



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Letter

The end of the Christmas term is a good time to take stock of the first part of the 2023-24 academic year. This term in particular has flown and I attribute this to all the activities and experiences that the children have had. It is wonderful that we are able to offer the children these experiences, and I have a staff who want to organise opportunities that our pupils might not otherwise have.

Sadly, much of my time at present is attending briefings and meetings about SEND in Kent. I, like you, want the best for the young people in Kent and as a school, we try our best to support colleagues in special and mainstream schools. We also welcome parents from all over Kent for our outreach training. However, I can see significant change in the distance and I am worried that this will not be for the benefit of the school and the children in my school and at the College sites. I want all the children, who I refer to as "my children", to have the very best education and opportunities. We know how successful our children can be and our outcomes are rated as outstanding. The lack of certainty around designation, funding and admissions is a cause for concern, but I am honest with my staff and I will always fight for what is best for our school. I will at some point be seeking your support.

The students who have joined College this year have settled in well and the difference in them, their maturity and confidence is remarkable. This makes me feel very proud. Our new pupils, especially Year 7s, have settled in well and are making great progress. This week I have spent much of my time in lessons with the children and on No Pens Wednesday, I joined the children in lots of activities, although Year 11 were quite keen to be working hard ready for their mock examinations in January.

Thank you to those who completed our recent survey. The parental surveys were overwhelmingly positive and I can see that you appreciate the work the school does for your children. As always, if you have any concerns we are here to help.

I am looking forward to next term and more incredible learning experiences. I hope that all our families have a lovely break and peaceful Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, I look forward to what 2024 will bring us.

Miss Renukah Atwell
Executive Headteacher



Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 3rd January 2024 - Start of term 3

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Outreach for families - Using Visual Supports at Home

Monday 15th - Friday 19th January 2024 - Mock GCSE Exams

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 - HPV Vaccinations Years 8 - 11

Monday 29th January - Friday 2nd February 2024 - Year 10 Annual Reviews

Wednesday 31st January 2024 - Key Stage 5 Preparing for adulthood trip

Wednesday 31st January 2024 - Year 10 Options Information Evening

Thursday 1st February 2024 - Outreach for families - Teen Life

Monday 5th - Friday 9th February 2024 - Year 9 Annual Reviews

Friday 9th February 2024 - End of term 3

Message from the Chairman of Governors

As ever, the run-up to Christmas is a busy one and this year it seems to be busier than ever! I am pleased to report that Matthew Balfour and I continue as Co-Chair and many governors now have link roles to the various aspects of school life – Eco, H&S, Careers, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Whole School Wellbeing, Cyber Security, Finance, Attendance and SEND (although as governors of a special school, we are all "SEND Governors"). At the start of the academic year, many governors also joined staff in Safeguarding training either in person or virtually. All this allows us to carefully monitor how our pupils are taught, the school environment not only for our pupils but also for our staff.



At the start of each Full Governing Body meeting we have a 15/20 minute training session usually given by a member of staff – 'Reading' in Term 1 and 'Accreditation, pathways and destinations' in Term 2. Governors were pleased to note the varied and broad curriculum we are able to offer all our pupils. We currently offer 20 Option Subjects for Key Stage 4 of which each pupil can choose 3 in addition to the core curriculum. We also note the very many successes our pupils achieve in examinations sat.

Governors continue to search for ways we can increase space to accommodate existing pupils – when the school opened on its Wrotham site, classrooms were built to accommodate 8 pupils and now we have around 12 in each class, so space is at a premium!

Unlike many schools, our finances are currently healthy and we are able to invest in the upkeep of our buildings and also to invest in equipment and excursions for our pupils to get a taste of the wider world.

Our collective crystal ball is somewhat cloudy with regard to KCC and how schools are to be funded. Currently all we know for certain is that Post 16 transport has been cancelled from September 2024 and it remains to be seen what current consultations between County and schools, both mainstream and special, come up with. Once we know what we might be facing, we will advise you.

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor as Katherine Davies has resigned due to family commitments. There will be an election in early Spring and Matthew and I would welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with anyone interested in applying.

We still await a visit from OFSTED which, after 7 years, is long overdue and it could be that if no inspection has taken place by next summer, the governors might request an inspection which is not the usual way of doing things, but we continue to be a good school and believe ourselves to be outstanding.

I would like to wish everyone the Compliments of the Season.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Sue Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sue Murray

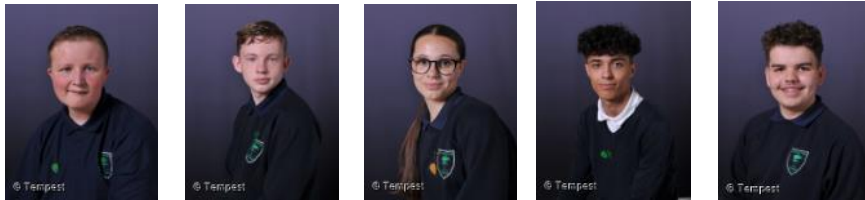
Chair of Governors

School Council

Every year, each form votes for a new class representative. This year we had some great new candidates. The School Council meet once every term and it was so nice to have a full meeting with all of the new representatives.

The school council attended the BIG Mental Health Day on 10th October 2023. More than 250 young people got together at this event to provide the chance to share their experiences of mental health support in Kent and Medway and to learn new skills to boost their health and wellbeing. The event was hosted by Kent County Council, iThrive and Participation Team in collaboration with NHS Kent and Medway. The event featured a broad mix of schools and our there was an interactive marketplace supported by 29 organisations. The pupils had the opportunity to take part in different wellbeing activities and workshops; including playing cricket, dog walking, arts and crafts, and animal care. The pupils joined in with all activities.

In addition to this, the class representatives have collected feedback from their class to share at the meeting and feedback to member of the Senior Leadership Team. Changes that have been made this term in response to pupil feedback include; having chalk available to use on the playground, having a tuck shop for a future charity event, organising a staff versus pupil football tournament, looking into buying a card reader for school events and Mrs Hazelden organising a themed food day in the new year. In their second meeting, in response to requests from pupils at Stansted and Wrotham, the school council discussed the range of lunch clubs on offer and these have been updated for the new term.



Pupil Leadership Team

Year 11: Bradley - Head Boy

Year 11: Rueben - Head Boy

Year 11: Sakara - Head Girl

Year 11: Aaron - Sports Leader & Mentor

Year 11: Benjamin - Rights Respecting Lead



School Council

Year 5: Archie - School Council

Year 6: Archie - School Council

Year 10a: Mark - School Council

Year 7a: Tom - School Council

Year 7b: Baylee - School Council

Year 10b: Ahana - School Council

Year 8a: Liam - School Council

Year 8b: Isabel - School Council

Year 11: Callum - School Council

Year 9a: Fred - School Council

Year 9b: Saffy - School Council

KS5: Lewis - School Council

Christmas at Grange Park

Christmas is a very special time at Grange Park, and this year has been no exception.

Our festivities began with our annual Christmas church service at St George's in Wrotham, where pupils sang carols and performed readings and the Christmas story. Our Stansted pupils outdid themselves this year with an amazing performance which was accompanied by Makaton (a language programme that combines signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate).



It was lovely to see so many parents come and support the children, and thank you to all those who joined us back at school for a mince pie and cup of tea. It is always lovely to have the opportunity to bring people together at this time of year.

Our Stansted pupils spent the afternoon enjoying a wonderful Christmas Spectacular, with lots of activities including decorating ornaments, games and Christmas tattoos. The pupils were also treated to a very special visitor whilst they had some afternoon tea.



Staff and pupils enjoyed Christmas lunch which was served by the Senior Leadership Team, and yet again, Mrs Hazelden and her team made an incredible feast which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Everybody was in the festive spirit, with plenty of great Christmas jumpers on display.



The afternoon saw the annual Christmas class quiz. It was as always, a closely fought race, withreigning victorious.

Our festive week finished today with the annual cinema trip. Pupils chose to watch either Elf or Trolls Band Together. Again, there were lots of festive jumpers and happy faces and everybody had the most wonderful time.

Whole School Activities

Chessington

Our first school trip of the year took place in September, and was our annual whole school visit to Chessington.

We travelled up on minibuses and a coach which was paid for by the raffle at our summer talent show and BBQ, then everyone got to explore the park. Some of the older pupils spent the day independently, and as always, they were great ambassadors for Grange Park.

We had groups of thrill seeking pupils and other groups of those who wanted a less white knuckle day, and the pupils managed to enjoy lots of rides at the park. The whole school came together for lunch and then there were more rides in the afternoon.

The weather held out and we had bright sunshine, then it was off back to Wrotham after another incredible day out.



School Fundraising

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

We held our annual fundraiser for MacMillan with a coffee morning across both the Stansted and Wrotham sites.

Stansted pupils took to raising money towards the Macmillan Big Coffee Afternoon, bringing in cakes to sell for donations towards the good cause.

It was a lovely, sunny afternoon where we enjoyed welcoming in all of our families and being able to spend time *celebrating* the Grange Park Family!

We can not thank all of our families enough, for helping out and supporting in many different ways - and what better way than through a cup of tea and piece of cake! Yum!



At Wrotham, it was fantastic to see so many students and families for our fundraiser. There were lots of generous donations of cakes including a lovely cake for the raffle. Students in Key Stage 5 helped to organise the events and we are pleased to have raised almost £300 for the charity. Thank you for your continued support with this event.



Children In Need

This year we marked Children In Need by being 'Spotacular'!

Staff and pupils were invited to either wear their Pudsey tops or show off their spots, all for a small donation to support Children in Need. Lots of effort was made, and there was some very cheerful clothing on display. We raised almost £300 for this great charity, so thank you for all of your support!



After school, we held our school disco, which was really well attended by pupils of all ages across the school.

There was pizza, hot dogs and a well stocked tuck shop. There were some great dance moves on display and it was lovely to see so many parents stay for some refreshments.

The pupils really enjoyed themselves.

No Pens Wednesday

This year, we celebrated No Pens Day on Wednesday 13th December. Staff and pupils were challenged to go a whole school day without using any writing equipment. Pupils and staff enjoyed the day and bringing an awareness to the importance of speaking and listening as part of the curriculum. Teachers got very creative with their lessons, with pupils enjoying lots of different activities including; 3D shape models, board games and Lego.



Stansted

Kent Life Trip

During Term 1, Years 5 & 6 took part in an Ancient Greek-themed day at Kent Life, to support their learning of Ancient Greece in History.

When we arrived, we explored around the area, looking at all of the different animals. The pigs and goats were very excited to see us and greeted us at their enclosures.

Our very first workshop was about medicine and doctors; the pupils loved learning more about what was used in the Ancient Greek times and how different symptoms were linked with the seasons and the treatments that would be provided. They took turns to look after each other and bandage each other up in this bit of Ancient Greek First Aid!



We continued our day taking part in different activities, including listening to an Ancient Greek Myth, trying out some playground games, having a dabble at weaving and even going on a tractor ride! And of course, we couldn't leave out the play ground!

The pupils' (and teachers') highlight of the day, was taking part in an Ancient Greek-themed army training session, where we got to see and try different pieces of armour and weaponry. The pupils created a close formation, protecting each other by their overlapping shields, as the enemies (the teachers) launched play pit balls at them!

Both classes were fantastic! We were extremely proud to see them sharing their knowledge and participating in each of the activities. The staff at Kent Life commented on how helpful and well-mannered they were. We look forward to going back for more activities later in the school year.



Year 5 & 6 Science Museum Trip

It was a cold and dreary December Monday morning for most, but not at Grange Park Stansted! This particular December morning, the excited Year 5 and Year 6 students were making the final preparations for their trip to the Science Museum. It is said that getting there is part of the adventure and this was certainly the case for us. We drove the minibus from Stansted to Wrotham, walked the half-mile to the station, caught the train to Victoria and then the tube to South Kensington. For five children in our group, it was their first ever time on a train, but they all took the adventure in their stride. It's amazing what you can achieve when given the opportunity! Finally, the lengthy museum underpass lead us to our final destination.



We started off in the space exhibition before moving onto the Secrets of Households – an interactive exhibition showing how technology has changed in households over the last 100 years. The children were fascinated by such curious relics as the ZX81, twin tub washing machines, gramophones, phones and the wireless radio, not to mention alien looking televisions from the 1960's and 1970's.

After the all-important lunch stop, we spent the afternoon exploring the hands-on exhibits that bring to life a wide variety of workplaces, from a blockbuster film set to a pharmaceutical lab, allowing the children to experience the hidden, yet vital, careers of technicians. The interactive displays gave children virtual reality tasters of what it would be like to fix a wind turbine, weld a roller coaster or use a camera to explore the oesophagus.



It was a fabulous day of learning outside of the classroom. Throughout the day the children were exemplary ambassadors for our school. They listened well to the adults and to each other, were engaged with the exhibits and were a credit to themselves and Grange Park.

They even enjoyed a spot of light reading on the tube home!



The Nutcracker Ballet Trip

The pupils from Grange Park, thoroughly enjoyed the magical experience of watching the Nutcracker ballet at The Royal Opera House in London on Wednesday 6th December.



The Christmas classic features instantly recognisable music by Tchaikovsky, which all of our children bopped and danced along to, and we were all swept along on an enchanted journey from a Victorian Christmas to a dreamlike wonderland.



We joined Clara as her enchanted Nutcracker doll is brought to life and she discovered a magical world, battled the Mouse King and travelled to the Kingdom of Sweets to meet the Sugar Plum Fairy.

It was an absolute pleasure to take the children on such a special trip, their manners were outstanding and behavior was impeccable throughout the performance. Well done to all the children who went and a big thank you to all the adults for giving up their time to take them.



Rochester Cathedral

Year 7 had the exciting opportunity to take part in a music workshop at Rochester Cathedral in Term 2 as part of our Performing Arts curriculum.

When we arrived, we had a tour of the cathedral and found out about its history and all about the different parts of the cathedral and the role they play. We were set the challenge of finding the upside down wolves that were hidden in the tiles!

We got to dress up as Monks and Bishops and even got to perform our Harvest Festival song 'Harvest Samba' whilst sitting in the chancel. The sound was incredible!

We then took part in our music workshop. Mrs Roberts, who led our music lessons at school, taught us two new songs and played the piano for us. We sang beautifully! We then got to see and hear the cathedral organ in action and could ask the organist questions. The sound was incredible!



Wildwood

Year 7 ventured to Wildwood during Term 2 to learn about living things and further enrich their Science curriculum. When we arrived, we explored the park and had the opportunity to find out about all of the different animals living at Wildwood. We read the information boards carefully, made field notes and even sketched the animals.



A real highlight was seeing the European Brown Bear. She came right up to the fence and it seemed she was almost performing for us! We loved seeing the wolves too, they were incredibly big and powerful. We had an excellent day exploring all kinds of habitats and wildlife.

Year 7 Golf Lessons

7b have had the very exciting opportunity of undertaking golf lessons as part of their Enrichment lessons this term.

The children have travelled to Pedham Golf Course each Thursday and have really got stuck in to learning all about the different clubs, grips, stances and even tactics involved in golf.

They have braved all weathers and their Semi-Pro golf instructor, James, has reported that the children have been so well behaved, listened superbly and have been so respectful of other golfers during their lessons.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and some have even been inspired to take up golf lessons outside of school. Well done 7b!



Remembrance

This year's Remembrance was a display which everybody took part in creating, including Miss Atwell, members of staff, and all the children from every year. The display was made up of photographs of everybody using their hands to cradle a poppy.

Our Animal Care pupils made a display that included researching the contributions in war made by animals, and the Year 10 Life Skills group, made the poppies and helped to put the display together.

Pupils who are studying French gave us information on the French Resistance, and their part in the war. We are forever grateful to the fallen and take pride in our displays every year.



Year 10 Parliament Trip

Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament on 14th November this year, which included a train journey up and a very wet walk down to the Palace of Westminster from Victoria Station in torrential rain!

The visit began in the Education Centre to watch a 15minute 360 degree film of the history of the UK Parliament which explored how our democracy developed and how it works today. This was then followed by a tour of the Palace of Westminster with some students having the opportunity to go into the House of Lords chamber and sit in on a debate from the public gallery of the House of Commons.



Year 10 A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip

The whole of Year 10 went to the New Wimbledon Theatre, to see A Christmas Carol performed by two actors in a studio. They were surprised when they saw it was a female actress playing Scrooge; the pupils enjoyed seeing an alternative interpretation. This has helped to enhance their understanding of the text and for us to have further discussions in lessons.



Shakespeare for Schools

Preparation has already begun for our next Shakespeare for Schools production, which will be The Taming of the Shrew.

The performance will be at the Woodville theatre in Gravesend on the 14th March 2024.

Rehearsals will start after Christmas, with lots of pupils from across the school getting involved with both on and off stage roles. This is always a highlight of the Grange Park School calendar.



Art & Design

Year 11 have been working hard towards completing their portfolio for their GCSE coursework. The theme has been Portraiture and Identity and have all produced some creative responses and artwork.

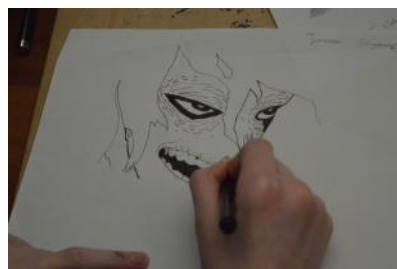


Pupils have been working on a diverse range of individual artist studies such as Van Gogh, Nikos Gyftakis, the Surrealists, Pop Art and the Renaissance artist Lorenzo Ansuri

Year 11 also enjoyed a visit to Tate Britain Gallery in London where they were able to interact with and observe the amazing artwork.



Year 10 have just started their portfolio project and have been practising drawing portraits. They have looked at the artists Lucian Freud, Chuck Close and also Van Gogh.



Year 9 are working on a project inspired by the Benin Bronzes. They have made 3D plaques, and are now working on decorative masks.

Pupils have also been discussing whether the Bronzes should be handed back to Africa.



Take One Picture "Surprised" By Henri Rousseau

KS3 completed a project inspired by the painting, '*Surprised*' 1891, by Henri Rousseau. This is part of the National Gallery's Take One Picture project.

Year 7 and 8 worked collaboratively to create jungle umbrella sculptures as their final piece. The project was extensive and pupils experimented with a range of media and techniques including block printing, leaf rubbings, drawing and painting, and even had a go at creating their own wallpaper!

We have submitted our umbrella sculptures to the Gallery to be considered for next year's exhibition!



Year 8 enjoyed a great day out at the National Gallery where they explored lots of paintings and saw their work from this year's Take One Picture exhibition. They also had some fun in Trafalgar Square.



Cookery

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been working hard in cookery.

They have learnt lots of new skills and developed their confidence using a range of skills to prepare and cook a variety of recipes. Year 7 have been busy making fruit salad, soup, crumble and flapjacks to name a few!



Year 8 cooked a variety of dishes including cous-cous, pasta salad, crumble and macaroni cheese.



Year 9 have been baking bread as well as making spaghetti bolognese, focaccia, sausage rolls, Victoria Sponge and veggie Lasagne.



Year 10 have started their Home Cooking Skills BTEC by cooking lots of healthy meals and puddings. ! Year 10 have finished this term by making and decorating Christmas Cakes to mark the festive season.



Bienvenue à la Boulangerie de Grange Parc !

Year 10 French pupils made good use of their number skills when we turned the classroom into a classic French bakery for the morning. Visitors to the school were welcomed with signs we had made for the classroom door saying 'La Boulangerie de Grange Parc', and with the swift addition of a tablecloth, a desk became the perfect counter to serve customers – all in French of course.

We laid out a fine range of tasty French specialities including croissants, pains au chocolat, brioches and mini-baguettes. Students took turns serving in the bakery and then being customers, making excellent use of all the polite phrases they had learnt, including Bonjour Madame/ Monsieur, as well as s'il vous plaît and merci.

The students were given role-play cards which included a shopping list of items to ask for. They were even given an envelope of play-Euros which we had made – so they had to listen to carefully when the Boulanger told them the final price to ensure they handed over the correct amount. The boulanger then wished them on their way with a 'Bonne Journée'!

Several members of staff came to visit the shop and were very impressed with the students' growing confidence at speaking a foreign language – and of course, with the array of fine bakery items that seemed to have miraculously all gone by break time!



Key Stage 5 Preparing for Adulthood Trips

Students in Key Stage 5 have been developing their independence skills by travelling by different types of public transport. They have travelled by train to Maidstone and went bowling before buying their lunch out.

This term they have then travelled by bus to Bluewater and purchased a present for a friend or family member for Christmas. Going out on these trips present many challenges as students step outside their comfort zone and overcome their anxieties on their journey to becoming independent young adults. Well done



Work Experience.



As part of the Key Stage 5 Curriculum, students take part in a number of different work experience placements. They have shown increasing independence while out on their placements and it has been fantastic to hear positive feedback from members of the public while they have been working in places including McDonalds, Tesco and Holiday Inn. We also have a number of students who are helping to care for the environment and look after the animals at the community farm.



College Partnerships

These are some of the commendations that the Grange Park Partnership students have received so far this academic year. We would like to congratulate them all.

Also, a huge congratulations to the rest of the students who have settled in so well at College and are doing amazingly well in their chosen courses.

Oliver - *Great result in Century Diagnostic for GCSE English this week! Well done!*

Jamie - *A huge well done to Jamie for standing up in front of the class and presenting his homework on AI technology. Jamie was confident and had excellent presentation skills including his verbal communication and positive body language. This was amazing to see and I look forward to your next presentation*

Harrison - *Well done to Harrison for engaging in a class member's presentation on AI technology and asking some very interesting questions at the end, which promoted an excellent classroom discussion. Thank you for your contribution and I look forward to seeing more of this in class.*

Freddie - *Freddie created a quiz as part of his digital skills lesson. Freddie went above and beyond and completed two quizzes. I asked Freddie if we could do his quiz this afternoon. Freddie led the session by completing the both quizzes and helping other students who were struggling to log on. Freddie was able to show that his confidence is growing within the class. Well done Freddie.*

Ronnie - *Ronnie was excellent at the badminton event yesterday held at Medway Park. Multiple teachers from others schools approached myself and Amy to speak about his behaviour and professionalism. It seems he may have also gained himself some work experience from a few schools due to his commitment on the day. He also volunteered to help on Tuesday with the Level 2 Sport which was also excellent then.*

Transitioning from Grange Park at Wrotham to the College sites can be quite daunting, but our students have settled into College life really well. Although we are only in December, some of our students have already taken exams as part of their courses.

Alfie, who is on a Level 1 Professional Cookery course, has taken part in practical cooking tests, all of which he passed at Merit or Distinction.



William who progressed to Level 2 Motor Vehicle this year, has passed his service exam with a distinction. He has worked so hard revising and taking notes in all lessons, helping him to achieve this.

Charlotte has also progressed to Level 2 Motor Vehicle this year. Charlotte always works so hard at College and at home on her assignments and revision. She also passed her service exam gaining a Merit.

Rhone said: 'This year, I am on a Level 1 Hair & Beauty course at MKC Maidstone. Things I have learnt so far: the right way to wash and blow-dry hair, how to do a hot cross bun parting, how to use a hot rod to curl hair and I have also learnt to plait hair.

Last week I came second in a Christmas hair style competition.'



Jamie has been working with the Gillingham Street Angels Charity to help fill their boxes for the Christmas hamper appeal.

Lunchtime Clubs

There are a wide variety of lunch clubs each day for pupils across both sites.

We offer a number of sports clubs including Football with Mr Cleave and Basketball with Miss Malkin and Table Tennis with Mrs Morgan. Our therapy team run Detective Club as well as the boys and girls groups. Life Skills is always very popular, with pupils choosing each week what they would like to make for lunch.

There are also some calmer activities on offer, including some revision clubs, and IT club, choir and book club. We also have calm club on every day for those pupils who just want some quiet time at lunch.

Outreach for Families

Did you know that we offer a wide range of courses for our families? Our Therapy Team offer a variety of programmes throughout the year to help support parents in the learning journey.

Our next course is on Tuesday 9th January 2024, which is 'Using Visual Supports at Home'. Visuals supports can help in a range of different areas, including: providing structure and routine: supporting with transitions: motivation: making choices: developing independence: emotional regulation: verbal understanding and expression: interaction and social understanding.

We have a new course which is run alongside the National Autistic Society called Teen Life. This is a six-session programme aimed at parents of autistic young people aged 10 - 16 and will cover topics including stress and anxiety, puberty and independence and understanding autism in teenagers. This can also be booked via the Eventbrite page.

Our final course this year is Girls & Autism, which is on Tuesday 7th May 2024. This course is suitable for parents/carers, family members and friends of girls or women with social communication difficulties, on the pathway or with a diagnosis of autism. Autistic girls often demonstrate less traditionally obvious traits of autism or may mask their difficulties, and are therefore often misdiagnosed or diagnosed later than boys are.

All of our courses are available to book via our Eventbrite page, and places are limited, so booking is essential. If you have any questions, please feel free to email the Therapy Team at outreach@grangepark.kent.sch.uk.



eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/grange-park-school-40507409803>

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.

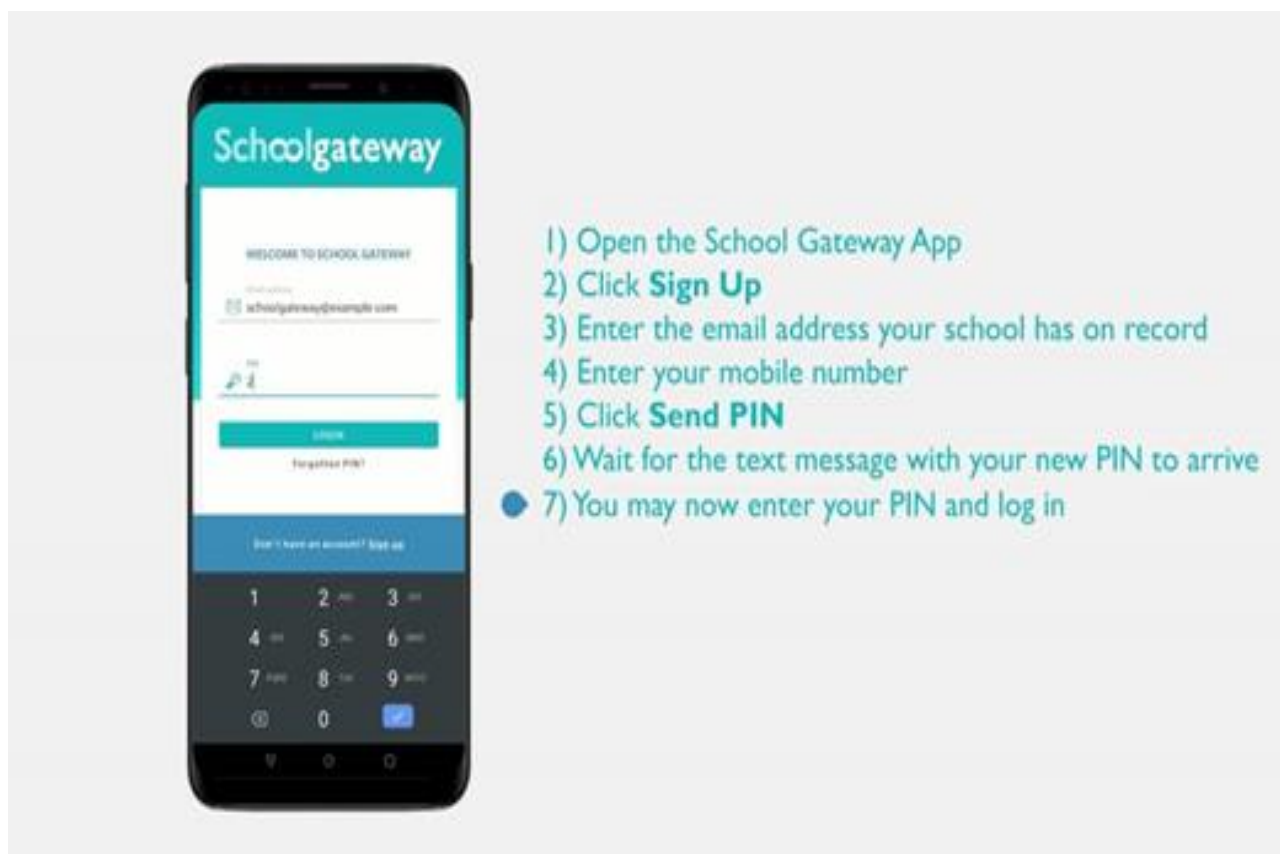


Thank you to all those who are booking school meals daily. The menus for the new term are uploaded before the end of term, and you can book dinners for a single day, a week, or the term if you prefer. If your child will be having a school dinner, please ensure that you are making their booking by 9.00am 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.

In addition to school dinners, the School Gateway app is used to book and pay for trips and visits, and also to provide consent for a number of events that we run throughout the year.

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.



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. If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up or early arrival of your child at home, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the College. If your child travels by taxi, then we will inform you that the college will be closing early to ensure you are fully aware that your child will be arriving home early. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2023-2024

GRANGE PARK SCHOOL **SCHOOL YEAR 2023/2024**

TERM 1 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Friday 1 st September 2023
END OF TERM 1:	Friday 20 th October 2023

TERM 2 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 6 th November 2023
END OF TERM 2:	Wednesday 20 th December 2023

TERM 3 - 2024

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024
END OF TERM 3:	Friday 9 th February 2024

TERM 4 - 2024

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 19 th February 2024
END OF TERM 4:	Thursday 28 th March 2024

TERM 5 - 2024

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 15 th April 2024
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 6 th May 2024
END OF TERM 5:	Friday 24 th May 2024

TERM 6 - 2024

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 3 rd June 2024
END OF TERM 6:	Friday 19 th July 2024



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