

Spring Term, 2024-25, Edition 2

The Grange Gazette

Official Newsletter of The Grange School



Thoughts From The Headteachers Desk

The last half-term flew by and it is quite incredible that we are out of the Easter break already and into our final term. I have been reflecting that it is five years since we first entered a COVID lockdown, and our current Year 11 students arrived with us after lockdown without a face-to-face transition and being required to go through a process of COVID testing before starting their secondary school education. When you describe the situation it seems unreal, but that was the reality during the summer term of 2020.



Unfortunately, as there were no Key Stage 2 SATS taken during that summer their progress will not be recognised in school performance tables. However, in order to determine our starting points we were able to use Cognitive Ability Test (CATS) at the start of Year 7 to project future grades. I share this because our Year 11 cohort, assuming they keep on track, are expected to make good progress. It has been rewarding to be able to share this with students during recent meetings

Back to the present. I thoroughly enjoyed our schools' Dance Show and was very impressed with the quality of production during the performance. The talent on display was awesome and it was gratifying to see the performance enhanced by excellent production in lighting and music. We all thoroughly enjoyed having pupils from Turnfurlong Infant School, Turnfurlong Junior School, and Cuddington and Dinton Church of England School perform on stage as part of the show. Our young leaders did an excellent job in supporting their performance and I am sure gained a great deal from the experience.

This Issue:

Thoughts From The Headteachers Desk - Page 01 and 02

Year Group Updates - Page 03, 04, 05, 06 and 07

Stars of the Half Term - Page 08

Friends of The Grange School Update - Page 09

Year 10 Maths Feast - Page 10

Ski Trip - Page 11

British Science Week - Page 12

Music Department Update - Page 13, 14 and 15

Student Skipper Team Progress - Page 16, 17 and 18

Honeycomb Festival - Page 19

Student Shout-Outs! - Page 20



Our sport teams have experienced a good deal of success and as a former PE Teacher, I was both fortunate and immensely proud to be able to watch both our girls', and boys' Year 11 football teams represent The Grange in their respective county cup final held at Arbour Park, home of Slough Town. The girls came away with a victory and although the boys lost, they did themselves proud with a strong second half performance. I'm sure they will remember the experience for a long time to come and it is an achievement to reach the County Cup final in itself and fantastic to be celebrated as winners. They are strong competitors and reaching the final, and winning the final are not to be taken lightly.

Similarly, our Year 8 Girls Handball team were successful in the district round of the national competition and now travel to Bournemouth to take part in the regional event. I'm sure they will do us proud.

It was also a pleasure to take six of our Student Skippers to the Bucks Youth Summit held at The Waterside Theatre. There was good representation from schools across Bucks and our student were involved in the discussion groups. The summit itself is led by young people for young people, and they had organised facilitated discussion spaces on a number of topics: Life after School Space; Mental Health Space; Politics Space; Substance Space; Green Space; SEND Space; and the LGBTQ Space. Our students experienced the opportunity to share their views and Youth Voice Bucks did a great job in facilitating and leading the event.

Year 9 have been immersed in information and advice regarding their academic choices for Years 10 and 11. We try to ensure that they have the information necessary to make the best available choices for success in Years 10 and 11. They have embraced their workshops and presentations from different subjects and will by the time you have read this made their choices. There is a balance of subjects to choose from that meet the talents and ambitions of our students, as well as the market forces for our local area.

The first half-term of the Summer is five weeks long and will see our Year 11 and Year 13 students embark upon their final exams. We know it is a busy period for them and we will do everything possible to ensure that they are ready and that it is a well-managed process. Our examinations team are first class and extremely experienced in providing the necessary information and support to see everyone through to the other side.

As I write, the sun is shining and I hope that everyone can enjoy some down time at this time of year.

This Issue:

Parent Survey Responses -
Page 21 and 22

Dance Show - Page 23,
24,25 and 26

Young Carers Project - Page
27

Communication is Key - Page
28

A Note From the Attendance
Officer - Page 28

Every School Day Counts -
Page 29

Parent and Carer IT Support-
Page 30

Library Update - Page 31

First Aid Notices - Page 32

PE Department Round Up -
Page 33, 34 and 35

Catering at The Grange
School - Page 36

World Book Day - Page 37
and 38

Students and Staff Visit
Spain - Page 39, 40, 41, 42
and 43



Year Group Updates

Year 7 - Mr Walsh and Mr Khan

As another term passes filled with learning and engagement, we are eager to inform you of some of the highlights from our Year 7 cohort. This spring term was full of activities with our students showcasing their talents, creativity, and enthusiasm across various events.

Our students engaged in World Book Day celebrations immersing themselves in the literary world with a whole school read, quizzes and competitions. During culture Week we celebrated cultural heritage as evidenced by the education of traditions, performances, and celebrations from around the world. A large number of our Year 7 students took part in the lunchtime dance performance, impressing the audience with their energy and well-crafted routines. In addition, some students delivered powerful speeches, confidently expressing their thoughts on cultural identity and personal journeys. Culture Week served as a meaningful opportunity for students to explore and embrace diversity, promote intercultural connections, and honour the vibrant mosaic of our community and beyond.

Beyond these highlights, our Year 7 students have consistently shown resilience, creativity and an eagerness to take on new challenges throughout the term. Their commitment to learning and active involvement in extra-curricular activities has been truly admirable.

Looking forward to this term, we are eager to keep supporting and developing the talents and potential of our Year 7 students. With your ongoing support and encouragement, we're confident they will continue to flourish both academically and personally. Thank you for being a valued partner in your child's educational journey.

Year 8 Mr McKinley and Mrs Dimond

Year Group Achievements: A Celebration of Growth and Participation

The spring term has been an incredible journey of progress, creativity, and engagement for our year group. From excelling in sports to celebrating cultural diversity, students have demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm, and teamwork across various events. Here's a look at some of the standout achievements.

"Our Year 7 students have consistently shown resilience, creativity and an eagerness to take on new challenges throughout the term. Their commitment to learning and active involvement in extra-curricular activities has been truly admirable."





Dance Show: Our talented students took centre stage at the highly anticipated dance show, showcasing their passion and dedication through well-choreographed performances. With weeks of rigorous rehearsals and an unwavering spirit, they mesmerized the audience with their energy and creativity. The event was a testament to their hard work and artistic expression, earning them well-deserved applause and admiration.

Progress in Handball: The girls' handball team has also shown tremendous progress in the sport, with students honing their skills and refining their teamwork. Training sessions have fostered both technical ability and strategic thinking, leading to impressive performances in competitive matches. Their determination and perseverance continue to propel them forward, setting the stage for even greater success in future tournaments.

Supporting Culture Week: Embracing diversity and inclusivity, students actively participated in Culture Week, celebrating the rich tapestry of traditions and backgrounds within our school community. Through engaging activities, presentations, and performances, they helped foster an environment of respect and appreciation for different cultures. Their enthusiasm in sharing and learning about global traditions contributed to making Culture Week a memorable and enlightening experience for all.

Attending Science Week Curiosity and innovation took center stage during Science Week, where students eagerly engaged in hands-on experiments, workshops, and interactive discussions. Their participation in STEM-related activities demonstrated their passion for discovery and learning, reinforcing the importance of scientific inquiry. The experience not only deepened their understanding of science but also inspired many to explore potential careers in STEM fields.

As we move forward into a new term, there is a growing sense of optimism about improved attendance and better behaviour choices among students. Regular attendance is a key factor in academic success. When students attend school consistently, they benefit from structured learning, social interactions, and access to essential resources. Missing school can lead to gaps in learning, decreased confidence, and a disengagement. Beyond attendance, fostering good behaviour choices is crucial for a healthy and productive school environment. By providing clear expectations and consistent support, students are empowered to make better choices that contribute to their personal growth and the well-being of their peers. It is vitally important that our students select the correct choices so that not only is their education hindered but their peers are not impacted in the time and effort that it takes for the teacher to correct poor behaviour choices.

"The past term for Year 8 has been an incredible journey of progress, creativity, and engagement for our year group. From excelling in sports to celebrating cultural diversity, students have demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm, and teamwork across various events."



Year 9 - Mrs Mathieu

The past few weeks have been full of changes for Year 9.

The students attended workshops to choose their options, then on the 20 March it was options evening when many parents and carers came to get advice and ask questions about all the various options available. Finally every subject delivered an in lesson presentation to the students. It is so positive to see them engaged in their next steps choosing particular subjects either because they are passionate about them or many because they have a carer plan and have researched what are the most suitable options to select to achieve their goal.

At the end of March, many Year 9 students who are taking part in the Bronze award Duke of Edinburgh scheme, attended their First Aid training in school to get ready to step up and help their peers during their future group activities and outings.

As a Year Team Leader I have moved from my dear Year 11 students who are now in full revision mode with their exams fast approaching to the lovely Year 9 cohort. The group is very friendly, and I have already had plenty of enthusiastic and loud "yes miss!" in the corridors.

Our first assembly was on "accountability" to prepare them for their next steps as independent learners. "Working together" will be the golden thread linking all my effort to lead the group for the next two years. I hope everyone had a great Easter break and I look forward to the positives of this Summer Term.

Year 10 - Mr Black

It was a busy half-term for the Year 10s with a focus on the future. Students have been hard at working organising their work experience placements and had the opportunity to attend the Buckinghamshire Skills Show to have a look at some of the potential careers paths available. Looking forward the prefect applications are now open. This is a great opportunity for the student to have a significant input in the direct of their year group and the wider school.

Personally it's been great to meet the year group after becoming Year Team Leader in January and I have no doubt that the students can achieve great things through the remainder of Year 10 and 11.

"As a Year Team Leader I have moved from my dear Year 11 students who are now in full revision mode with their exams fast approaching to the lovely Year 9 cohort. The group is very friendly, and I have had already plenty of enthusiastic and loud "yes miss!" in the corridors."

***WORK HARD
-STAY-
HUMBLE***



Year 11- Miss Bellin

As we finish the Spring Term and enter our final term of the academic year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the hard work and achievements of our Year 11 students, while looking ahead to the exciting yet challenging months that lie ahead. The exam season is fast approaching, and it's time to focus on the final push toward GCSEs and other important assessments.

The exam season will be here before we know it. With that in mind, it's important to maintain focus over the next few weeks and ensure that revision is both effective and consistent. We are here to support you every step of the way, so make the most of your revision sessions, study periods, and teacher guidance.

In the Spring Term, we saw some incredible achievements on the sports field that deserve a special mention:

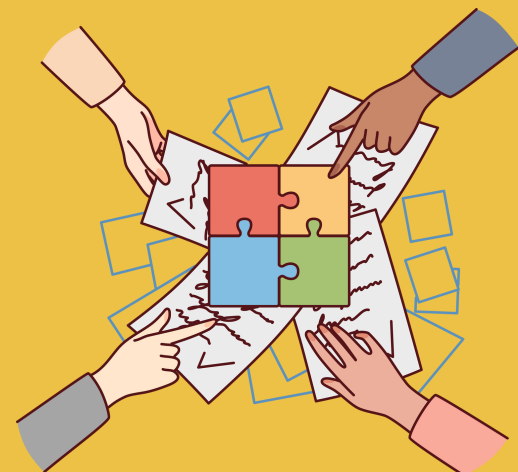
- Under 16 Girls – Congratulations to our Under 16 girls' football team for winning the County Cup! Your dedication, teamwork, and skill were on full display throughout the competition, and we're incredibly proud of your achievement.
- Under 16 Boys – Well done to our Under 16 boys' football team for making it through to the County Cup final! You showed incredible resilience in the second half, battling hard to secure your spot in the final.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, please take note of the following:

- We will have 3 normal school weeks to finish up lessons before entering the final stages of preparation for exams.
- From 9th May to 23rd May, students will have Flexible Independent Study Time, allowing you to focus on your revision and preparation in a more self-directed manner. There will be a timetable of lessons shared with you soon. It is up to you whether you come in for these lessons or not but as we discussed in assembly, please be honest with where you will work best.
- The Leavers Assembly will be held on 23 May, a special occasion to celebrate all you've achieved during your time here at school. There will be an opportunity to sign shirts, say goodbye to teachers and presentations from myself and your form tutors.

Don't forget, our Year 11 Prom will take place on 10 July. This is an event you won't want to miss, but please be reminded that the criteria cut off for attending is on 30 April. Make sure you meet the requirements to enjoy this memorable evening with your peers.

"The exam season will be here before we know it. With that in mind, it's important to maintain focus over the next few weeks and ensure that revision is both effective and consistent. We are here to support you every step of the way, so make the most of your revision sessions, study periods, and teacher guidance."





If you haven't yet ordered your Leavers Hoodie, make sure you do so through Chiltern Sports. These hoodies are a great way to mark the end of your time at school, and we encourage you to order yours soon.

I am extremely proud of all that Year 11 has accomplished so far this year, and I can't wait to see all of you rise to the challenges ahead. Let's finish strong, with focus, determination, and hard work for the final push towards your GCSE's and the end of some of your time at The Grange!

Sixth Form - Mrs Devanney

The final spring half-term was both busy and exciting in Sixth Form, offering fantastic opportunities for personal growth as well as academic development.

Some of the key initiatives included:

- National Apprenticeship Show - Our students had the eye-opening experience of attending this event, gaining valuable insight and inspiration for their future pathways.
- Student Finance Talk - Mrs Kittles organised an informative session for Year 13 students preparing for university, equipping them with essential budgeting and financial planning skills.
- Community Involvement - Our sixth formers have been actively contributing to the school community through various initiatives, including the dedicated Year 12 Careers Memo Team, work experience coordinators, and the Turnfurlong Reading Group, where students read to younger pupils each week. A credit to our school and local community - well done!
- EPQ - Our wonderful year 13 EPQ students presented their final product presentations and our new year 12 cohort have submitted their proposals! well done on taking on this valuable extra curricular opportunity!

As Year 13 students focus on their revision strategies, they have received valuable support from our learning practitioners, Mrs Buchanan and Ms Ghadia, along with helpful resources from the library.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students are now securing work experience placements for 7-11 July 2025. If you or someone you know can offer a placement, please contact Mrs Devanney by email - edevanney@grange.bucks.sch.uk

"This half-term has been both busy and exciting in Sixth Form, offering fantastic opportunities for personal growth as well as academic development."

Stay  focused

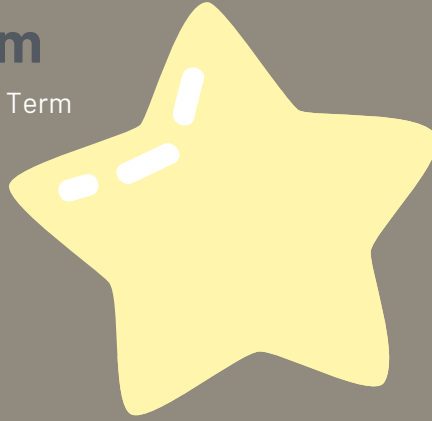
Star Of The Half-Term

The final week of assemblies of the Spring Term for students in Year 7 and 8 saw us announce our much awaited Stars of the Half-Term.

This impressive accolade is awarded to students who have really stood out throughout the half-term.

Our Form Tutors for each Form Group in Year 7 and 8 carefully select one student in their Form Group for the award and share their reasons why in assembly as they announce the deserving winners.

Our stars of the half term receive a certificate from Mr Murray, a special badge on Satchel One and a delicious bag of goodies! A huge well done to all of the stars for Autumn Term 2.



"This impressive accolade is awarded to students who have really stood out throughout the half-term."

Year 7

7D - Zulekha S
7I - Usman N
7S - Rio McB
7C - Katy B
7O - Daisy M
7V - Mona B-Z
7E - Gracie D-B
7R - Ray-Jenelle B

Year 8

8D - Rayaan R
8I - Elsie F
8S - Leo H
8C - Hafsa Z
8O - Eden S
8V - Nahal N
8E - Bethany H
8R - Evie C





Join Our Friendly Team!

Welcome



Welcome

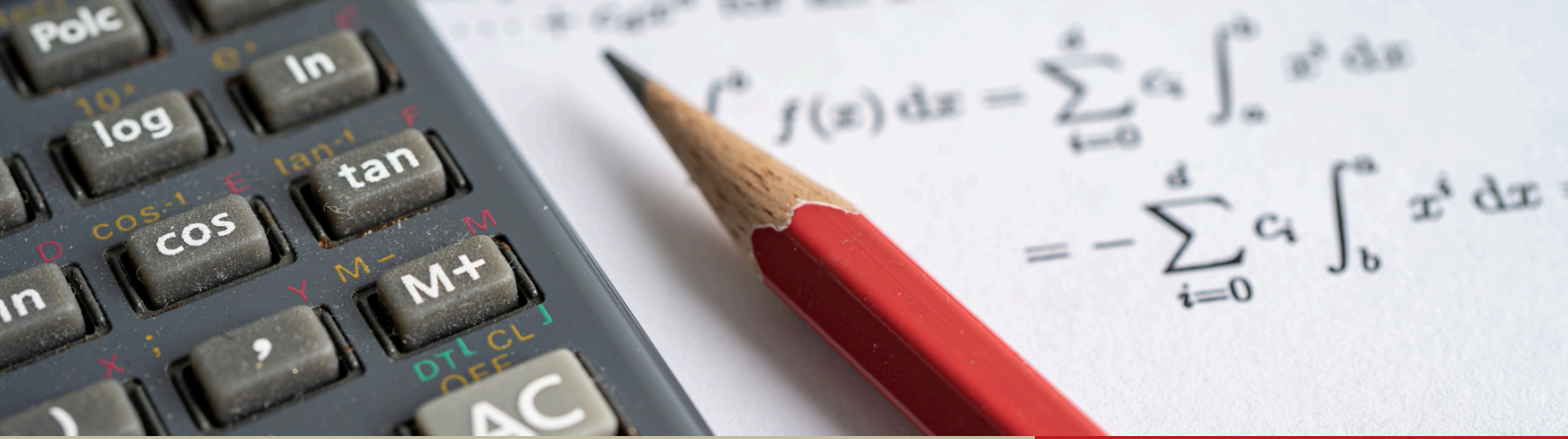
Friends of The Grange are on the look out for parents and carers of The Grange School to join our lovely and welcoming team!

Commit as much or as little time as you are able. You could offer creative input coming up with new ideas to raise funds, shop for events or help us serve refreshments. Any help you can offer is hugely appreciated!

Our work to date has raised vital funds for the school which have been used to purchase a range of resources including digital screens for the school library, handball goals, a pop-up stage and much much more!

A small amount of your help can make a BIG difference! Get in touch pta@grange.bucks.sch.uk





Year 10 Maths Feast

On Wednesday 18 March a team of talented Year 10 students joined Mrs Gallie for The Maths Feast event at Wheatley Park School, Holton.

Twenty teams from fourteen schools across Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire took part in this event organised by MEI (Mathematics Education Innovation). The day is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. There were several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success. Each event took between two and three hours to complete.

It was both very challenging and exciting at the same time and our Year 10 team consisting of Shreyas B, Sam B, Afaf R and Trichelle M really enjoyed their day! It was great to see them using their mathematical knowledge and reasoning skills and working so well as a team.

"The day is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. There were several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success."





Student Ski Trip

During February half term forty students and five members of staff went to the amazing Les Orres, in the French Alps on the much anticipated school ski visit.

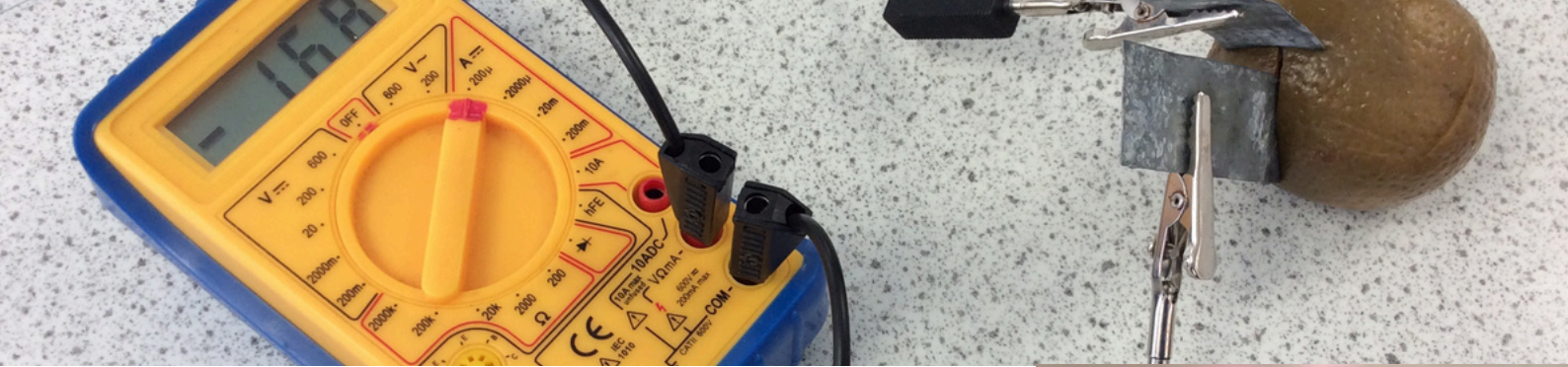
The students attended ski school every day in small groups to help develop their skiing ability. By the end of the week everyone was able to ski down a red run, with some completing the hardest, black runs. It was an absolute pleasure taking the students on this trip of a lifetime and for the staff it was amazing to watch the students not only develop a new skill, but also other their resilience and interpersonal skills.

After the great success, we are glad to be offering the chance of another ski visit next February half term. We will be going to the same resort of Les Orres. Details for this trip can be found in the recent letter in the Weekly Bulletin and on our website. This also contains a link to register your child's interest. The closing date for interest on the letter states Friday 25 April, but this will be extended until Friday 2 May.

We're already very excited!

"It was an absolute pleasure taking the students on this trip of a lifetime and for the staff it was amazing to watch the students not only develop a new skill, but also other their resilience and interpersonal skills."





British Science Week

An action packed British Science Week took place in school from the 10-14 March 2025. Across the week, 121 students spent their lunchtimes in our Science labs performing a range of exciting experiments!

Students tried their hands at making bath bombs, undertook flame test experiments, made fruit batteries, extracted DNA from peas and finally and causing the most excitement, tried out the Van Der Graaf Generator!

Thank you to Mrs Glover in particular and the Science Department for putting on such a brilliant series of events!



Music Department Update

It's been another busy half-term for our Music Department! Highlights from this half-term include:

Congratulations!

Teddy H in Y10 took his Grade 8 (Trinity) Violin exam a few weeks ago and achieved a Merit. This is an exceptional accomplishment for any musician and one that is usually reached by the end of Sixth Form. Congratulations to Teddy and we look forward to hearing you play again very soon.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular groups. All of these groups are open to musicians of every level. Speak to your music teacher to find out more.

"We offer a wide range of extra-curricular groups this year. All of these groups are open to performers of every level. Speak to your music teacher to find out more."

SUMMER TERM EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC TIMETABLE

DAY	CLUB	TIME	YEAR GROUPS	LOCATION
MONDAY	SOLO PRACTICE	WEEK 1 LUNCH A WEEK 2 LUNCH B	YEAR 7, 9 AND 11 YEAR 8, 10 AND 12	MUSIC BLOCK
	CHOIR	3.00-3.45PM	YEAR 7, 8 AND 9	MUSIC BLOCK
TUESDAY	THEORY BREAKFAST	8.00 - 8.25AM	ALL YEAR GROUPS	MUSIC BLOCK
	SOLO PRACTICE	WEEK 1 LUNCH A WEEK 2 LUNCH B	YEAR 7, 9 AND 11 YEAR 8, 10 AND 12	MUSIC BLOCK
	ORCHESTRA	3.00-3.45PM	YEAR 7, 8 AND 9	MUSIC BLOCK
WEDNESDAY	GUITAR/UKULELE CLUB	WEEK 1 AND 2 LUNCH A	YEAR 7, 9 AND 11	MUSIC BLOCK
	SENIOR CHOIR (INCLUDING STAFF)	3.00-3.45PM	YEAR 10-13	MUSIC 1
	KEYBOARD CLUB	3.00-3.45PM	YEAR 7-13	MUSIC 2
THURSDAY	TECH CREW	3.00-3.45PM	YEAR 7, 8 AND 9	MUSIC BLOCK



Concert With Cake

We held our much anticipated Concert With Cake on the final day of the Spring Term. It was a pleasure to welcome our families to this informal event to enjoy a slice of cake while they watched the awesome performances from our talented students.





BOfA Rehearsal Day

The Grange School Orchestra enjoyed the second of three rehearsal days at Aylesbury Music Centre on Friday 14 March. The students spent the day rehearsing with a combined orchestra of more than 50 performers from other local secondary schools. The group will be performing at the Bucks Music Trust Summer Festival which is held each year at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. It is a fantastic day showcasing young musicians from across Buckinghamshire and we are very pleased to be involved. Tickets will go on sale shortly.

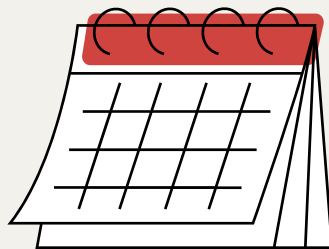
Bucks Choir of the Year 2025 (Primary)

Following our success in reaching the finals of the last year's Secondary school choir competition we once again hosted this event. This time it was the turn of the Primary schools and our choir supported the groups acting as guides and looking after the students beforehand and then performing during the adjudication. We're looking forward to being able to compete again next year!

Instrumental Tuition

We have teachers visiting us every week for students to learn Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Piano, Voice, Violin, Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute and Trumpet. If you would like to learn a musical instrument sign up at <https://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons-2/> (except for Classical guitar - please contact Mrs Kirk at akirk@grange.bucks.sch.uk)

Upcoming Music Events



W/C 23.06.25

Final BOFA Rehearsal Day
Aylesbury Music Centre (Orchestra only)

Sunday 6 July

BMT Summer Festival
Chiltern Open Air Museum (Orchestra only)

Monday 7 July

Summer Festival
Main Hall 7-9 pm

Date TBC

BBC Proms Concert Trip
Royal Albert Hall

"The Grange School Orchestra enjoyed the second of three rehearsal days at Aylesbury Music Centre on Friday 14 March. The students spent the day rehearsing with a combined orchestra of more than 50 performers from other local secondary schools. The group will be performing at the Bucks Music Trust Summer Festival."





Student Skipper Team Progress!

Our Skippers Our Skippers are continuing to make an impact on their school and their peers.

Below are some updates on what our Skippers have been getting up to over the last six weeks.

Valentine's Day SELL OUT!

At the end of the last half term our Skippers sold Valentine's items to our students and staff during their lunch breaks. The Skippers chose the items themselves and the school placed their order on their behalf. The items were extremely popular, particularly amongst our Year 7 and 8 students and sold out in the first two days! The Skippers are already busy brainstorming their next enterprising venture and will be back by popular demand!



Bucks Youth Summit 2025

Six of our Year 10 Skippers alongside Mr Murray attended this year's Bucks Youth Summit held at the Waterside Theatre. There were many different schools in attendance and our student's got to have discussions with various influential people from across the county with some of the topics including mental health, SEND, Green issues, the Police, Politics and Life after School. We received some fantastic feedback about how well our students spoke and engaged in the conversation spaces and on return, the Skippers all said they would recommend this to younger Skippers and would go again. So, we will be signing up next year for sure!

Curriculum Skippers lead a week of Assemblies

Together with Mrs Kenny, our Curriculum Skippers delivered an assembly to Years 7-11 giving some tips and advice on how students could be more independent in their learning. Mrs Kenny was able to squash some common misconceptions around learning and reiterated that you get out what you put in! i.e. effort, hard work and perseverance is the key to success. Although a daunting task, speaking in front of their peers – both younger and older, they did a great job and were applauded every morning by their audiences.

"We received some fantastic feedback at the Bucks Youth Summit about how well our students spoke and engaged in the conversation spaces and on return, the Skippers all said they would recommend this to younger Skippers and would go again. So, we will be signing up next year for sure!"



LEADERSHIP

Skippers take over the Staff Briefing

This half term, our Skippers have once again presented to all staff in a morning briefing sharing what they like their teachers doing in lessons. Under the support of Mrs Kenny, Skippers have thought about all their lessons and pinpointed specific techniques and activities their teachers do which has really supported them in their learning and shared this with all staff. Again, another brave task for the Skippers to do but a well-received one by our staff body.

Year 9 Options Evening

Some of our extremely helpful Year 8 and 10 Skippers offered to give up their time one evening to support the running of our Year 9 Options evening for parents. This involved registering/signing in our parents/carers, offering directions to various classrooms and helping the staff team set up their displays. We are also so appreciative of the students giving something back to their school in their own time.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Some of our Skippers have been continuing to lead their own after school clubs. With the new term approaching, we have some changes in our Extra-Curricular timetable so some clubs will be finishing for the year and some new ones starting. Look out for some new student-led clubs coming soon including Basketball for Girls on a Friday evening overseen by Mr Pynn in the sports gym.

New Project

Twenty of the Skippers have volunteered and signed up to work on the next project alongside Miss Glenister in re-designing our meeting room in the main reception. This room is used a lot for meetings with parents and outside agency and we feel it could do with a re-vamp to make it more welcoming. The Skippers have met twice to brainstorm some initial ideas. Stage 1 will be underway over the Easter break with a fresh coat of paint in the Skipper's chosen colour – sky blue. Next term, the Skippers will finalise their ideas for the artwork they would like on the wall and some soft furnishing to make it home from home!



"Twenty of the Skippers have volunteered and signed up to work on the next project alongside Miss Glenister in re-designing our meeting room in the main reception."





Looking ahead to the new term:

The Skippers will be getting back to working on creating their own job description and person specification for this leadership role ready to introduce and promote the role to our Year 7 students later in the year.

Another successful term for our Skippers!

An Interview With Miss Parker



What is the best thing about being an Art teacher?

I get to unlock creativity in all my students.

What's your least favourite thing to teach in Art?

Perspective drawing.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Don't be afraid to make mistakes and be creative every day.

What did you do before you became a teacher?

I was in the Army and I have worked in the NHS.

Why did you become a Art teacher?

I love my subject. I love talking about it and encouraging my students.

What is your favourite thing about Art?

It is boundless and creativity is everywhere.

If you could take the students on an Art trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them and why?

The National Gallery to see one of my favourite paintings.

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I do downhill mountain biking.

Lily A, Year 9 Curriculum Skipper

"The Skippers will be getting back to working on creating their own job description and person specification for this leadership role ready to introduce and promote the role to our Year 7 students later in the year."





Proud Moment at the Honeycomb Festival!

Our students had the incredible honor of opening Thursday's Honeycomb Dance Festival last week — and what a performance it was! The group delivered their dance routine with energy, precision, and heart, leaving the audience impressed and the teachers beaming with pride.

A very special shout-out goes to Year 12 student Keira S for her outstanding choreography. Her creativity, dedication, and leadership played a huge role in making the performance unforgettable. Bravo, Keira! Mrs Shepherd, Miss Sullivan, and Mrs De Vita Sheppard couldn't have been prouder of the students' teamwork and talent.

One of the true highlights of the day was the recognition our school received for outstanding sportsmanship. Among all the performing groups, our students stood out—not just for their talent, but for their spirit. They clapped and cheered for every performance, embodying the "We Can" spirit and showing what it means to support others and celebrate community.

Well done to all our wonderful students for making our school shine!

"The group delivered their dance routine with energy, precision, and heart, leaving the audience impressed and the teachers beaming with pride."



CONGRATULATIONS

Student Shout-Outs!

We love to celebrate the successes of our students both in and out of school! In this edition we give a special shout out to the following students:

Freddie H in Year 11....

An amazing job from such a talented dancer. Freddie recently competed in an ISTD DFR Regional Dance Competition in which he danced against 35 other dancers in his age category and made it to the final where he came 1st! This also means he has qualified for The National Grand Finals in October! Superb job Freddie, we're all so proud of you!

"We love to celebrate the successes of our students both in and out of school!"



Issy M in Year 9.....

Issy has once again made the National Finals in Gymnastics after an incredible performance in the Regionals. Issy placed bronze after a great all round effort. Issy placed 1st for Range and Control, 2nd in Beam, 2nd in Vault, 4th in (ribbon) Bars and 6th in (ribbon) Floor. Wonderful job Issy we are really proud!

We'd love to feature more students in our Shout-Outs! Please email Mrs Cooper-Smith with the details....lcoopersmith@grange.bucks.sch.uk





Parent Survey Responses - Part Two

At the end of the Autumn Term, we asked all our parents & carers to complete our annual survey asking the 'Big Questions'. These were a combination of the OFSTED style questions parents/carers often get asked about their child's school as well as some 'Grange School' specific questions which we were keen to get parents & carers opinions on. A total of 117 responses were collected and analysed.

We have been sharing the results of this annual survey with not only parents and carers but also the wider community on our social media pages which now include: Facebook - thegrangeaylesbury and Instagram - @thegrangesch

So far, we have shared the following results - one per week - on our social media pages:

87% of parents/carers of children with SEND feel the school gives them the support to succeed.

78% of parents/carers feel the school has high expectations for their child

87% of parents/carers feel their child does well at this school

91% of parents/carers feel there is a good range of subjects available to their child at this school

93% of parents/carers feel their child can take part in clubs and activities at this school e.g. sports, arts, science, homework club etc)

67% of parents/carers feel that the school supports their child's wider development (we are currently working on a learning journey for our student's personal development and will be able to share this with you very soon)

91% of parents/carers would recommend this school to another parent

"We have been sharing the results of this annual survey with not only parents and carers but also the wider community on our social media pages."





Other results included:

80% of parents/carers feel the school lets me know how my child is doing e.g. parents evenings, data reports etc.

61% of parents/carers reported their child has not been bullied at this school. For those parents who did report their child has been bullied, 50% felt it was dealt with quickly and effectively. Although an improvement on the last two years, there is still some work to be done here and a focus for our pastoral team moving forward.

Below are some lovely additional comments we would like to share to show our appreciation for taking the time to not only complete the survey but also to leave an additional comment:

“Very much value the welcoming and open ethos of the school. This has been an excellent introduction to secondary school life for my child, thank you to all the staff” Year 7 Parent

“I think you are very helpful, considerate and compassionate in your pastoral care. As a parent, I feel my son is valued and well cared for. Thank you for your support” Year 7 Parent

“My daughter is enjoying The Grange, so thank you for being a great school” Year 8 Parent

“My child is very happy at this school and is making great progress! Thank you!” Year 9 Parent

“My child is really happy at this school. The teachers are amazing and my son can’t wait to get to school each morning. He has ASD and ADHD and it is only since starting at The Grange that he really loves school! I can’t thank the effort of the teachers enough” Year 9 Parent

“The Extra-Curricular options are amazing and we are very grateful that staff give up their time to run these” Year 9 & 11 Parent

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is valued and much appreciated. The results are shared with staff and leaders so we can strive to improve each year.

“Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is valued and much appreciated.”





Dance Show 2025

We were proud to host two incredible nights of our amazing Dance Shows last week on Thursday 6 March and Friday 7 March. This year, we were excited to welcome back our primary partners to the stage for the Thursday show while our Friday show exclusively featured our talented dancers and the much anticipated awards ceremony!

The talent on display was exceptional and we are so proud of everyone involved who made the night so super magical! Miss Brown, Mrs De Vita Sheppard and Hattie C, a former dance show participant had the tough job of judging the event. Prizes were up for grabs for best group as well as for the best Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 performers at the conclusion of the show.

The worthy winners were:

Holly B, Year 8 as KS3 Winner

Freddie H, Year 11 as KS4 Winner

Caribbean 2 (choreographed by Dakiaya K and Keisha B) for Best Group

Honeycomb Awards: Priya - Dedication, Tayah Determination, Amie - Leadership, Chloe - Performance

In addition, we are exceptionally proud to recognise Amie C in Year 11 for her outstanding achievements in dance, both as a performer in the dance show and Honeycomb, as well as her contributions as an incredible choreographer.

Our thanks once again to Mrs Shepherd and Miss Sullivan for all of their hard work to bring the show to life!

Thank you too to all of the families who attended to support our talented students. We hope you love it as much as we did!

"A huge thank you to you and The Grange team for a fantastic evening and for offering such a wonderful opportunity for our school. Your students were so lovely and welcoming, and it was truly a joy to be a part of it."

Cuddington and Dinton C of E School Teacher

THE GRANGE SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS



Friday 07.03.2025

DOORS OPEN 6PM, SHOW STARTS 6.30PM



DANCE
show 2025

DANCE
show 2025

.....
GUEST NAME
.....

The Grange School Proudly Presents


DANCE SHOW 2025

A PE Department Production

07.03.2025

DOORS OPEN 6PM

SHOW STARTS 6.30PM

 Main Hall, The Grange School,
Wendover Way, HP21 7NH





Dance Makes Everything Better!







Young Carers Project

Did you know we run a group in school for our Young Carers? Working with our links at Carers Bucks we meet once every half term to give these students the opportunity for respite within school, access to relevant up to date information, and the opportunity to meet other Young Carers. So far, we have run three successful sessions providing fun activities such as slime making, arts and crafts, games and cupcake decorating.

Our last session marked awareness for 'Young Carers Action Day 2025' (Wednesday 12 March). This day highlights the important need for Young Carers to have time to rest and recharge while also calling on schools and employers to provide better support, helping them balance their responsibilities and achieve their full potential. To mark this day, and to thank the staff at Carers Bucks for their assistance with launching our group, Mrs Canvin baked a yummy drip cake with all the purple treats she could find as well as cupcakes which the students really enjoyed decorating! They also took part in a fun card game led by the team from Young Carers where they won all sorts of awesome prizes!



Here's what our students said:

"The young carers group is really fun, and I get to do things I wouldn't usually get the chance to do." Year 9 student

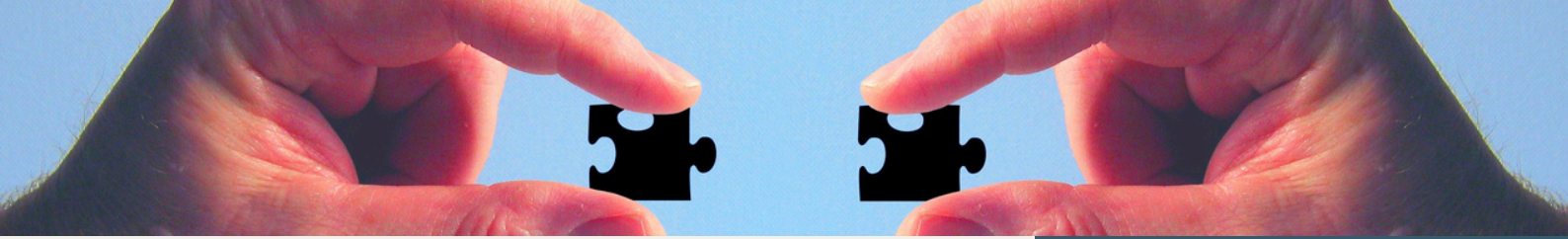
"I really enjoy going to the young carers group, we get to do different things and meet other young carers too." Year 7 student

One of our parent also commented:

"Thank you for all the wonderful activities for the young carers, it's very much appreciated."

"Did you know we run a group in school for our Young Carers? Working with our links at Carers Bucks we meet once every half term to give these students the opportunity for respite within school, access to relevant up to date information, and the opportunity to meet other Young Carers."





Communication is Key



Keep up to date with all of the latest goings on in school via our social media accounts.



In addition, we're always delighted to hear from our stakeholders to address your feedback.....

The Grange School

Wendover Way

Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

01296 390900

marketing@grange.bucks.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at www.thegrange.bucks.sch.uk

A Note from the Attendance Office

A gentle reminder that all absences should be reported by telephone on 01296 390959 or via the attendance email attendance@grange.bucks.sch.uk before 8.30am.

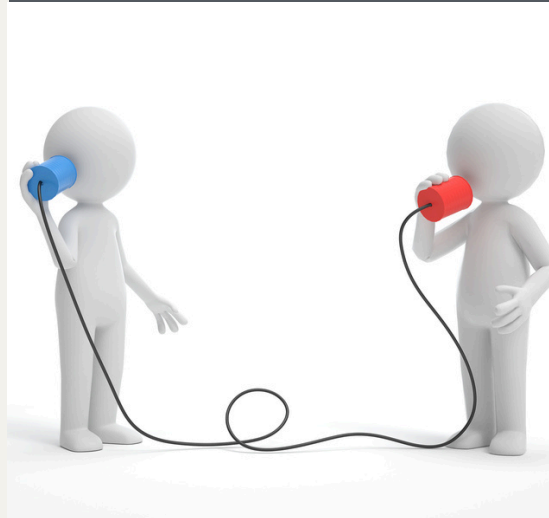
Please can notes and medical evidence also be brought into school 48 hours prior to appointments rather than on the day of the appointment.

If you wish to discuss your child's attendance at any time please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Scroggs.

Many thanks for your continued support.



"Our whole School Attendance Target is set at 97%"



Every School Day Counts!

0 Days off School	100%	Perfection!
2 Days off School Each Year	99%	Excellent
5 Days off School Each Year	97%	Good
10 Days off School Each Year	95%	Slight Concern
20 Days off School Each Year	90%	Concerned
30 Days off School Each Year	85%	Very Concerned

5 days absence
over the whole
year

97-100%

Good chance
of success and
progress

20 days absence
over the whole
year

90%

Less chance of
success. Harder
to make
progress

20+ days absence
over the whole
year

Under 90%

Detrimental to
success and
progress

Grange School Target 97%



Parent and Carer IT Support

A reminder that if students are experiencing any school IT related issues that our dedicated IT Support Team work through both the term time and school holidays and are available to assist.

You can contact them on parent-IT-help@grange.bucks.sch.uk and they will be happy to help.

We have a [dedicated page on our website](#) which provides information and advice for all things IT related.

"Our dedicated IT Support Team work through both the term time and school holidays and are available to assist you with any queries or issues you may have."





Library Update

It's been another busy half-term in our School Library and Learning Resource Centre.

World Book Day

We all had a fantastic time celebrating WBD 2025, with lots of dressing up and book related events and games in the library, at break and lunch! A particular favourite was Scrabble!

Readers of the Month

A huge well done to all of our Readers of the Month



Year 7 - Goodness O
Year 8 - Leon S
Year 9 - Ash A
Year 10 - Afaf R
Year 11 - Selina S



Revision

The library is an ideal place to revise and we have been busy promoting it to students. Do drop in at break or lunch time for a quiet and well resourced space to study.

Displays

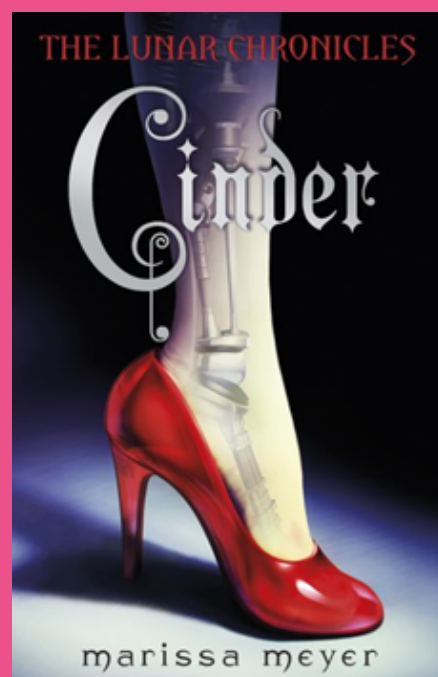
We issued 850 books this half-term. Nearly 50% more than this time last year. Our displays encourage students to try new things. Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Good Girl's Guide to Murder and our manga collection remain the most popular.

Book of The Month - Cinder by Marissa Meyer (The Lunar Chronicles: Book 1)

Cinder, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.

Lunar Chronicles are all loosely based on fairytales and if you like sci-fi you'll definitely enjoy this!

"The library is an ideal place to revise and we have been busy promoting it to students. Do drop in at break or lunch time for a quiet and well resourced space to study."





First Aid Notices

We wanted to highlight a few important pieces of information in relation to medical care in school. These will help better support the health and wellbeing of all of our students.

Healthcare Plans

If there are any changes to your child/children's Healthcare Plans please contact the First Aid Officer so that we can make a note.

Administration of Paracetamol

For those students who are prone to suffer with either migraines, headaches or period cramps, we ask that they bring their own supply of paracetamol (or other suitable painkillers). These can be brought to the First Aid office where they will be stored in a locked cabinet and administered as required. We do not have a supply of paracetamol in school.

Drinking Water

Students are reminded to please bring in a water bottle that can be filled up at the various water stations located around the school. As well as for general hydration there is significant evidence that drinking sufficient water improves educational outcomes through the positive effects of hydration on attention, concentration, and short-term memory. As the weather begins to get warmer, this is of even more importance.



If students are generally well, they should not come to First Aid to ask for water as this is resulting in a delay in dealing with medical issues.

Medication

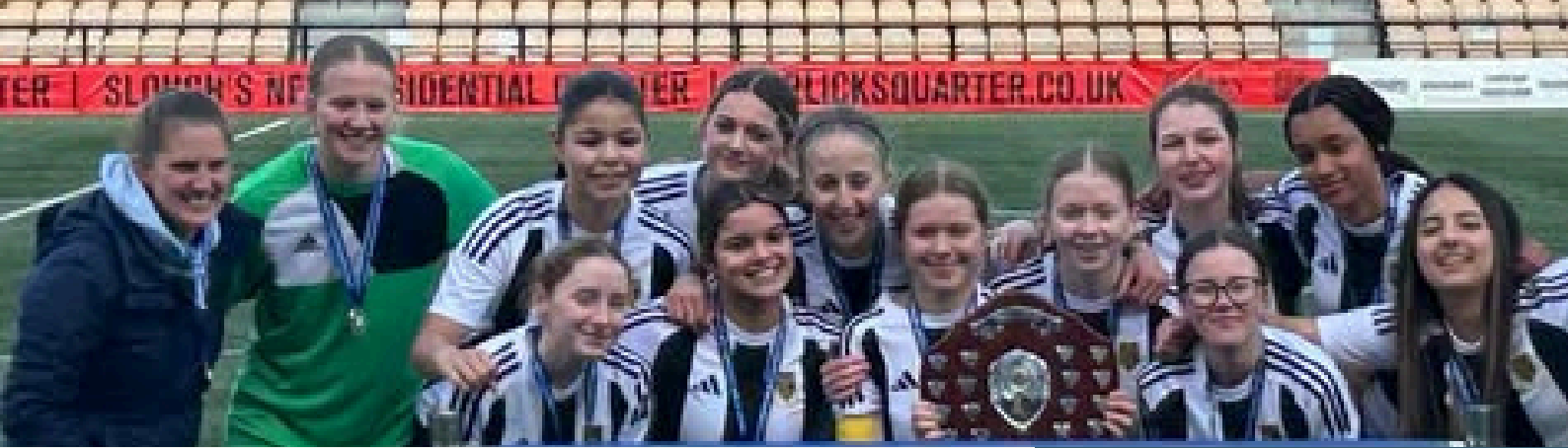
If you are sending medication into school with your child, please ensure you have completed a Parental Agreement to Administer Medicine Form. These must be completed for each new medicine.

If you have sent medication into school for a 'one off' medical concern which will not need to be used again, please can students collect the remainder to take home. Similarly for students leaving school at the end of July medicine can be collected from First Aid.

If you have any questions or queries about First Aid in school, please don't hesitate to get in touch on 01296 390919.

"Students are reminded to please bring in a water bottle that can be filled up at the various water stations located around the school."





PE Department Round Up!

Our fabulous PE Department work hard to give our students lots of fantastic opportunities both during lessons and as extra-curricular opportunities. Here's a selection of some of the many things they've been up to this half-term!

U16 Girls Win County Cup Final!

On Monday 17 March our U16 girls took on Denbigh School in their final at Arbour Park, home of Slough FC.

The girls displayed incredible teamwork and two goals from Jess J and one from Bo E, secured us the 3-2 victory!



U16 Boys Reach County Cup Final

For the third year on the bounce the Year 11 (U16) boys were successful in their pursuit to reach the county cup final, having played some tough games along the way. Having faced Beaconsfield School (2-1), Denbigh School (5-4), Walton High (5-1) and Hazeley Academy (4-1) in preparation for a cup final rematch vs John Hampden. Whilst this team are not used to losing, we have had several games this year which have not gone our way, however despite the adversity this may have caused the group demonstrated their teamwork and resilience to overcome this with some fantastic team performances. Whilst on another day the final may have had a different outcome with us trailing heavily at half time with 10 men, the group rallied behind each other and did particularly well to keep the opposition from scoring in the second half, showcasing their ability to work for each other. It has been a pleasure to lead the team this year, acting as a vital learning opportunity for myself as well as the group. I wish the boys the very best for their future endeavours.



GO TEAM!

U16 GIRLS COUNTY CUP FINAL

Monday 17 March 2025

FINAL SCORE



3

2



Two awesome goals scored from Jess J and one from Bo!
What an amazing performance from our girls!

The U16 Boys Cup Squad

- 1 – Morgan S
- 13 – Josh G
- 18 – George S
- 2 – Joe T
- 4 – Jackson Mc
- 21 – William J
- 19 – Romeo T-J
- 6 – William B
- 15 – Frankie V
- 9 – Dylan B
- 14 – Taku C
- 3 – Michal B
- 10 – Harry R
- 12 – Jackson L
- 11 – Ben H
- 17 – Tye D
- 7 – Theo K



Dodgeball Event for Local Primary Schools

On Wednesday 18 March, we had the pleasure of hosting a Year 6 Dodgeball event for some of our local schools.

Pupils from Bedgrove Junior School, Elmhurst School, Hayden Abbey Combined School and William Harding Combined School joined us for a morning of fun! Our students who supported the event were fabulous!

Here's what the staff from the visiting schools had to say:

"The teamwork and the support from the Grange School Sports Leaders was brilliant. Lewis was our fab one, but all were so great and really good with the children."

"The event has been well run and the sports leaders were enthusiastic and supportive of the children."

"The Sports Leaders were enthusiastic and good role models to our pupils."

Thank you to Sofia H, Khloe E, Imogen A, Milly D, Lewis P, Kai W and Antonio A for making sure the event ran so smoothly. Thanks also to Mrs Shepherd for organising the event and to Mrs Zubcevic, Assistant School Games Organiser at Insignis Academy Trust for making it a day to remember for both our students and the visiting schools.

"The teamwork and the support from the Grange School Sports Leaders was brilliant. Lewis was our fab one, but all were so great and really good with the children."





Handball

On Monday 3 March Mrs Bradley took the U13 girls to a Handball tournament at Aylesbury High School. The girls won the county tournament and are now through to the regional competition held in Bournemouth.

The team gave a great performance with some of our girls being new to the game. Well done girls - you did us proud!

Now bring on the regional handball competition which takes place on Wednesday 30 April in Bournemouth!



"The girls won the county tournament and are now through to the regional competition held in Bournemouth."





Catering at The Grange School

It's a privilege to have the Impact Food team provide our school catering. The team are friendly and helpful and the food is delicious!

Head chef Chris loves to put on an event! Our favourite from this half term was the fabulous Eid inspired cuisine.

"Head chef Chris loves to put on an event! Our favourite from this half term was the fabulous Eid inspired cuisine."



NEW OFFER! You may have noted from our [recent correspondence](#) in the Weekly Parent and Carer bulletin that we will be offering a 10% discount on all hot food options for the Summer Term.

[You can check out the delicious menus on our website which rotate on a 3 weekly basis to provide lots of choice.](#)



READ

World Book Day 2025

What a fabulous day we had for World Book day on the 6 March! The infectious vibes radiated as we celebrated the importance of reading as a whole school community.

The students were fabulous, the staff were fabulous - especially those who embraced the day wholeheartedly in their literary themed costumes!

The students voted for the best staff costumes of the day! In first place, capturing the hearts of many and securing the majority of votes was Subject Leader for English Mrs Zehra aka Maleficent! Following behind was our second runner up 'Obi-Wan Kenobi' Mr Romano.

We also recognised students for their efforts and chose two winners who completed their 'Guess the Literary Character' forms accurately. Prizes will went to Kate E in 10I and Abigail B in 8V.

We had joint winners for the libraries "Icon" competition Isla O 8D and Abigail B in 8V and the Lanyard Challenge was won by Thisanan P in 9O.

Congratulations too to the winners of the World Book Day Quiz - Mr Haycock's Form, 12A.

Thanks so much to the English Department for organising such an action packed day which we all thoroughly enjoyed and a special shout out to the hard work of our Library team who hosted some super fun themed activities. The students particularly loved Scrabble!



"The infectious vibes radiated for World Book Day as we celebrated the importance of reading as a school community."



World Book Day!



Celebrating with
WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day!



Celebrating with
WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day!



World Book Day!



Celebrating with
WORLD BOOK DAY

Celebrating with
WORLD BOOK DAY





Students and Staff Visit Spain

Over the Easter break 35 of our students headed off to sunny Spain on a spectacular educational visit with Mrs Finch, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs Jacques and Mr Haycock!

The itinerary from start to finish was action packed thanks to the amazing planning of Mrs Finch!

Our first day saw students immersed straight into the Spanish culture with some Flamenco dancing followed by some time to cool off in the pool.

On the second day the group visited the Alhambra Palace World UNESCO site in Grenada which is one of the most famous monuments of Islamic architecture and one of the best preserved palaces in the historic Islamic world. This was followed by some super fun beach games and a quiz night.

Day three saw students browsing the designer shops in Puerto Banus, a walk through Mijas Pueblo for some authentic Spanish white village charm and finally a trip to historic Ronda to visit the oldest bullring in Spain with some spectacular views along the way

For the final day the group headed up 2,520 feet in the Benalmadena cable car, had lunch at a scenic marina and took in the spectacular views of Malaga before a spot of souvenir shopping in Malaga centre.

Thank you to Mrs Finch for organising such a memorable trip for our students with the amazing support of Mr Haycock, Ms Nuttall and Mrs Jacques.

"Thank you to all of the staff for giving up your time. We have one very happy boy who had the best time and is buzzing about it all! Memories made. Thank you!"
Parent Comment

