

Headteacher's Letter



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

I am delighted we have made it to the end of term and have had the opportunity to share some wonderful experiences with our pupils. The staff have worked tirelessly to provide the pupils with the support they need to progress both academically and socially. This has been a busy term with many parents having participated in an Annual Review and a parents evening. I do hope however, that we will be able to welcome you back to school soon so you can be part of school activities.

I write to you following our trip to church and Christmas dinner. As always, the pupils' behaviour has been exemplary. Mrs Hazleden and the kitchen team have worked hard to prepare Christmas dinner with members of the senior team working as her little helpers serving the pupils.

I could not be prouder of the pupils and the staff at Grange Park. Our award earlier in the term confirmed what I have always known that the Grange Park staff are phenomenal. Nominations for the Kent Teach awards are open if you would like to nominate a member of staff or the school for the 2022 awards www.kmcharityteam.co.uk. I admit, I am biased, but I have never worked with such a wonderful group of people. Thank you to parents who also nominated staff for the Spadework teacher hamper.

Despite the ever-changing Covid circumstances, it has been a wonderful term and the newsletter provides a taster of the activities the pupils have experienced.

I know we all face some uncertainty as we approach Christmas and the New Year but please feel reassured I am committed to doing all I can to keep the school community safe. If we receive an update from the Government over the Christmas break, I will ensure that I communicate any changes to you as soon as we have them. I have asked the IT department to remove access to the network over the holiday, to ensure the staff have a break and enjoy the company of friends and family. The school will be closed and emails will not be checked until we return in January. If you urgently require support please email me Renukah.Atwell@grangepark.kent.sch.uk or Mark.Cleave@grangepark.kent.sch.uk

I wish you all a lovely break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Best wishes

Miss Renukah Atwell

Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 4th January 2022 : First day of term at Wrotham and Stansted sites

Monday 10th January - Friday 14th January 2022: Mock Exams

Monday 10th January - Friday 14th January 2022: Year 11 Annual Review Meetings

Thursday 13th January 2022: Year 8 & 9 Parents Evening

Monday 17th - Friday 21st January 2022: Year 9 Annual Review Meetings

Thursday 27th January 2022: Year 10 & 11 Parents Evening

Friday 28th January 2022: Parents Group Meeting

Message from the Chairman of Governors

It doesn't seem possible that we are nearly at Christmas 2021 - in some ways it feels as though Christmas 2020 was just a couple of months ago and in other ways almost a lifetime ago. Somewhat naively I never thought that Covid-19 would still be playing such a dominant role in all our lives but have come to realise that this infection is not going to leave us and so must learn to work with it in our midst.



I am so proud of how our pupils and our staff have continued to show such resilience and fortitude throughout and how Miss Atwell and her team have continued with innovative teaching, ensuring that pupils and their families receive support when needed. The wellbeing of our staff is also of vital importance to us and Governors endeavor to ease their load when we can. It was good to see that staff were able to resume some "normal" activities for pupils during the last few months.

As Governors we are still unable to visit the school in person and so carry out monitoring remotely but we were hoping to return to face-to-face visits in the New Year, however with the arrival of this new variant time will tell when we are able to resume our in person visits. We all of us miss the buzz of being in school, especially at this time of year.

In the New Year we will be holding a Parent Governor Election and I hope some of you will stand. Parent Governors form an integral part of the governing body, elected by parents although you are not a parent representative and do not report back to parents. School Governors play an important role in helping to run local schools. It is an extremely rewarding role and we are looking for someone who is committed to Grange Park School and its future, with a keen and active interest in education and school improvement. You do not need any experience as training is available - so please look out for nomination papers that will be sent out in January/February of next year.

On this run up to the Season of Goodwill, I hope that everyone enjoys as merry a Christmas as possible and that next year we all enjoy less turbulent times.

With best Christmas wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sue Murray', written over a horizontal line.

Sue Murray
Chairman of Governors

School Council

Every new year, each form does a class vote for new representatives, this year we had some great new candidates!

The School Council meet once every term, it was so nice to have a full meeting with all new representatives .

We have had lots of discussions about pupils Rights and if they are being met at school.

At the meeting we went through any feedback or new ideas from each form, some of the ideas this term were:

- New lunch clubs
- New Enrichment ideas
- Different playground equipment
- A charity fundraiser

Meet our new Council Members



Teddy	Year 5/6
Frederick	Year 6
Tegan	Year 7a
James	Year 7b
William	Year 8a
Harry	Year 8b

Bradley	Year 9
Jared	Year 10
Liam	Year 11a
Callum	Year 11b
Abe	KS5

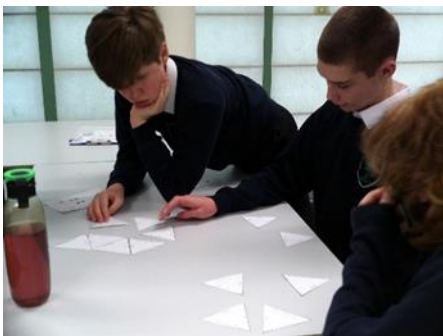
'No Pens Wednesday'

Grange Park celebrated 'No Pens Wednesday' again this year on 24th November.

'No Pens Wednesday' is an initiative from the Communication Trust which encourages pupils and staff to put down their pens for a day of speaking and listening activities. This year teachers came up with a range of inspiring activities for pupils to participate in, from battleships to fortune tellers!



Pupils and staff enjoyed the day and bringing an awareness to the importance of speaking and listening as part of the curriculum.



Remembrance



This year we had pupils from our Wrotham and Stansted site visit the War Memorial and lay a specialised arrangement made by a Floristry student to honour Remembrance Day.

Many members of the public congregated alongside us for special readings by members of the parish council, and we took part in a two minute silence. We were so very proud of all our pupils who represented our Grange Park Schools.



Chessington

Our rescheduled Chessington trip took place at the beginning of September.

Almost all of the pupils from both Wrotham and Stansted attended, along with our Year 11 leavers who had moved onto College.

The weather was great, and as ever, the pupils behaviour was exemplary.

The children rode rollercoasters, ate popcorn and made some fantastic memories.



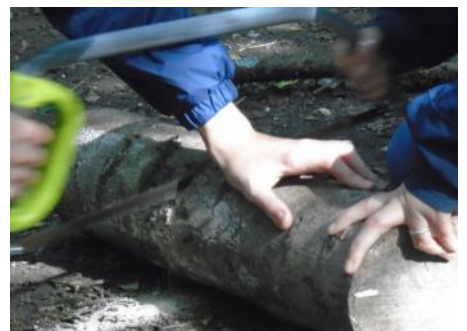
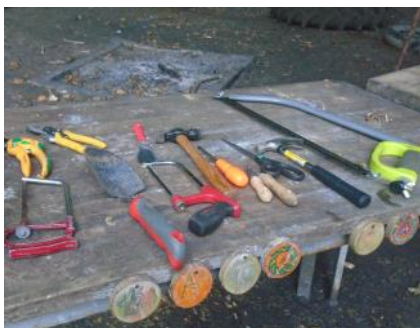
Forest School

This term, pupils have been learning about the three elements of the fire triangle: making a fire, putting out the fire safely and disposing of the fire to leave no trace.

Once they mastered these skills, pupils went off in pairs to set small fires (under supervision!), put out the fires and then to dispose of them. Other pupils then had to see if they could find out where the fires had been set.



The Forest School enrichment option has also been very popular this term, with pupils using tools, making camps and shelters and enjoying being outside.



Enrichment

Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment activities this term from swimming, to bowling to trampolining at Gravity.



Harvest

This year we were able to celebrate Harvest Festival again at St Georges in Wrotham. Pupils made their way to the church and during the service, gave readings and sang hymns.

Staff and pupils had collected lots of items of food that were boxed up and delivered to the local food bank in Borough Green. They were incredibly grateful for all of the kind donations, and they would be distributed in the local community.



Children in Need

This year, our Year 11 pupils organised some fun and games to help raise money for Children in Need at the Wrotham site, and pupils at Stansted took part in lots of activities including cake decorating. The pupils arranged a cake sale, an archery competition and 'soak the staff' which proved to be very popular! Overall, we raised £422, which was an amazing achievement.



McMillan Coffee Morning

One of the first events we were able to hold this year was our McMillan Coffee morning and it was a pleasure to welcome some parents back onsite.

Our pupils organised a cake sale, and there was also a raffle of an amazing cake that was donated to the school.

Pupils raised a fantastic £217 for this worthwhile cause.



World Mental Health Day

As part of World Mental Health Day, at Stansted we have made a Wellbeing pledge of one thing we are going to do to help maintain our Positive Mental Health. All pupils made an origami bird and wrote their pledge on its wings. Our pledges are now displayed on our wellbeing tree #helloyellow

At Wrotham, pupils wore yellow and took part in a number of activities and discussions to help raise awareness of good mental health.



School Gateway & School dinner bookings

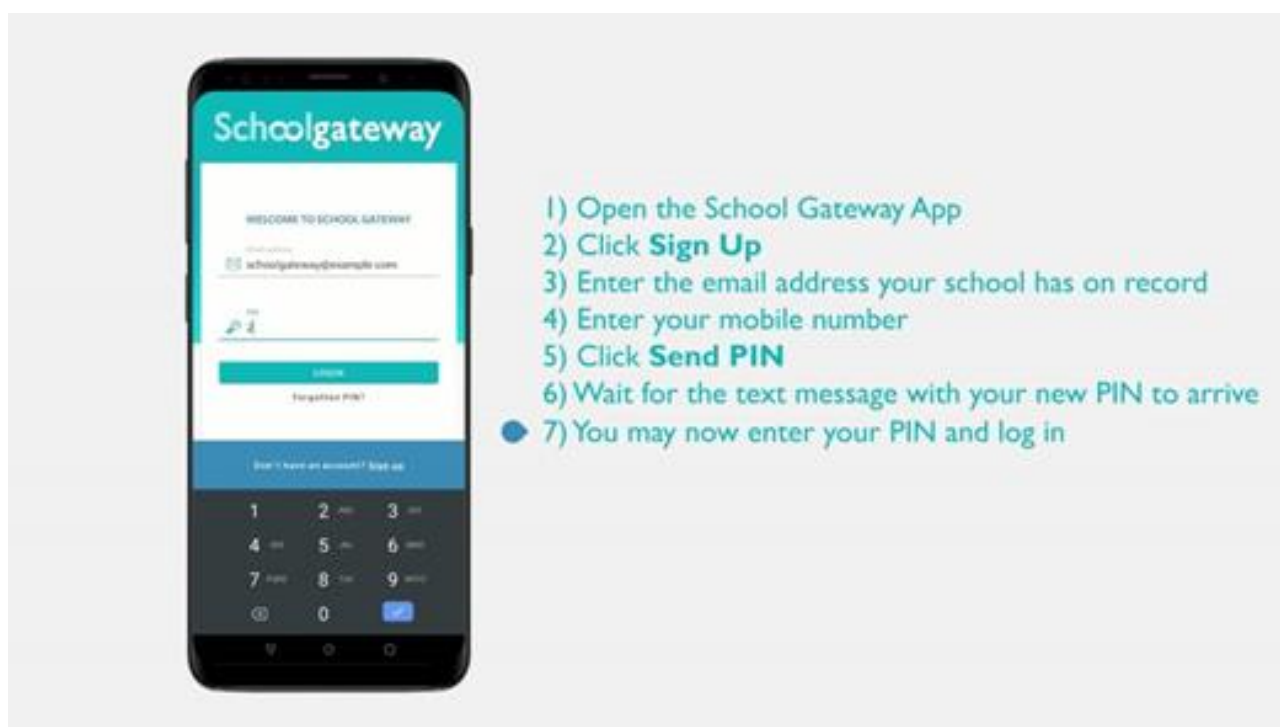
Since September, we have moved to using the School Gateway app to book school dinners. This is a quick and easy way for us to provide numbers to the kitchen so that they can prepare the correct amount of dinners for the pupils.



Thank you to all those who are booking school meals daily. The menus for the new term are uploaded before the end of term, and you can book dinners for a single day, a week, or the term if you prefer. If your child will be having a school dinner, please can you ensure that you are making their booking by 9.00am on the day so that the kitchen can be fully prepared. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, please ensure that you book in the same way, and the app will not charge you for the meal.

Please download the School Gateway app, and make your bookings via the 'Dinner' section. All payments can be made through the payment option.

We politely request that meal balances are paid weekly to avoid building up any large debts. If you need any help with the app or making payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will be happy to help.



Stansted

British Museum Trip

Some pupils in Year 5 and 6 had the most AMAZING day at the British Museum! We asked lots of questions to the experts and did lots of exploring of all the different rooms. We enjoyed discovering new facts about the Ancient Egyptians but most of all we loved seeing the Mummies!



Pop-up Literacy

This term in English pupils from Year 5-9 got to meet an author as part of a Pop-Up Literacy Project. Our Stansted pupils enjoyed reading a book called the World of Robots before meeting the author Joe Craig. It was great to ask Joe questions and show off the work, including predictions of his stories, to him.



PSHE Day

During Term 1 we held our first PSHE focus day with a theme of 'Thinking of Others'. We learned about Kindness and Empathy and raised money for MacMillan Cancer Support by having a Coffee Afternoon at both Wrotham and Stansted.



Our second focus day had a theme of 'Choices and Consequences' where we focused on anti-bullying by wearing odd socks and learning through different subjects including Art and Science. Most pupils met with our local police representative to talk about keeping safe and the laws that affect young people, while Year 11 attended a workshop run by the Kinsella Trust about Knife Crime. Our next focus is on Money Matters.



Year 7 Trips

Wildwood

During Term 1 we visited Wildwood Wildlife Park.

We were very excited to see the pack of wolves and climb over the wobbly bridge above the bear enclosure.

We also had lots of fun playing in the park at the end of the day too!



Bodium Castle

This term, we went on a trip to Bodiam Castle as part of our History learning. We were able to spot all the features that we have been learning about in class including arrow slots and murder holes. Some pupils enjoyed climbing the narrow, steep spiral stair-cases to reach the top of the towers.



Wrotham

Art

Years 7 and 8 have been very creative over the past two terms, participating in a project based on Orazio Gentileschi's 'The Finding of Moses'.

They really liked how the figures in the painting looked like they were moving and this inspired them to create moving sketches in pastels. We linked this to the artwork of Degas and Keith Haring and even had an 80's disco where volunteers danced, freezing when the music stopped so that we could draw them!

Pupils also focused on the baby in the painting, and had great fun creating moulds of baby heads in clay and making plaster casts of them.

This forms part of the Take One Picture project with The National Gallery. We have submitted our work which we hope will be chosen for display in the Gallery next summer.



Edgar Degas and Capturing Movement

Pupils used pastels to quickly draw the outlines of the dancers in a film.

The dance will be paused for a few seconds, so they didn't have long to try to capture the shapes and lines of the dancers.

The sketches were overlapped using different coloured pastels to create a sense of movement.



Keith Haring Disco!



Pupils enjoyed a disco full of 1980's music where they had to dance and then freeze in their dance pose! The rest of the class had to draw them in the style of Keith Haring, drawing thick black lines around the figures and add movement lines radiating out of their images.



Cookery

We have had some amazing dishes made in cookery this term. From hearty cottage pies, delicious cinnamon swirls and even Thai green curry.

Pupils have been busy over the past few weeks making delicious treats for the festive season.

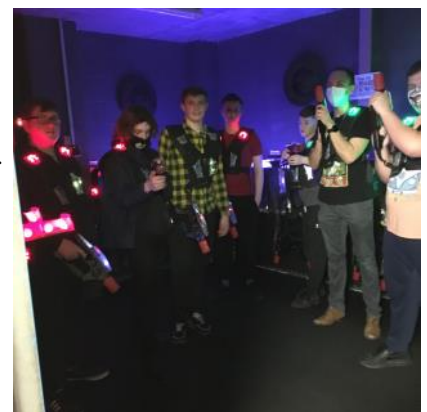


Year



10 Reward Trip

For a number of years now, our KS4 students have been doing Biology and Chemistry as separate GCSE's. This year we added GCSE Physics to the available courses. 7 year 10 students have been giving up their enrichment activities on a Friday, to study Physics with Mrs Taylor. Many of them have also been attending after school revision classes. As a reward to acknowledge their commitment, dedication and hard work Mrs Taylor took them to Laser Tag followed by a McDonalds lunch.



The pupils had a great time: 'I thought the tag was fun and really enjoyed it!'; 'Laser tag was good, especially the team game'; 'Great fun for the work we did'.

Year 11 Star Award Trip

Year 11 have been working hard this term to gain 20 star awards so they can go on a reward trip of their choosing! Star awards are earned by going above and beyond in lessons. Year 11 chose two trips: airsoft and bowling.

A special mention to Archie who achieved 34 star awards this term!

The students who went to airsoft had an excellent time attempting to shoot each other, but particularly the staff!



The students who went bowling scored lots of strikes and enjoyed dominoes and a movie when they returned.

Staff at Battle Sector X were very complimentary of their behaviour and positive competitive nature. Well done Year 11, we look forward to seeing even more star awards next term!

Key Stage 5

Trip to Kent Life



KS5 and Year 10/11 Animal Care pupils had a joint trip to see an owl display at Kent Life. The pupils got to see the owls up close after the display and we then had the afternoon to see the animals on their farm and also visit their historical buildings. The pupils were able to go inside the church and houses and they all had a great day.



Christmas Cards

KS5 made cards to send to children in an orphanage called Sunlit Gardens Orphanage in South Africa. They sent them over at the beginning of December. The students wrote some lovely heartfelt messages to the children. They made some lovely designs and it made them more aware of children less fortunate this Christmas.



Work Experience

It's been great getting back to our work experience in KS5 this term. We have sold vegetables at Communigrow, visited Buttercups Goat Sanctuary and worked on the community farm in Trottcliffe Village.

Our students have made such an impact on the farm and get lots of mentions for their great work from the community farm volunteers. They really enjoy being able to get in with the pigs, feed the donkeys and collecting the eggs to box up for selling to raise funds for the farm.



College Partnerships



We have more students than ever now attending our College sites at Medway, Maidstone and Hadlow taking a wide range of courses, and they are making great progress.

Here are just a few of the commendations that our students have received since September:



Michael

Michael was voted as one of the four winners for the best equality and diversity poster in PPT. Michael created a poster about identity with a design positively promoting dressing as you want and not restricted by the gender you're assigned.

Charlie

Charlie continues to impress me with his work ethic and high standard of work. he is very engaged and is able to take on and understand complex material. If he stays at this level, he will be able to achieve great things in the future.

Daniel

I would like to commend that start to the year that Daniel has had. Daniel is showing excellent initiative and drive in the Exotic Husbandry unit. I am looking forward to seeing what Daniel achieves this year.

Rhone

Well done Rhone, you worked really hard completing the starter activity today and you made good progress completing your application form. Please keep up the good work.

Max

Max did some fabulous work on Roger Arliner Young for Black History Month. Well done Max.

Jude

Well done Jude for your work in GCSE English on Friday afternoon. You contributed well to the lesson and made some insightful observations. You also volunteered to read in front of the class which took a lot of courage. Keep up the good work!

Hadlow Campus

Grange Park has one student at Haldow, who is finishing off his course this year. Here are a few words that Sam has written about his time at College:

'I am enjoying my time at college, my favourite lessons are practical's and for the first term I did agriculture where I learnt about cows and sheep. This term I am working on the animal management unit. So far I have worked in the reptile rooms and with rabbits and guinea pigs.

Part of my course is to do work experience. I work at Lower Bush Alpaca Farm in Cuxton on Wednesdays which I benefit from and get lots of knowledge. The jobs I do are cleaning them out, feeding and walking them. I am going to be helping over Christmas as they are holding Christmas experiences.

This is a picture of me and Sunset.'



Maidstone Campus

We have Countdown game in our base room which we do as a starter... top scores are Luke at 400 words, William at 246 words and Nathan at 246 words.

We have introduced a hot chocolate table to start the College day with cream, gingerbread men, marshmallows and flakes. And the paper chains above the board have been made by students.



Reuben has been busy creating some beautiful dishes on his course, here is one of his desserts:

'This dish I made is a chocolate marquise, decorated with mint, granola, served with compressed pears, meringue parfait and chocolate soil. The marquise is a bit like a cheesecake, but instead it's a chocolate based mousse on top of a biscuit base.'

Pupils have been getting creative with raising money for various charities, and Rhone has taken a very festive approach:

'I made these Christmas pudding biscuits in my enterprise lesson.

We are making them to sell, to raise money for a charity. I enjoyed making them with group at MidKent College.'



Medway Campus

Grange Park students all went to the pantomime in the College that was performed by other students.

Jake really enjoyed the performance: 'They had been practicing all year. I found it really funny and enjoyable and would definitely want to see one again. The students were very good at playing their roles.

Now I am thinking about doing Performing Arts next year because I seem to be very dramatic and am told this by lots of people!'



These are photos from the Remembrance Day Parade. Showing two of our Grange Park Partnership Students. A Level 3 Uniformed Services student from last year and a level 2 Uniformed Services student from this year.



Severe Snow/Ice Plan

How will we let you know that school (Wrotham & Stansted sites) is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Atwell may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether Grange Park School is open or closed, please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Grange Park School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

We will also endeavour to inform you via our text messaging service (Parentmail), so please ensure we have your current mobile number.

How will we let you know if the college is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions:-

Parents can directly contact Maxine Hamilton on **07591 852944** or Jean Moule on **07517 952168**

Parents and students should follow the guidance from the college site that their son/daughter is currently attending.

Due to the varied locations of each campus, the college may make a decision to close, one site or all sites, or remain open, dependent on the severity of the weather at each campus.

Parents and students should go to Google, log on to the main MKC or Hadlow home page, the college will provide information should it be open or closed, this is usually highlighted in yellow, at the top of the page. The college will update the information on a daily basis.

Tutors will email students with set work to be completed at home for each snow day.

Partnership students will not be requested to travel or work at the School site, if the college is closed and the school is open.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2021-2022

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.

Friday 17th December 2021 End of Term 2

Tuesday 4th January 2022 Start of Term 3

Friday 11th February 2022 End of Term 3

Monday 21st February 2022 Start of Term 4

Friday 1st April 2022 End of Term 4

Tuesday 19th April 2022 Start of Term 5

Monday 2nd May 2022 Bank Holiday

Friday 27th May 2022 End of Term 5

Monday 6th June 2022 Start of Term 6

Friday 22nd July 2022 End of Term 6



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School.