

Headteacher's Letter



EASTER NEWSLETTER

We end the term able to celebrate the decision made by KCC to pause their action to change the designation of Special Schools. This is something I have been actively working and supporting for the last two years. It has been a rollercoaster and has led to so much uncertainty, but I am grateful to the Governors for their continued support and the staff for believing that we could win and show the difference we made. Ultimately however, it was our parents, their commitment, passion and fight that led us to this decision. I appreciate that KCC needs to review and possibly reform, and I am keen to work in partnership with officers for the best interests of the children. Thank you to all who have offered support or sent words of gratitude and support. This has meant more than you will ever know. The accountability and wanting what is best for our school has at times been tough.

After 29 years service at Grange Park, Jane Harrison will retire. Jane will be greatly missed as she has been a dedicated and committed member of staff working at Leybourne before the Wrotham build, and more recently the Maidstone College site. I know that this has been difficult for Jane as she is Grange Park to the core, and she will be greatly missed. Jane has agreed to join the college staff in collecting an award at the Kent Teaching Awards. We know they have won but will not find out until the evening of May 9th what they have won. I am so proud that their hard work and dedication has been recognised.

Since our last newsletter, we have had Challenge Partners come into the school and they conducted a whole school review. Three Special School senior leaders from outside Kent spent three days with us reviewing every aspect of our school. Their feedback was amazing and the lead advisor left saying that we must keep up the fight for our pupils, as what we have is so special. Their report can be found on our school website.

This week, The Education People came and reviewed our work with reading and phonics. This was an opportunity to share all of our work in this area and the impact we have on the children. Having been in post since 2007, she summed up her day by calling our practice outstanding with no areas for development, the first time she has ever not identified an area of improvement she told us! She felt the work of the school should be showcased across Kent.

Miss Underhill and I have been busy writing the timetable for next year to ensure that the children are prepared and have all the information they need. Year 9 options are progressing well, and it looks like all first-choice options will run. As we approach the exam season, Key Stage 4 pupils are already busy attending extra revision sessions and I know many will be in school over the Easter break to take advantage of these sessions. The children sitting exams have coped really well to the adaptations required for public examination and Year 10 particularly benefitted from two sets of mock examinations. Thanks to all the parents and carers who have supported this and those who have been available to pick up after revision.

We had a guest speaker in school who has published books on autism and has spoken to the NAS and schools such as Harrow. Pete Wharmby visited us in February, and was inspirational. Pupil feedback was particularly positive, and his sessions are featured in the newsletter. This has certainly been a busy term and we look forward to an action-packed summer term with lots of learning opportunities and our end of year residential to Disneyland Paris.

I do hope that with less time being demanded by the Special School Review, I am able to spend more time with families. It was so lovely to chat to those who were able to attend the Mother's Day Tea event hosted by the Key Stage 5 pupils.

Thank you for being a lovely community of parents and carers, for trusting and working with us for the best outcomes of the children. I hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday the 22nd of April.

Best wishes,

Miss Renukah Atwell

Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

Term 5: After school revision (weekly)

Thursday 24th April: Year 9 - 11 Vaccinations

Tuesday 29th April: Year 6 to 7 - Meet the Teacher Tour

Friday 9th May: Year 5 & 6 Canterbury Cathedral Trip

Monday 12th May: Year 6 SATs week

Monday 12th May Onwards: GCSE Exams

Wednesday 21st May: Year 7 Coffee Morning

Message from the Co-Chair of Governors

Blue skies, sunshine and a rather chilly wind are the order of the day as I write this piece for our Easter Newsletter – I just hope the sunshine stays with us for more than a few days! My “theme” is that of thankfulness that our school is blessed with so many supporters underlined by the number of you who stepped forward when asked by Miss Atwell for “volunteers” to put their names to a judicial review with regard to KCC’s proposals of SEND provision in the County and their wish to change Grange Park’s designation and that of six other special schools.



This pre action letter was issued to KCC in February and a few days ago we received formal confirmation from KCC’s legal representative that the planned redesignation of the seven special schools is halted and the process will start again. Currently, due to elections, County is in a state of ‘purdah’ and nothing further will happen until after the elections on 1 May. Please be assured we will continue to keep our collective foot firmly on the pedal.

The governors and Senior Leadership Team have been looking at premises to house KS5 pupils (Post 16) as part of our college experience. We have no space on our current site but have found a building that could well suit our purpose and are currently awaiting a surveyor’s report as well as whether or not planning permission will be granted for change of use.

With regard to governor vacancies, Miss Atwell and I have interviewed two potential governors, one of whom is to observe a meeting during Term 5 before making his mind up as to whether or not school governorship is for him.

As many of you might know, very sadly my Co-Chairman, Matthew Balfour, died on the last day of Term 2. Matthew’s death was quite unexpected, he had been a governor of the school for around 20 years, Chairman of Governors for 5 years before coming back as Co-Chairman a couple of years ago. I have known and worked with Matthew for more years than I care to remember. He was loyal, knowledgeable, proud of the school and its achievements and promoted it wherever he went. He was a Grange Park man to his core and I miss his insight and his sometimes outrageous sense of humour enormously. I am thankful to have known him. In the meantime, I am pleased to say that Jon Regan has volunteered to be Vice-Chairman rather than Co-Chairman for the time being.

I wish everyone a good Easter 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
Co-Chair of Governors

Stansted

Year 5 & 6 AI Workshop

At the start of Term 3, Willow and Oak Class took part in a computing workshop, focusing on the developing world of AI.

Pupils began their session learning about the basics of programming AI and inputting their own working data into an established AI system. Pupils then moved on to using a program which we have used before; Scratch, allowing them to further their understanding of the program and its workings. The pupils compared differences between rule-based and data-driven algorithms.

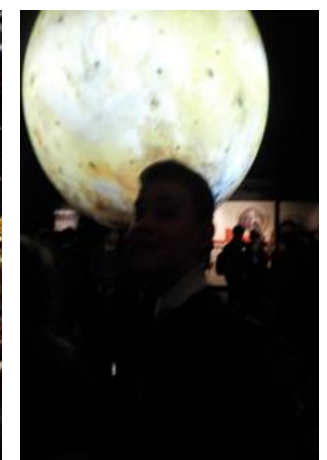
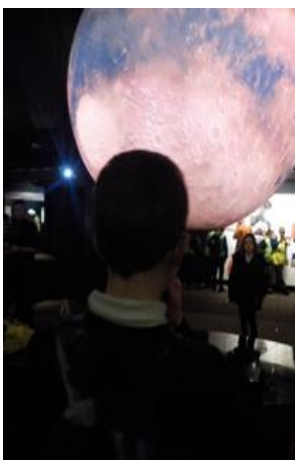
To finish their workshops, pupils explored the ethics behind AI and how to use AI responsibly, linking their discussions to careers.



Science Museum Trip

We travelled by train and tube to reach our destination; with compliments from members of the public on the exceptional behaviour of the pupils. The classes showed great respect and responsibility, acting safely at all times.

The London Science Museum is a fantastic place for pupils to experience science in a hands-on way, and our trip was no exception. Our pupils were able to explore various galleries, from the wonders of space to the exciting world of robotics, all while connecting what they've been learning in the classroom to real-world scientific advancements.



We continued to explore the rest of the museum; our next stop was "Making the Modern World." We browsed through the exhibitions, looking at old style sewing machines and linking this to our DT; where we had been sewing our own waistcoats; and taking in the vast site of the V2 Rocket! We continued our exploration up to the Flight section, which showcases the evolution of aviation and its significant contributions to space exploration.



Well done to all the pupils on their polite manners, resilience and phenomenal behaviour while out on the trip, even with all the walking between places!

And of course we had to stop for a group photo!



Cricket Event – Year 7 and 8

We travelled over to the Polo Farm Sports Centre in Canterbury for a day of cricket, where the pupils completed a circuit of different cricket-based activities run by the Sports students of Mid-Kent College.



They took part in a mixture of bowling, batting and teamwork activities ending in a modified game of Kwik Cricket. The pupils all did brilliantly and were complimented on their behaviour and perseverance with the activities. Well done to all those who took part.



Rochester Cathedral

As part of the RE and Science curriculum, we visited Rochester Cathedral for their art instalment, entitled "War and Peace", by Luke Jerram, who also created the piece "Moon & Gaia". The installation is a fusion of imagery from Mars and includes lights and specially-composed music with surround sound.

Once the pupils had observed the instalment, they took part in a small workshop based around the planets, linking with our Term 3 Science topic. The pupils wowed us all with their knowledge on the planets and solar system and the whole trip widened their knowledge even further.



We then took part in a scavenger hunt to find the hidden planets that were scattered around the cathedral, in order to reveal letters that we rearranged to spell out a special word. The pupils worked together brilliantly, taking in the beautiful surroundings throughout the day.

And of course, we can't forget our lovely visit to the Café in the Crypt, where the pupils were complimented on their exceptional behaviour by members of the public and the staff in the café. The pupils enjoyed a peaceful moment; with some yummy drinks and cake, to round off their visit.



Visit from KCC Road Safety.

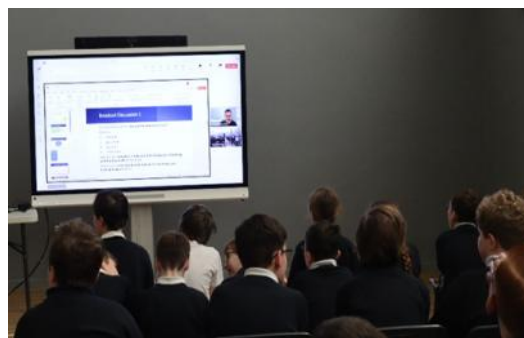
Grange Park welcomed Emma and Claire from the KCC Road Safety Team on Thursday 13th March.

Both Year 9 and Year 7 were involved with an interactive workshop covering pupils' safety when traveling around the roads, including the danger of distractions like using mobile phones and walking around engrossed in conversations with friends. The pupils answered very thoughtfully and learnt a lot from the sessions.



Children's Mental Health Week

Grange Park welcomed two speakers to discuss Mental Health with Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and 5.



Pupils enjoyed learning about emotional literacy and how best to manage emotions to help with good mental health.

Red Nose Day



This year we raised money for Red Nose Day with our Krispy Kreme doughnut sale. Pupils raised a staggering £455 for the charity, and enjoyed the feast of tasty delights!



Don't forget to follow the school on social media to get regular updates of what the pupils have been up to!



@GrangePark_Kent

World Book Day

Vibrant costumes and imaginative illustration were the themes of this year's World Book Day festivities.

All pupils enjoyed a presentation from acclaimed illustrator Joe McLaren, known for his work with Terry Pratchett, Tom Cox and - pupil favourite - Minecraft. Afterwards there was a hotly-contested book cover illustration challenge, which was won by Leo from Year 8 for his creative, modern take on Romeo & Juliet.

In the afternoon, pupils from Key Stage 2 and 3 were taken to Waterstones at Bluewater to spend their World Book Day tokens. It was also an excellent opportunity for them to explore the range of titles in store and discover new genres and writers.

The impressive range of book-themed outfits made choosing this year's costumes a real challenge. After a close-run pupil vote, the following were presented with a gold coin to pick the title of their choice from our book vending machines.



Ski Trip

On the 1st March, we had the privilege of taking 14 students and 4 staff to Italy. We departed from Grange Park at Wrotham on Saturday the 1st and arrived in the Aosta region of Italy on the afternoon of Sunday the 2nd.

Our days were filled with Ski School where our students conquered new challenges and fears. From walking in ski boots to entering and exiting ski lifts we all succeeded. We thrived throughout the week managing changes and experiencing new sensory difficulties. Ski school ensured that we could perfect our balance, speed and control, meaning that without exception we could all ski down the mountain by day 5. In addition to our busy days skiing during the evenings we took part in Après Ski activities such as a disco, bowling and a pizza night.

Unfortunately, a minor accident occurred on day 2 where a student broke their wrist. They were offered to stay and partake in alternative activities but they decided to fly home.

On Day 5, the week ended with a presentation where we celebrated everyone's achievements with hot chocolate, certificates and badges.

We arrived back at Grange Park Wrotham on Saturday the 8th March with 13 exhausted students and 4 worn out staff. I think its safe to say we all had an exceptional time and it was a pleasure to take such well-mannered, well-behaved students on a trip of a lifetime.

'Earlier this month we went on a ski trip to Italy. I have never done skiing, but the experience was amazing. After taking a couple of days to be taught the basics, my group was taken higher up into the mountains, this was probably my favourite part because of how breath-taking the views were and the scenery of the Alps that were covered in snow. We were then allowed to ski down the mountain through the trees, which was great fun, with all the falling over and crashing into people, adding to the fun experience.' Robert, Year 11



Careers

Spotlight on Careers

At Grange Park school, preparing our pupils for life beyond education is an essential part of our curriculum and underpins a lot of what we do. Our students are given a rich variety of opportunities to explore a range of different jobs and careers and the chance to learn about a wide range of routes into various vocations.

Careers 360

Six of our Year 11 pupils took part in a Careers 360 event at Rowhill School. At this event they met and were interviewed by different people from local businesses. In total they were interviewed 14 times by the different employers. The companies that were there included; MPS Housing Maintenance and Repairs, Migrant Help UK, Painters Box Tattoo and Piercing, Morgan Sindall Construction and the Heart of Kent Hospice Social Care Team.

Although our pupils were a little shy to begin with, by the end of the event, they had become more confident in speaking and communicating. The pupils gained so much from this event by finding out about different types of jobs, how to find them and a little about what they might enjoy doing in the future.

The main thing that they came away with was the experience of speaking in an interview and they all said that it got easier the more people they spoke to. A massive well done to these pupils, they were a credit to our school and we are so proud of them.



Apprenticeship Fair

Our Year 9 pupils had their first experience of a Careers Fair when attending an event organised by a group of local MPs for Kent, held at Mote Park. Whilst there were many nervous faces, we are incredibly proud of the resilience and increasing confidence the pupils showed when speaking to the many stall holders around the fair whilst also enjoying collecting a number of free pens and a few lovely sweets!



Wrotham Careers Fair

Our pupils attended Wrotham Careers Fair on 26h February, which was another great opportunity for the pupils to meet a range of different employers and providers including apprenticeships, colleges and universities. Students showed great courage and confidence when talking to the stall holders about how their option subjects link to their career aspirations.

NHS Spotlight on Careers

As part of our Careers week events, pupils in Year 9 and 11 took part in a virtual work experience where they got to hear about a range of careers in the NHS that are outside of the expected jobs, the students found it insightful to understand that working for a huge company like the NHS can encompass a wider range of skills.



Education People – Year 10 workshops

Students in Year 10 have been working with Ed Panting for the Education People to develop their Career knowledge and understanding whilst learning about Labour Market Intelligence, CV Writing and Interview skills. The students have all engaged really well in the workshops and are starting to have mature conversations about their aspirations for the future.

PAL Live event!

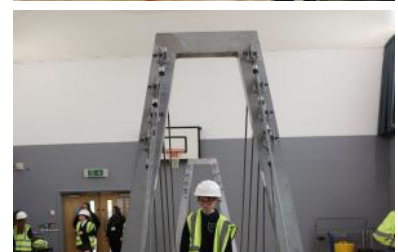


Kent and Medway Careers Hub held a PAL Live event this year on 11th February. This was an opportunity for pupils to meet with a range of different local providers from across Kent including Mid Kent College, ABM Training, Lower Thames Crossing, North Kent College and IPS International to find out more about opportunities and courses and ask questions about individuals real life experiences of doing the courses offered in our local area. Pupils were all really engaged with the sessions and were able to ask some insightful questions.

Rochester Bridge Trust

Pupils had the opportunity to experience the world of engineering and construction first hand with a visit from the Rochester Bridge Trust last week.

They got to take on the roles of Project Managers, Health & Safety Advisors, Engineers and Builders, and constructed a fully functioning bridge by the end of their session. This was a fantastic opportunity, which the pupils absolutely relished.



Poetry Live!

Poetry leapt off the pages of the GCSE text books this term as pupils in Year 10 travelled to London to hear the lines being brought to life by the poets themselves. The Poetry Live! event was an incredible opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in the poems they had been studying over the last year. It featured guest appearances from both the current and previous Poet Laureate - Simon Armitage and Carol Ann Duffy, who not only read their poems but talked about the inspiration behind their writing. Armitage discussed the background to his poem *Remains*, about an ex-soldier who suffers from PTSD, while Duffy discussed her poem, *War Photographer*, which debates the intrusive role of the press in documenting war. Both these are poems we have studied in depth.

gcse poetry
live!

Other poets at the special event, aimed at students about to sit their GCSE English Literature exams, included Imtiaz Dharker - famous for her poem *Tissue*, which addresses the fragility of identity - and John Agard, who gave a fantastic performance of his poem, *Checkin' Out Me History*, which questions the influence of colonialism on education. Grace Nichols - famous for her *Fat Black Woman's Poems* - was also a joy to listen to. Listening to the poets themselves read their words really helped to enhance the pupils' understanding of the set poems and of poetry in general.



Simon Armitage



John Agard

Pupils were also given a special insight into the mark scheme by a couple of focused talks from examiners who gave specific advice on strategies to use in the GCSE poetry section of the upcoming exam.

Our group caught the train from Borough Green station to Charing Cross, where we navigated The Strand to make our way to The Lyceum, normally home to *The Lion King*. Our seats were way up high in the Grand Circle but the endless flights of stairs to the top did not seem to faze Grange Park pupils, who raced up them with no fear - unlike some members of staff who were a bit worse for wear by the final step!



It was an all-day event and we even ate our packed lunch in our tip-up theatre our seats - there is a first time for everything! Only the few were brave enough to ask the price of refreshments at the theatre kiosk, however!

The whole day was an invaluable experience for our pupils and helped to consolidate their learning of the poems in the GCSE Power and Conflict anthology, which also includes works from earlier poets such as Lord Alfred Tennyson, William Blake, Percy Shelley, William Wordsworth and Wilfred Owen.

The pupils were a real credit to Grange Park, showing exemplary behaviour both in a very busy theatre full of many other schools, and on the train journey both to and from London.



Carol Ann Duffy



Life Skills

This term for Life Skills has been incredibly varied. Pupils have been shopping for plants at the local garden centre and then they have planted them in the raised beds at the entrance of the school, as well as carrying out ground maintenance to keep our wonderful environment clean and tidy.

Pupils have played an important part in helping to make decorations for Red Nose Day and also for the Mother's Day afternoon tea. They have also spent some time looking at other cultures, and took a real interest in Chinese New Year.



The Year 11 pupils have also been undertaking some First Aid training which is an incredibly important and useful skill to learn.



Animal Care

It has been a very busy term at the farm for the Animal Care pupils.

They have diligently been erecting new fence posts to keep the animals safe and secure, and have also helped move the sheep from one field to another. This was not the easiest of tasks, as they kept running off (the sheep, not the pupils!), but some excellent teamwork got them all back in one piece.

The farm really appreciate all of the hard work that the pupils do, and we are incredibly proud of all of their achievements and the tenacity and dedication that they put in each week.



Art

KS3 Art

Year 7&8 have started a project based on the theme of buildings and architecture. Pupils have been busy learning to draw using one and two point perspective, and thinking about using scale to place objects in their drawings. We have explored different styles of architecture from a global perspective and had discussions about our favourite buildings, and why we like them!

Pupils are now focusing on designing and creating fantasy and surreal rooms inspired by the Surrealist art movement. We have looked at the artwork of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte, Leonora Carrington and Dorothea Tanning.



Year 7 have been learning the drawing rules for one and two point perspective drawing.



Year 8 have been creating fantasy 3D rooms.

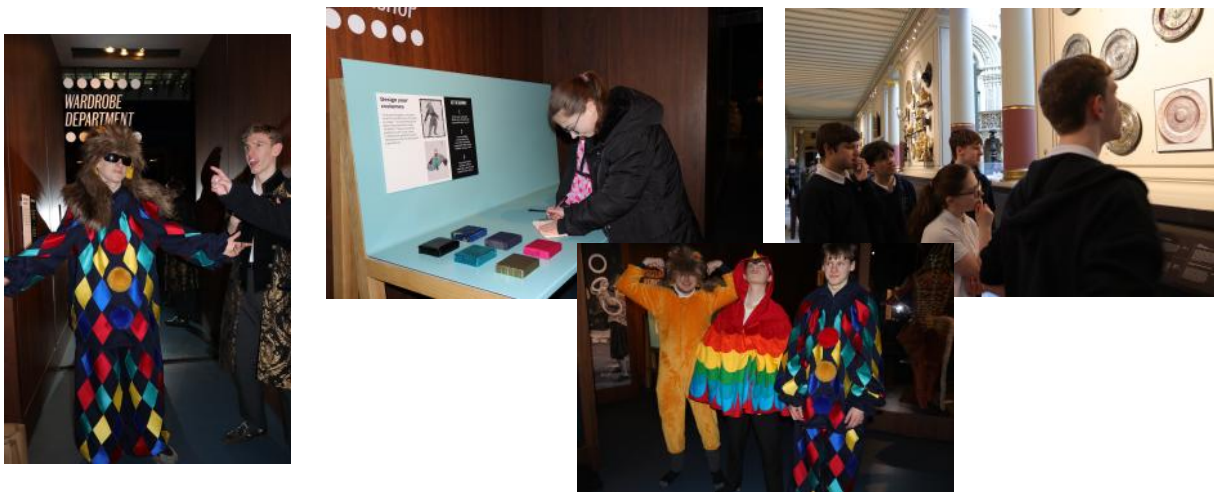


Year 9 are continuing their project focused on the Benin Bronzes. They have created African masks and plaques using a variety of mixed media. They are now focusing on the work of Picasso and are creating abstract 3D artworks.

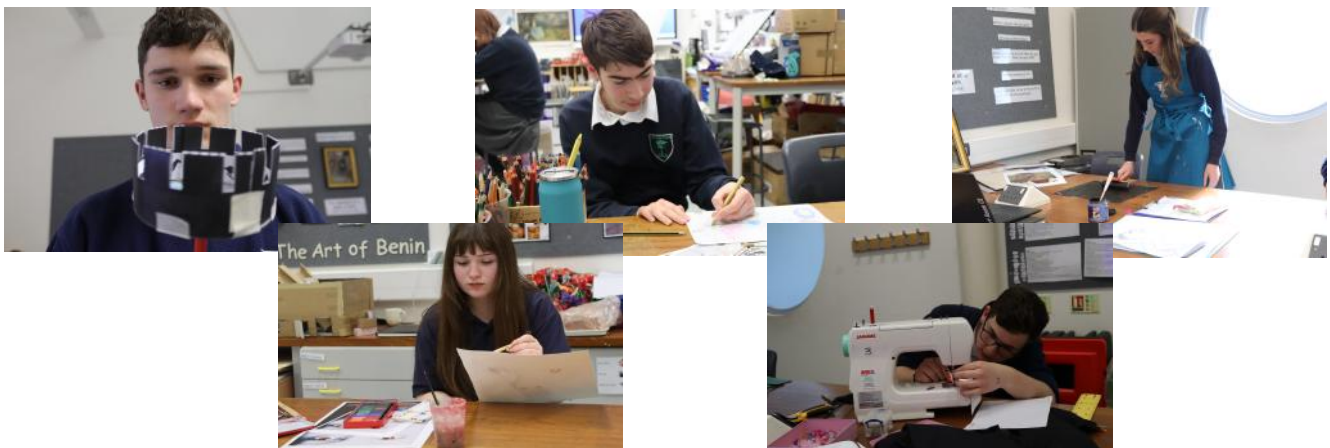


KS4 Art

Year 10 took part in a visit to the V&A museum where they toured the cast galleries and took part in a workshop to create a clay sculpture. They really enjoyed visiting the museum and exploring the artefacts on display. They particularly enjoyed the exhibition about theatre and had fun dressing up in an array of costumes.

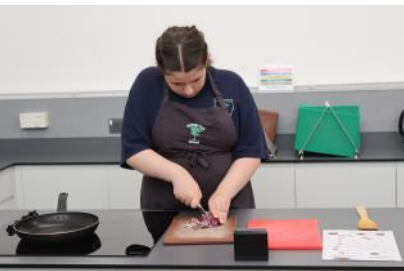
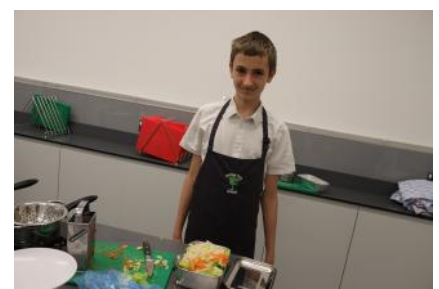


Year 11 have been busy working on their exam set task projects. Titles include Movies, Dining Rooms and Music.



Cookery

KS3 have continued to be busy in their cookery lessons, and have been refining their skills and building their confidence using the ovens and hobs. They have been experimenting with a range of cooking techniques such as chopping and slicing, mixing, weighing and measuring, combining, baking, frying and grilling!



Science Week

This year, pupils have taken part in a variety of exciting workshops to celebrate Science Week.

The week started with VR sessions, where pupils got to explore space and the solar system. The headsets took them across the galaxy and to the furthest depths of space.



Later in the week, pupils then got to enter the world of forensic science. After an introduction to DNA and finger prints, pupils were let loose on a crime scene, and were tasked with finding the thief by gathering clues and matching all the evidence to their suspects. We definitely have some budding CSI's in the making.



Today was a blast!! It felt so nice and so reassuring to do forensic science again. The problem solving and constant clues was like something out of a crime book and I hope to do this again!' Matthew, KS5

The week was packed with other activities built into science lessons, and pupils looked at how plants adapt to their surroundings, especially in sunny and shady positions, and also how pressure can cause items to react. Mrs Taylor took pupils out to launch water filled rockets to see the science in action!



Challenger Troop

Harrison from Year 8 and Mrs Robbins took part in the Great Tommy Sleepout on Wednesday 19th March. They raised well over £250 for the Royal British Legion, and for homeless veterans, together with other young people, who like Harrison, regularly take part in the Challenger Troop programme.

After a dinner of pasta cooked on the open fire, there were several challenges including leading your partner in the pitch dark, and also some rope work. There was also an exercise to sneak up on enemy trucks without being seen.

The evening was finished off with a hot chocolate around the campfire, before spending the night underneath the stars.

A huge well done to both Harrison and Mrs Robbins for their efforts - we are incredibly proud of you both!



Three of our pupils visit Challenger Troop for one day a week. Challenger Troop, through a combination of challenging personal development activities in a disciplined outdoor environment ensure that all young people progress and achieve in activities which they otherwise might not have experienced.



Using teamwork and leadership activities, together with mentoring of others and a good deal of personal progression, students can work towards a number of nationally recognised accredited qualifications, while enhancing their life skills through the overall Challenger Troop experience.

Pupils finished their 12 week programme this week, and rounded it off with an awards ceremony celebrating all of their achievements, which included trophies for 'Best Fitness' and 'Best Student'. What an amazing way to end the course.



Horniman Museum

Early in the term, students in Key Stage 3 had the pleasure of visiting the Horniman Museum and Gardens in South London.

There was a wide variety of things to see and do, so something for everyone. The pupils' particular highlights were the butterfly house, where one or two students were lucky enough to have a butterfly land on them (although my photography skills were not quite up to standard to capture the moment – sorry Tom!)



The pupils also enjoyed the various interactive elements of the museum including the underground Aquarium, musical garden and World Gallery. There was so much to see and do that many of the children completed their A to Z challenge, such is the variety of artefacts to be found.



Neurodiversity Week

This term, we marked neurodiversity celebration week with a visit from Pete Wharmby.



After being diagnosed as autistic at the age of 34 in 2017, Pete immersed himself in working to improve autistic awareness, acceptance and making the world a more suitable place for the neurodivergent community. Pete spoke to our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils about his own experiences of developing a positive autistic identity and helping young people to develop theirs. He shared his experiences of being an undiagnosed autistic teenager, secondary school teacher and most recently author. Pupils enjoyed sharing their own experiences, particularly in relation to their sensory preferences and communication styles. Here's what some of our pupils had to say about the event:

"It was so good"

"Thank you for helping me understand my autism and now I know why I do some stuff non-autistic people don't"

"Thanks...I have got more confident".

"Thank you Pete, you really helped me"

I enjoyed....

"The stories you told"

"The discussions"

"When we got to ask some questions"

One thing I learnt was...

"To be yourself and don't feel left out"

"That autism affects everyone in different ways"



Pete then spent a twilight session with all staff, helping us to further develop our neuroaffirmative approach to support pupils to embrace their autism and celebrate differences.

Thank you Pete for a truly inspirational day!



Tate Modern Gallery

Pupils in Key Stage 3 embarked on a journey to London on a cold January morning to visit the Tate Modern Gallery.

The pupils were in awe of the huge new structure being built in the foyer as we arrived before being engaged, surprised and often amused by the wider variety of art work on display around the huge gallery. They also had the opportunity to be part of the Art by adding to the wonderful 'Create' wall located in the gift shop.

We were incredibly impressed by the pupils' maturity when exploring the galleries and their independence skills when travelling on the train to London. Another highlight of the trip was the lovely walk along the River Thames passing the famous Shakespearean Globe Theatre.



School Council

Our school council continue to be active in ensuring pupil voice is heard and incorporated into school decisions. The class reps have done a fantastic job this term in gathering feedback from their classmates and sharing this during school council meetings.

Pupils have maturely discussed their suggestions, offering feedback and advice to each other and presenting this to senior leaders. They have then taken the responsibility of sharing the feedback and decisions made with their form groups.

This term, school council led the decision to have an own clothes day to help us raise money for Red Nose Day, ordered new games for Key Stage 5 and games club at Stansted, chosen new playground equipment and suggested new lunch clubs.



Year 7 Trip to the Neasden Mandir

Year 7 spent a very sunny day at the Hindu Mandir in Neasden. The pupils were in awe of the wonderful architecture and amazing surroundings as they encountered a traditional arti ceremony and a walk around the magnificent building. They also learnt how the structure was built and had an opportunity to ask questions and buy a little something from the gift shop. Pupils then enjoyed a picnic lunch in the park before the journey back to school. The pupils were impeccably behaved and were a credit to our school.



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

This term we invited mums, grandmothers, aunts and carers to join us for afternoon tea to celebrate Mother's Day.

Our Key Stage 5 pupils served tea and coffee and scones with clotted cream and jam were all boxed up and ready for our guests. Our floristry pupils also created some beautiful table decorations, to really welcome in the Spring.

It was lovely to welcome so many of our pupils' special people to the school, and we hope you all had a wonderful Mother's Day.



College Taster Days

Our Year 11 pupils got the opportunity to visit our sites at MidKent College this term to experience some of the courses that they will be on next year, as well as to get a flavour of what college life is really like.

Pupils got the opportunity to spend some time in the professional kitchen and in the art department, and got a real understanding of what their courses next year will entail. The taster sessions are an important stepping stone to prepare the pupils for their transition next year to Post 16 pathways.



Year 9 Options Taster Week

Year 9 pupils had the opportunity this term to enjoy many of the new subjects that are available for their option choices next year.

The week is always incredibly varied and pupils went off site to Rowhill to have sessions in both motor mechanics and construction, which they thoroughly enjoyed, along with other courses including Sport, Floristry, Business Studies and Photography.

Options week allows pupils the chance to think about their options for Year 10 and 11, and helps them make informed choices about the routes that they would like to take moving forward.



Summer Exams

The summer GCSE exams start in May and run through until Monday 16th June. Year 6 SATs run from Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May 2025.

Monday 12th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE English Literature (paper 1)
Wednesday 14th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE Geography (paper 1)
Thursday 15th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE Maths (paper 1)
Friday 16th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE History (paper 1)
Monday 19th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE Chemistry (paper 1)
Tuesday 20th May 2025 (morning)	GCSE English Literature (paper 2)
Thursday 22nd May 2025 (morning)	GCSE Physics (paper 1)
Friday 23rd May 2025 (morning)	GCSE English Language (paper 1)
Monday 2nd June 2025 (morning)	GCSE Stats (paper 1)
Wednesday 4th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE Maths (paper 2)
Thursday 5th June 2025 (afternoon)	GCSE History (paper 2)
Friday 6th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE English Language (paper 2)
Friday 6th June 2025 (afternoon)	GCSE Geography (paper 2)
Tuesday 10th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE History (paper 3)
Wednesday 11th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE Maths (paper 3)
Thursday 12th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE Geography (paper 3)
Friday 13th June 2025 (morning)	GCSE Chemistry (paper 2)
Friday 13th June 2025 (afternoon)	GCSE Stats (paper 2)
Monday 16th 2025 (morning)	GCSE Physics (paper 2)



Arbor - A Guide for Parents and Carers

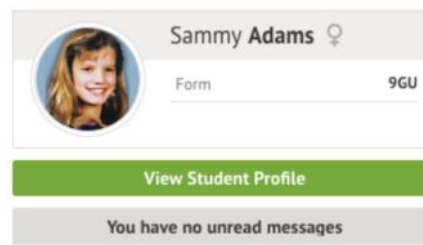
At Grange Park, we use Arbor as our parent portal, here are a few hints and tips to get the most out of the Arbor App.

Your Homepage Dashboard

The dashboard is the first screen that you will see. This gives a quick glance of the student's daily timetable, behaviour points, meals, notices, current attendance and progress.

You can see your in-app messages by clicking this button under your child's photo.

You can return to this page at any time by clicking on the school's logo or choosing Dashboard from any menu. On the homepage you'll also see sections for:



- **Statistics** - This shows information about the student's attendance, behaviour and progress statistics for the current term.
- **Guardian consultations** - The Guardian Consultations section allows guardians to book time for Parents Evening meetings by selecting one of the available slots as per the School's setup.
- **Accounts** - The Accounts section loads the student's current Meals and other top-up account balances.
- **Trips** - Sign your child up for trips.
- **Clubs** - Sign up to revision sessions during the exam periods.
- **School Shop** - Make purchases for items.

Available data on your child

If your child's school has granted access, you will be able to click on different parts of the home page to view more data on your child.

For example, clicking the attendance percentage will bring up the attendance page which breaks down the attendance figures into present, late, or absent.



Once you've clicked on Attendance or another item, you will see a menu appear like so in the left-hand side of the page you are now on:

Statistics for Academic Year 2018/2019	
Possible sessions	404
Present	398 sessions (98.51%)
Late	12 sessions (3.02%)
Authorised absent	6 sessions (1.49%)
Unauthorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)

Recent Attendance (12 Jun 2019 - 19 Jun 2019)	
Present	9 sessions (100.00%)
Late	0 sessions (0.00%)
Authorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)
Unauthorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)

Access your child's profile by clicking the **View Student Profile** button on your homepage.

This allows you to see basic information about your child, and highlights any unread notices or actions needing to be completed. You will be able to amend details such as your contact details, medical information, consents, and so on.

We ask that all parental consents are up to date, so please do check if you have any outstanding.

Unicef Right of the Week

As you know, we are a Gold Rights Respecting School, and weekly we pick an Article to focus on which is shown in assembly, but also spoken about in form time on a Monday afternoon. These Articles are so valuable for the pupils to know and learn about to ensure they are aware of their rights and how these can be met.

We also discuss with the pupils what is happening in the news at the moment, and how children's rights are linked. And how they may not be being met. The Articles we have covered this term are:



Article 2: All children have these rights

Article 12: I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Article 14: I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion with my parents' guidance

Article 17: I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it is safe

Article 24: I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food

Article 27: I have the right to have a proper house, food and clothing

Article 29: I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment

Article 30: I have a right to speak my own language and to follow my family's way of life

Article 32: I should not be made to do dangerous work

Article 38: Protection from War

If you are interested in what the children's rights are they are all on our school website under: About Us,



Awards and Accreditations/UNICEF- Gold Rights Respecting School.

