (Hadlow)

Harry is a very polite and enthusiastic young man who has excelled in all aspects of the courses. During his time at Hadlow Harry has grown into an amazing adult and we wish him every success in the future.



Luke



Luke has completed a Level 2 qualification in Animal Management this year. During this year he has grown in confidence and has made many friends.

Luke is progressing onto the Level 2 IT course at Mid Kent College. We wish Luke good luck for the future.

Sam

Sam has completed a foundation course in Employability, Independence and Progression.

Sam has worked really hard with all the animals at Princess Christian Farm where the foundation course was based.

Next year he is progressing onto Level 1 qualification in Land Based Studies following the fisheries route.

During the holidays Sam is taking part in a course teaching fishing, to enable him to coach others new to fishing. We wish Sam good luck with this and look forwards to working with Sam next in the new academic year.



Grange Park School Term Dates 2021-2022

Term 1

Start of Term for Year 7 & KS5 Only	Wednesday 1st September 2021
Start of Term for Rest of School	Thursday 2nd September 2021
End of Term	Friday 15th October 2021
School Holiday/Staff Development Days	Monday 18th October 2021—Friday 29th October 2021

Term 2

Start of Term	Monday 1st November 2021
End of Term	Friday 17th December 2021
School Holiday	Monday 20th December 2021—Tuesday 4th January 2022

Term 3

Start of Term	Tuesday 4th January 2022
End of Term	Friday 11th February 2022
School Holiday	Monday 14th February 2022—Friday 18th February 2022

Term 4

Start of Term	Monday 21st February 2022
End of Term	Friday 1st April 2022
School Holiday	Monday 4th April 2022—Friday 15th April 2022

Term 5

Start of Term	Tuesday 19th April 2022
Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May 2022
End of Term	Friday 27th May 2022
School Holiday	Monday 30th May 2022—Friday 3rd June 2022

Term 6

Start of Term	Monday 6th June 2022
End of Year	Friday 22nd July 2022