



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Headteacher Letter

This has been an incredibly busy term where pupils have benefitted from some wonderful experiences that broaden the learning and enhance their life experiences. For the first time in two years pupils have sat public examinations. Pupils rose the challenge, demonstrating reliance and determination.

Our pupils at Stansted sat the SATS in May, a first for us as a school and I am delighted with how well they managed and the outcomes they achieved. For too many of our pupils, they have had very negative experiences of assessment but we have seen with the right support they build confidence and access more than anyone had ever predicted.

This week we have had our first annual prom with Year 11 and KS5 leavers from Wrotham in attendance. The Moat provided the most incredible space for our pupils, who enjoyed a delicious meal and disco. There was dancing until late despite it being the hottest day on record. This is now hopefully an annual tradition we can continue for many years to come.

The weather sadly led to the cancellation of sports day but we hope that Mrs Hughes will be able to plan an event for September for the pupils to enjoy.

We have been busy at the secondary site improving our teaching spaces; we have a new science room, English room with library and we are developing a performing arts space. The talent show is always a wonderful reminder of the pupils capabilities and this is something we want to develop further.

I am incredibly grateful this week for the air conditioning the governors agreed to install just before Covid. All our teaching spaces have air conditioning and this allowed us to have an environment where the pupils were comfortable and not overwhelmed by the heat.

Over the summer, work will start on the flat roof. Since the school was built, we have had reoccurring issues that have been temporarily fixed, but KCC will now remove and replace the front roof. The work will start next week and could continue into spring. The contractor did complete the work to the back roof and they have a good understanding of the need of our pupils. For safety, some of the outdoor spaces will be out of bounds and our chickens have been moved and are now with Mrs Somerford. There will be some very ugly scaffolding up when the children return in September, but it will be worth it when we have a roof that no longer leaks and damages our school.

It was lovely to have seen so many of you at the talent show and BBQ. The burgers were particularly good this year. My thanks goes to all who donated raffle prizes or bought tickets. We raised £770 which will fund the coach for the children to go to Chessington World of Adventures in September.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday 1st September - Years 5 & 6 start

Friday 2nd September - Years 5, 6, 7 & KS5

Monday 5th September - College & Wrotham Start

Friday 9th September - Year 8 National Gallery Trip

Friday 23rd September - Whole school trip to Chessington

Tuesday 27th September - School Photographer

Friday 30th September - PSHE Day

Friday 14th October - School Disco

Thursday 20th October - Settling in Reports Home

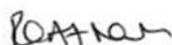
The staff have already started to plan some wonderful experiences for our children next year. I am excited to welcome a new academic year, new families and children.

I want to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Taylor for all her hard work and dedication to Grange Park and the pupils. She was pivotal in the development of our school, the culture of academic ambition for the pupils and she had the most incredible drive to show the pupils what they can achieve. We, of course, will miss her and hope she is able to enjoy her retirement.

Personally, I was humbled to be nominated and then the recipient of the Kent Teaching Awards Headteacher of the Year. I opened a very plain white envelope in April to be informed that I had been selected as West Kent Headteacher of the Year. At the awards ceremony I was then surprised to be awarded overall Headteacher of the Year. This was incredibly humbling and I was touched to be nominated and grateful for the support of the governing body. I love my job, working with the most incredible young people who bring me so much joy and for whom I am very proud. I lead the most exceptional team of staff who share my vision and ambition for our pupils. Grange Park is phenomenal and I look forward to what 2022/23 will bring.

Thank you for trusting me, supporting the school and our pupils. Together we can ensure that our pupils have a positive, supportive and high quality educational experience.

I wish you a restful summer.



Ms Renukah Atwell
Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

On looking back over this past academic year and watching pupils emerge from the fog of the last 18 months or so that Covid brought with it, I am happily amazed at how our students have coped with the disruption to their lives and moved forward. The whole school (staff and students) have had to cope with changing regulations on an almost daily basis but the time has come when we must look forward and continue to utilise new skills gained through online learning as well as face-to-face learning, rather than looking back at how tough it was at the time.



All our pupils have worked hard throughout the year, especially so with end of year exams. Those that are leaving us are going on to positive destinations, mostly into further training. Our Deputy Head Boy has written to a number of people of influence inviting them to visit our school. His letters were impressive and brought results and he continued to impress our guests when giving them a conducted tour of the school.

Miss Atwell deservedly won two accolades as Head Teacher of the Year – one for the West Kent Area and the other for the whole of the County of Kent. Her pastoral care of all pupils, their families/carers and staff was second to none with the school moving forward rather than standing still. The wellbeing of our staff is a concern of the governing body and governors regularly check that all is as well as it can be.

Governors have met virtually since March 2020 but I am pleased to report that our last Full Governing Body meeting at the beginning of July was a blended meeting of face-to-face and virtual. After such a long time it was rather good to see almost everyone around the table rather than on screen, although I think blended meetings will probably be the norm for the future. We still have one Parent Governor vacancy shortly to become two when Gillian Buisson's term of office ends in October. Due to work commitments, she has decided not to renew her governorship. We will miss Gillian's eye for detail especially as our Careers Link Governor. At the start of Term 1, notification of the vacancy will formally be circulated and I look forward to receiving nominations for the vacancy. From personal experience, I can assure you that governorship is a very positive and rewarding thing to do.

There are so many positives about school life today: the numerous trips that staff have been able to arrange, sleep overs, away days, visits to the theatre as well as many visits connected to the curriculum, a curriculum that our students succeed in and the growing confidence in many of our students as they learn about life skills through these various activities. I cannot thank the staff enough for going that extra mile on numerous occasions.

I wish everyone a good summer break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sue Murray'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Mrs Sue Murray
Chair of Governors

Stansted

PSHE Days

As part of our PSHE Day we had some exciting visitors. We were visited by our local police officer and even got to explore a police vehicle and try out the very loud sirens! We were also visited by the local Fire Brigade and learned about how to keep safe at home. Finally, we were helped by our skilled nurse to learn some basic first aid skills including what CPR is, how to get into the recovery position and how to put on bandages. It was a great day with lots of life skills learned.



Year 5/6 Leeds Castle Visit

During Term 6 we have been learning about the Victorians with a focus on life of Victorian children.

We have enjoyed reading a text called Street Child and learned about some of the challenges children faced. We also got to enjoy a fun workshop at Leeds Castle where we learned from Victorian teachers what school life was like. They were very strict but we had a fantastic time and particularly enjoyed exploring the maze too. Following our trip, some pupils have made rooms inspired by the Victorian era.



Year 5/6 Activity Week

Activity week for Year 5/6 was amazing! We started off exploring Knole Park, getting close to the deer and having a lot of fun on the natural play grounds we found. Having worked up an appetite, we went to Pizza Express and made our own delicious pizzas. Not too bad for a Monday.



Tuesday meant treetop adventure at Go Ape, Bedgebury. It was fantastic to see the children conquer crossings, breach bridges and reach even greater heights swinging through the pines. As if that wasn't enough, an exhilarating zip wire was the only way down, with a crash landing at the bottom entirely optional!



Our adventures continued on Wednesday at Carrot Wood. We started off wrestling with the low ropes course and squeezing through the 'car wash', before racing round the Karting circuit. There were some epic races, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd.



On Thursday, we found ourselves at the Lost Garden of Sevenoaks and took Nuzzle and Scratch, the resident Alpacas, for a trek through the woods all the way to the top of the fourth highest hill in Kent. Some of us even danced with the Alpacas!

After a delicious lunch in a safari tent, the children sparked a fire into life using just a couple of flints before building some survival shelters from foraged wood.



As if this wasn't enough, then it was the sleepover which for several children was their first ever night away from home. Arts and crafts, tie dye and Nintendo Switch kept everyone entertained before a BBQ feast in the evening sun.



To get them started the following day, they headed over to the Wrotham site to enjoy some breakfast, before they headed off for their final trip of activity week.



Our adventures continued with swimming at Mote Park before enjoying the talent show on Friday evening. The children were absolutely brilliant all week – it was a pleasure to be with them and they all seemed to have a lot of fun!

Year 6 SATs

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 6 pupils who sat their SAT assessments in May. They showed fantastic resilience and determination throughout the week and thoroughly enjoyed their reward trip to Trosley Country Park and ice creams at the end of the week. Well done everyone!

Year 7 - Life on the Farm

This term, our Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to spend some time at Trottiscliffe Community Farm. They collected eggs, helped with the cleaning and also had the opportunity to meet some of the animals.



Trips & Visits

Bedgebury Forest Trip

As part of the trail at Bedgebury Forest, Mrs Dixon arranged an activity for the pupils to write a poem about the forest using their five senses.

As preparation, the pupils took a bit of time to listen, look around them, consider what they could taste (imagination needed here!), what they could feel and smell.

Using their ideas, they composed a five senses poem, whilst chilling out in the forest.



Mrs Hayter had set up a watercolour painting station on part of the trail at Bedgebury. The beautiful views that surrounded us and the picturesque lake made for the perfect scenery to give the students some focus.

With Mrs Hayter's guidance, the students used the tools to recreate what surrounded them, while they enjoyed the peace of the park.



Leeds Castle

While the GCSEs were taking place, Years 8 to Key Stage 5 took a trip through history at Leeds Castle.

Working together in small, mixed groups, students explored all of the beautiful grounds and the castle itself – which was first built in the 12th century. The inside of the building was decorated in 1920s style with lots of lavish furnishings and luxury household items from the period to look at.

Throughout their visit, students had a literacy-based task to complete focused on describing key things they found or discovered. More visual-focused students were encouraged to draw what they saw, too.

After lunch, the groups were challenged to complete the hedgerow maze and find the hidden, underground grotto. Then they had time to burn off the last of their energy on the castle's adventure playground before heading back to Grange Park.



Chatham Historic Dockyard

During exam week we visited Chatham Dockyards. From Year 7 to KS5, the students split up into mixed groups and explored the site.

It was a fantastic experience for the students to explore the ships and take part in a rope making exercise. They listened well during guided tours and asked lots of informative questions.



Art

Year 9 Mask Making

Year 9 have finished making their masks, inspired by the history of the Benin Bronzes.



They look spectacular!



Investigating Patterns - William Morris inspired skateboards

Year 7 and 8 finished off their project which had been based on the work of the designer William Morris. They looked at the work of the Arts and Crafts Movement and designed their own patterns and motifs to create 'skateboards'.

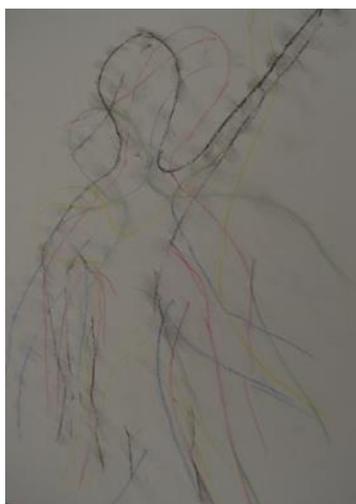
They look fabulous!



KS3 are back at the National Gallery!

A selection of artwork has been chosen to be on display in the Take One Picture Exhibition at the National Gallery in London.

The pastel sketches of moving dancers are on display until 11 September 2022. Well done KS3, this was a wonderful achievement as we were only one of 30 schools across the country whose artwork was successfully selected to be displayed at such a famous gallery!



Cookery

It has been another busy term in the kitchen, with all years creating some tasty dishes, including pancakes and cupcakes, which are always a firm favourite!



Year 10 and 11 cooked and presented some excellent dishes for their Home Cooking Skills BTEC Level 2. All of the pupils have come such a long way and should be incredibly proud of everything that they have achieved in the kitchen.



Girls Sleepover

It's been a fantastic year! So many days of memories have been created and, just to add to that, a night of memories for some too.

Grange Park pupils, from Year 5 all the way up to KS5, joined in the night of fun. It was wonderful to see the students all working together and supporting each other on this adventure.

The girls started the evening setting up their rooms and getting cosy in their pyjamas, not forgetting any cuddly friends that were joining us too.



Then followed the activities: hair & beauty, baking cupcakes, playing games and arts & crafts.

The students enjoyed the treatments that were provided by one of our very own fabulous parents, as well as being able to give each other make overs. Mrs Rundle showed off her creative hairstylist skills, making the students felt pampered and relaxed.



Once it got closer to dinner time, the students made their own pizzas with a choice of toppings. We all sat and ate together before receiving little goody bags. The activities continued and the staff even got involved with the make-overs, being turned into pieces of art work. A giant game of hide and seek around the school had everyone laughing, before it was time to go into the forest to roast some marshmallows...

After some fun in the forest, we came back in to school to settle for a movie. The fairy lights were on, the snacks were out and it was time to wind down. We couldn't be more proud of our pupils. They made the evening it was and we are looking forward to the next sleepover already!



National Table Cricket Tournament



On Friday 17th June, our Table Cricket team played in the National Final at Lords cricket ground in London

After meeting at school at 8am the team, the staff and some parents made their way to Lords via minibus. Once they arrived they received their team shirts and had a team practice.

The team put in a great performance, they won 3 of their 4 matches and came second in their group. Unfortunately, they conceded just too many runs (although they got more runs than the winner!)

The pupils were amazing; it was a struggle to come so close to playing for 2nd/1st initially but they came through the disappointment to win.

They played for 3rd/4th place and won, so are the third best team in the country - a fantastic achievement.

The return journey took 2.5 hours and was very hot! After a long day and some ice creams they finally arrived back at school at 5:30pm.



Congratulations to our fantastic Table Cricket Team! Robert, our captain, Adam, our vice-captain, Alexa, Hugo, Mark and Harrison. Their teamwork and dedication really were a credit to Grange Park.



Kwik Cricket

It was great to see so many Grange Park pupils taking part in the primary and secondary Kwik cricket tournaments in June this year.

For many of them, this was their first Grange Park sports fixture and their first time at a cricket ground!

All teams played matches against other schools with the primary team playing a game called Quick Fire Cricket and the secondary teams playing Kwik Cricket.

All pupils showed excellent communication, teamwork and support for each other. The tournaments were non competitive but instead were aimed at participation and enjoyment of the game.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

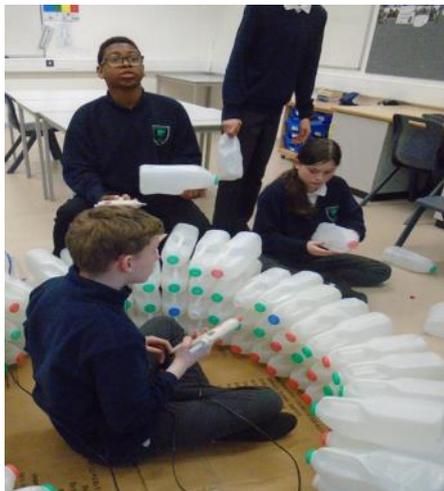
This year during enrichment time, Year 9 have been walking towards the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. DofE teaches you the core subjects in life: team building, resilience, confidence and, most of all, never giving up!

The first section they worked on was the 'Skill' Section. We elected this as a three month section of the course. The pupils have proved that they have broadened their understanding and increased their expertise in their chosen skill by recording their activities each week. They then add pictures and a description of that week's activity on their PowerPoint presentation, which is logged online for assessment with DofE.

There were many different focuses in this section: Learning French, Dog Handling, Film & Video Making, Engineering & Theatre & Stage.

We are currently working on the 'Physical' Section. We have selected to run this section over six months and have chosen 'Fitness: Personal Achievement' as our focus. For the first 3 months the pupils have been working on gymnastics at the Meapa with 2 specialist coaches helping them achieve their full potential. After the summer holidays they will complete the section with swimming.

The final section is the 'Expedition Section', where we do practice walks in our local parks and end with a camping trip where the pupils cook their own food.



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Alton Towers School Residential

What a fantastic 3 days!

We made a good start with a clear run all of the way. Pupils were very excited to get to their rooms and unpack, which they did in super quick time.

Our first activity was crazy golf, with some pupils giving Tiger Woods a run for his money. Lots of fun was had navigating the courses, which were all based around theme park attractions.

As soon as the last golfer returned their club, we were off in the mini buses again to drive to the golden arches, where many Big Macs, chicken nuggets, fries and cold drinks were consumed.

Back to the hotel and straight into the entertainment. Some danced to the sounds of "Agadoo", while others headed to the amusements, where many fluffy animals were won after multiple attempts on unforgiving claw machines.

After rounding up the troops, they all got ready for a well-earned rest, ready for the day ahead in the park.

6am- wake up the troops!

All down for a hearty breakfast bacon, eggs, sausages, pancakes and beans.

Off to the park!

So many of the children were incredibly brave, having never been to a theme park before and facing the Oblivion as their first ride. The Smiler, Rita, Galicia, Nemesis, Thirteen and Wicker Man to name but a few followed.

After a busy day with many thousands of steps counted, it was back to the mini buses and on to Pizza Hut for a Grange Park take over. A three course carb refuel was enjoyed by (most) pupils.

The second and last day at Alton Towers was enjoyed either catching up on the rides missed on the first day or a morning in the water park. There were many flumes ridden and the outside pools in the sunshine felt like we could have been a thousand miles away! A perfect way for us to end a very busy couple of days.



Leavers Prom

To celebrate the incredible journey that our class of 2022 has been on, the last week of term saw our first Prom. It was held at The Moat, in Wrotham and pupils from Year 11 and Key Stage 5 were invited.

Some of the pupils arrived in serious style and everyone looked incredible. There was a sit down meal and pupils braved the heat and hit the dancefloor. It was a wonderful celebration of everything that the pupils had achieved. Well done to the Class of 2022!





Key Stage 5

KS5 have experienced so much this year, from our work experiences at Trotcliffe Farm to independent travel.

They have had a trip every month, which they have earned through our bonus points system, whereby students are rewarded for doing helpful and independent things for others. Planning their trips is part of their reward and this term they have had a range of experiences from a trip to the beach to bowling. We have had a fantastic year.

Our work experience placements are really varied, from working on a farm to the college carrousel, where all of our students get the chance to learn new skills which will help prepare them to get jobs or move onto College. We have also learnt lots of life skills, such as learning to use household appliances which will help their future independence.

Well done to all of our Key Stage 5 students, you have been incredible.



College Partnership

College Awards

This year, two of our College students were nominated for two prestigious awards, Daniel with the Student of the Year Award and Leon with the Exceptional Effort Award.

Daniel - Student of the Year Award

Daniel started at the College on the level 1, and has progressed with us under the Grange Park partnership, to the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management. Despite having to overcome a lot of barriers, he is an outstanding, conscientious and hardworking student who regularly achieves Distinctions.

He was initially quite reserved when he began with in 2019. His confidence and independence have grown immensely since then and he is now a popular and well-loved member of his class.

Daniel has secured excellent work experience placements and worked extremely hard to achieve his English and Maths GCSE grade 4s. We are all extremely proud of how far Daniel has come and want him to be recognised for his hard work and dedication to his studies at College.



Leon - The Exceptional Effort Award

Leon has been with us for several years now and has come on leaps and bounds. He is now studying the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing & Production Arts and is excelling in this.

Leon is polite, happy, smiley, and can light up anyone's day. Leon has progressed through the different levels of Performing Arts and has shown commitment to his studies throughout. Leon is empathetic and shows care toward his peers.

He is just an all-round student who just shows how hard work and dedication can help support you in progressing and really being able to work towards your future.

A huge congratulations to both Daniel and Leon on their outstanding achievements.

Forest School

This term we were visited by Openreach, who kindly donated the telegraph poles used to build our new all-weather canopy in the forest. Both Lee and John were impressed with our finished product and were delighted to be of help.



Part of the forest school programme requires us to develop an ecological impact plan that surveys our site and helps us achieve minimal disturbances to the environment, whilst creating a biodiverse habitat for the wildlife and students to enjoy.

In devising this plan, over the past term we have been able to plant trees, sow wild flower seeds and study new types of animals that have made home in our forest. We hope to explore this further next year with the use of wildlife cameras.

GCSE Results Day



GCSE results day is Thursday 25th August.

Results will be available to collect from the school reception between 10.00 - 11.00am at the Wrotham site.

Pupils will need to collect these in person or provide written consent for a parent to collect them on their behalf. Any results not collected on the day will be sent to pupils in the post.

All the pupils have worked so hard and we look forward to celebrating your achievements with you.



Interoception

As a school, we take part in regular training so that we can help to support the pupils as much as we can. As part of our interoception and well being intervention at Stansted, we have tried out some feel good activities with the pupils. Before trying them with students, we wanted to explore these activities with staff as part of their ongoing training.

Staff were surprised at how much they liked some of the activities!

(Interoception is the sense of noticing internal body signals and connecting them to emotions)



Kent Headteacher of the Year

All the staff at Grange Park were incredibly proud of Miss Atwell when she was awarded the accolade of 'Overall Kent Headteacher of the Year' at the KM Kent Teacher of the Year awards in May. She had been nominated for all the great work that she does for both the pupils and staff, the support she gave during Covid and for the way in which she leads the school to achieve the very best outcomes for the pupils.

She initially won the West Kent Headteacher award which was then followed by the overall award later in the evening. An award very much deserved - well done Miss Atwell!



School Gateway & school dinner bookings

To book school dinners, we use the School Gateway app. 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.

Schoolgateway



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.



- 1) Open the School Gateway App
- 2) Click **Sign Up**
- 3) Enter the email address your school has on record
- 4) Enter your mobile number
- 5) Click **Send PIN**
- 6) Wait for the text message with your new PIN to arrive
- 7) You may now enter your PIN and log in

Grange Park School Term Dates 2022-2023

GRANGE PARK SCHOOL SCHOOL YEAR 2022/2023

TERM 1 - 2022

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Thursday 1 st September 2022 – Primary Intake Years 5 & 6 Friday 2 nd September 2022 – Primary Years 5, 6 & Year 7 at Stansted Key Stage 5 at Wrotham Monday 5 th September 2022 – All years at Stansted & Wrotham
END OF TERM 1:	Friday 21 st October 2022

TERM 2 - 2022

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 7 th November 2022
END OF TERM 2:	Friday 16 th December 2022

TERM 3 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023
END OF TERM 3:	Friday 10 th February 2023

TERM 4 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 20 th February 2023
END OF TERM 4:	Friday 31 st March 2023

TERM 5 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 17 th April 2023
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 1 st May 2023
END OF TERM 5:	Friday 26 th May 2023

TERM 6 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 5 th June 2023
END OF TERM 6:	Friday 21 st July 2023

Thank you to

We would like to thank all of the local business and parents who have supported us in the summer term, with events and donations to our raffle.

Adventure Island

All Property Maintenance

Aspects for Beauty & Gemma Bassett-Rigden

Battle Sector X

Eden Health & Beauty & Kristie Horley

Elliott's Auto Detailing

Flip Out Chatham

Ninja Warrior UK

Odeon Cinema

Planet Ice

Prison Island Maidstone

The Heaver Festival Theatre

The Hilton at Dartford

The Historic Dockyard Chatham

The Lazy Lobster

The Moat

The Panic Room

Time Quest Kent

Yeastie Boys