

# The Grange Gazette

Official Newsletter of The Grange School

## Thoughts From The Headteachers Desk

As you read this, I very much hope that you have enjoyed the well-earned summer holidays which have now almost drawn to a close.

Everyone adapted well to the hot weather we saw in the final half-term but the school benefited from Year 11 and Year 13 having departed on their study and exam leave. This gave everyone more space and less hustle and bustle. The exam season seems such a distant memory but we were absolutely delighted to welcome back our Year 11 and Year 13 students to collect their results. We are so proud of how they both conducted themselves and performed.



Over the course of the year, we developed our personal development programme, and we are keen to provide students with the opportunity of educational visits for year groups. A new venture this year was for Year 10 to experience to the excitement and thrill of Thorpe Park. Albeit the day was very warm, the experience was an overwhelming success with some very positive feedback from both staff and students.

Our intention is for our community to be at the heart of our school and students play a big role in influencing the development of their school. The Student Skipper team play a big role in sharing the voice of students, and their commitment to their role is impressive. Visitors who meet the Skippers are always impressed with the maturity and insight they bring to conversations.

## This Issue:

Thoughts From The Headteachers Desk - Page 01 and 02

Year Group Updates - Page 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 and 09

Stars of the Half Term - Page 10

Water Sports Trip - Page 11 and 12

Summer Music Showcase - Page 13 and 14.

A Fantastic Showcase of Year 12 Work Experience - Page 15 and 16

Student Skipper Team Progress - Page 17

Year 11 Prom - Page 18, 19 and 20

Student Shout-Out! - Page 21

Transition 2026 - Page 22, 23, 24 and 25

Key Stage 3 Awards Evening - Page 26 and 27

Key Stage 4 & 5 Awards Evening 2026 - A Celebration of Excellence - Page 28 and 29

Communication is Key - Page 30

Library Update - Page 31 and 32

PE Department Round Up - Page 33 and 34



The final half term saw the recruitment of current Year 7 students into the Skipper team for next year. It is always a difficult process and this year we have extended their representation to twenty Skippers who will take up position from September 2026. These will be announced when we return to school.

At the other end of the school we have also been busy recruiting the Sixth Form Leadership Team for 2026/27. Again, this is a difficult contribution as all applicants presented well on their contribution to The Grange and were able to articulate with passion their two key priorities for the year. As you would expect I am a great advocate for the voice of our students to be heard and this is something that has improved immeasurably over recent years.

The Summer term is a time for celebration and the school was able to recognise the achievements of students at both the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4/5 Awards. There was a fantastic turn out at both events and we are appreciative of our guest visitors, Nicky Ellis MBE, and Yvette Thomas MBE for giving up their time and sharing their words of reflection with the audience. Congratulations to all our students who were recognised for their progress or achievement, you are amazing.

On top of that, a high percentage of the school were recognised during the annual rewards afternoon and non-uniform day. The criteria for selection can be found at: [Rewards - The Grange School](#) Praise and recognition is important and we want to reinforce that your daily behaviours are noticed and applauded.

As I sign off from this edition my mind is very much on the new academic year. You will have received two letters via the final weekly bulletin from Mr Golding. One in relation to uniform, as we need to get that back on track as we return in September as a result of the adaptations made to compensate for the hot weather. The other is in relation to attendance, as this has become a matter for attention, both nationally, and at The Grange. I am sure you will be supportive on both fronts, as we continue to strive to make The Grange the best possible learning experience we can.

Hopefully you all enjoyed some family time over the summer break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back this Thursday 3 September.

## This Issue:

Drama Club Summer Showcase -  
Page 35

Walton-on-the -Naze Educational  
Visit - Page 36

Duke of Edinburgh - 37, 38 and 39

Science Educational Visit - Page 40

Super Speed Study Skills - Page 41

Happy Retirement Mrs Jakeman -  
Page 42

Careers Educational Visit - Page 43

Sociology and Criminology  
Educational Visit - Page 44

Staff Take on Race for Life - Page 45

Religious Studies Educational Visit -  
Page 46

A Note From the Chair of Governors  
- Page 47

Health and Social Care Workshop -  
Page 48

Former Student and BBC Broadcast  
Journalist Inspires Sixth Formers -  
Page 49

Communication is Key - Page 50

A Note From the Attendance Officer  
- Page 50

Every School Day Counts - Page 51

First Aid Notices - Page 52

PTA - Join Our Friendly Team! -  
Page 53





## Year Group Updates

### **Year 7 – A Fantastic First Year!**

#### **Mr Walsh and Miss Lindsay, Year Team Leaders for Year 7**

As we come to the end of the academic year, we are incredibly proud of everything our Year 7 students have achieved. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and our students have made the transition from primary school with confidence, resilience and enthusiasm. They have settled into school life exceptionally well and should be proud of all they have accomplished this academic year.

Throughout 2025-2026, students have embraced every opportunity available to them. Here are some of our highlights:

We were recently delighted to see so many Year 7s were involved in the Drama Club end of year show. The groups fantastic performances of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations during the last week of term was brimming with confidence and filled with talent. Well done to all involved. You can read all about the show on page 35. We also fondly remember our production of Oliver! earlier this year which was an absolutely amazing success and wowed the audience on both nights! We look forward to seeing what our school production for 2026-2027 will be and seeing who will audition!

Year 7 led the way with the highest attendance at Sports Day and have maintained the best overall attendance in the school throughout the year. This is a fantastic achievement that reflects their commitment and dedication to learning.

Sports has been another real success, with 18 students qualifying for District Athletics. Active Club also proved to be extremely popular, with consistently high levels of participation from our students. Look out for more Active Club sessions coming very soon in the Autumn Term!

We were thrilled that 198 Year 7 students earned an invitation to our Rewards Day, recognising their hard work, positive attitude and excellent behaviour. It has also been wonderful to see such enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities, with our Dungeons & Dragons Club proving especially popular among Year 7 students.

Leadership has flourished this year too. A record-breaking 20 students were appointed as Skippers, creating our largest-ever extended Skipper team and demonstrating the strength of leadership across the year group.

***"As we come to the end of the academic year, we are incredibly proud of everything our Year 7 students have achieved. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and our students have made the transition from primary school with confidence, resilience and enthusiasm."***



Our students have also enjoyed success beyond the classroom. Two of our super creative Year 7 students Hollie E in 7D and Amairah M in 7S won the Taylor Wimpey competition to design a welcome card for new homeowners which you can read about on page 21. A significant number of students challenged themselves by taking part in the UK Maths Challenge. Well done everyone!

We would like to thank all of our Year 7 students and their families for making this such a successful first year. We hope everyone has had a wonderful Summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our fantastic Year 7s back as confident and capable Year 8 students.

#### **Year 8 - What a Year!**

**Mr Khan and Miss Bellin, Year Team Leaders for Year 8**

The Summer Term was filled with success, exciting opportunities, and memorable moments for our Year 8 students.

One of the standout events was Sports Day, where students demonstrated excellent determination, teamwork, and sporting talent. Congratulations to 8O for securing third place, 8V for finishing as runners-up, and a special well done to 8C for successfully defending their Sports Day title in first place. Congratulations also to our female champion, Katy B, and our male champion, Jaxon F, whose outstanding performances earned them individual recognition.

Year 8 enjoyed an enriching visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park, where they had the opportunity to see a wide range of endangered animals and learn more about conservation and biodiversity. The trip brought classroom learning to life, helping students develop a greater appreciation of global environmental issues and the importance of protecting wildlife, while reinforcing key concepts studied in Science and Geography.

It was wonderful to celebrate the achievements of our students at the Key Stage 3 Awards Evening, recognising the hard work, dedication, and progress made throughout the year. Congratulations to Alexia T and Dinuthi S for receiving the 8DISC and 8OVER Outstanding Contribution Awards respectively well-deserved recognition for their commitment and positive impact on the school community.

***"As our Year 8 students begin their journey into Year 9, they will encounter new opportunities and responsibilities, including making important decisions about their GCSE options. We are confident they will approach these challenges with maturity, determination, and enthusiasm."***





As students begin their journey into Year 9, they will encounter new opportunities and responsibilities, including making important decisions about their GCSE options. We are confident they will approach these challenges with maturity, determination, and enthusiasm.

We hope everyone has enjoyed a relaxing and well-deserved summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone back as Year 9 students to embrace another successful and exciting year ahead.

### **Year 9 - We Are So Proud!**

**Miss Diamond and Mr McKinnley, Year Team Leaders for Year 9**

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is an opportunity to reflect on everything that Year 9 has achieved both inside and outside the classroom. It has been a year filled with new experiences, challenges and opportunities and we would like to thank every student for the contribution they have made to our school community.

Throughout the year many of our students have embraced opportunities beyond their lessons. A number of students challenged themselves by taking part in the UK Mathematics Challenge, demonstrating resilience and excellent problem-solving skills.

We have also seen fantastic performances in the school's production of Oliver! and the annual dance show where our talented performers dedicated countless hours to rehearsals and delivered outstanding performances for the school community.

Our annual Culture Week was another highlight of the year with many Year 9 students enthusiastically taking part in activities that celebrated the diversity of our school. It was wonderful to see students engaging with different cultures, sharing experiences and contributing positively to such an important event.

Sporting success has also been a feature of this year. Congratulations to our Year 9 girls' handball team who represented the school brilliantly and finished second in the County Handball Championships. Their teamwork, determination and commitment throughout the competition were a credit to both themselves and the school.

***"As we reach the end of another academic year, it is an opportunity to reflect on everything that Year 9 has achieved both inside and outside the classroom. It has been a year filled with new experiences, challenges and opportunities and we would like to thank every student for the contribution they have made to our school community."***

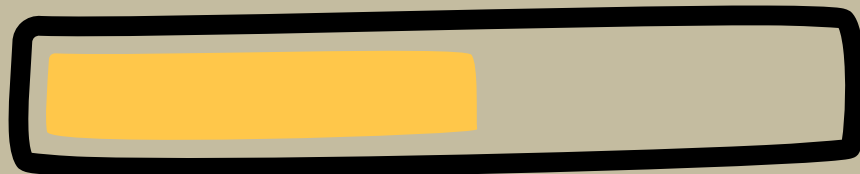


As we now look ahead to September, students will begin an important new chapter as they move into Year 10 and start their GCSE courses. This marks the beginning of a two-year journey that will play a significant role in shaping their future opportunities. Success at GCSE requires increased maturity, greater independence and a willingness to take responsibility for learning both in and out of the classroom.

Excellent attendance will be more important than ever. Every lesson contributes to building the knowledge and skills needed to achieve the best possible outcomes and missing learning time can quickly make catching up more difficult. By attending school consistently, working hard in lessons and maintaining a positive attitude, students will give themselves the greatest opportunity to succeed in their chosen subjects.

We would like to thank all of our students, parents and carers for their support throughout the year. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming our Year 10 students back on Thursday 3 September ready to embrace the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

# Year 10 Loading...



**"We would like to thank all of our students, parents and carers for their support throughout the year. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming our Year 10 students back on Thursday 3 September ready to embrace the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead."**





### **Year 10 – A Fabulous Year!**

**Mrs Mathieu and Mrs Urch, Year Team Leaders for Year 10**

We have been so proud of the tenacity, resilience, well mannered, hardworking nature of this cohort. It was brilliant to spend time during the final week celebrating the successes of this cohort. We started our rewards events off with the Key Stage 4 awards ceremony, where Tristan M and Toby D won their respective awards. The pair have shone in various roles this year and have been exceptional assets to our school community.

We enjoyed a brilliant rewards day with invited students who had achieved 850+ achievement points, it was brilliant to see them enjoying their time. We also have had our wonderful awards assembly, with special mention to Antonio T and Jack M for the highest number of manners matter points, to Shaeiza S and Louie K for the highest number of badges as well as for our 100% yearly attendance with Anabelle C, Grace B, Erisa K and Jamie C and our non-uniform ATL day.

As we reflect on the academic year, it is especially important to acknowledge and celebrate the actions of our cohort. Select students began their year as Y7 buddies, supporting staff and students in the transition of our newest and youngest students, they were invaluable and offered kindness, direction and warmth. These same leadership qualities have been shown by our young sport leaders, who have supported peers and students from surrounding schools to learn new skills, build confidence and participate in new events.

Work experience offered wonderful opportunities for our students to experience the working world and start to build an understanding of potential careers, special mention goes to Thisanan P who won Mrs Devanney's Work Experience project award, his very realistic laptop creation had us all in awe! A huge selection of bronze and silver awards have also been given to students, well done! Finally, leadership and kindness have always been at the center of all the activities some of our Y10 have taken part in at Turnfurlong Junior School during the summer Fayre and the Colour Run.

All Year 10 students have also carried out their first mock exams, having these conducted in the real settings, with exam conditions posed some challenges, again, students showed a great sense of discipline and determination to achieve their best. A massive focus on being appropriately equipped for all upcoming lessons and exams was a real talking point after mocks, please use the summer break to ensure you are well equipped on your return, any concerns, please do let us know.

***"We have been so proud of the tenacity, resilience, well mannered, hardworking nature of this Year 10 cohort. It was brilliant to spend time during the final week celebrating the successes of this cohort."***



As with many things this year, whilst we celebrate, we also look back on our 'lasts'. Year 10 had their very last sports day with us this year, we were so proud of the effort you placed into your events and cheering one another on. Special mention goes to 10S for their participation award, they won very convincingly and enjoyed a lovely rewards afternoon as their prize. Special mention goes to Jess A and Prince H who excelled in their individual events to be awarded highest performing students.

Massive thanks go to the wonderful colleagues who have supported our Year 10's this year, their efforts do not go unnoticed. We wish the best of luck to Mr Sadicki who moves on and we thank him for his contributions.

As we look forward to the new school year ahead, we hope you all had a restful, safe and joy filled summer break. 2026-2027 will have its challenges, but we will continue to work together.

#### **Year 11 - We Are So Very Proud!**

##### **Mr Black and Mrs Pollard - Year Team Leaders for Year 11**

What an end to the year for our Year 11s. On the 9<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated what was an absolutely delightful prom to say farewell to our lovely year group.

They have all worked incredibly hard leading up to their final exams and it was amazing to celebrate the end of their journey with such a fantastic evening and also with them all at our **Results Day over the Summer Holidays.**

We wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We really will miss each and every one of you. Thank you for the memories!



**"We wish all  
of our Year 11  
students all  
the best for  
their future  
endeavours.  
We really will  
miss each  
and every  
one of you.  
Thank you  
for the  
memories!"**



### **Sixth Form - An Awesome Final Half-Term!** **Mrs Devanney, Year Team Leaders for Sixth Form**

Our Year 12 students successfully completed their A-level mock examinations, followed by a superb week of work experience which you can read about on pages 15 and 16. We were also delighted to host a fascinating communication workshop towards the end of our Summer term for our Business and EPQ students which is featured on page 49. It has been especially pleasing to see such a significant increase in students embracing the wide range of opportunities available to them. Our year 12 students have showed dedication to their community service, with some achieving 70 hours; it is fantastic to see our older students promote positive attitudes for our younger years to look up to.

During the last few weeks we focused on creating UCAS accounts and writing personal statements. Students engaged with an insightful session ran by The University of Hertfordshire to help them with their application progress.

Their proactive attitude, dedication, and enthusiasm have been a real highlight of the year. Next term we will begin to consider other pathways for those deciding on a different route.

Our Year 13 students have also achieved a great deal, successfully completing their summer examinations after demonstrating outstanding commitment and resilience throughout the year and during their study leave. As they take their next steps whether progressing to university, starting an apprenticeship, entering employment, or enjoying a well-deserved gap year we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We look forward to meeting our new Year 12s very soon!



**"Our Year 13 students have also achieved a great deal, successfully completing their summer examinations after demonstrating outstanding commitment and resilience throughout the year and during their study leave. As they take their next steps whether progressing to university, starting an apprenticeship, entering employment, or enjoying a well-deserved gap year we wish them every success and happiness in the future."**



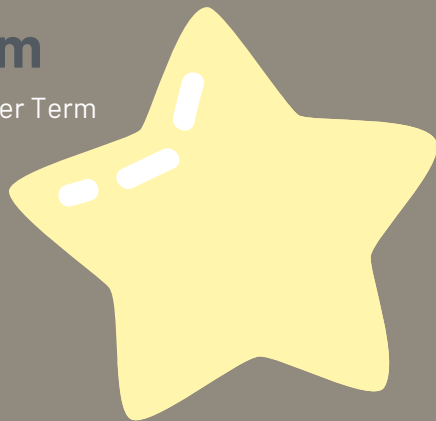
## Star Of The Half-Term

The final week of assemblies of the Summer 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 Bromcom and a delicious bag of goodies! A huge well done to all of the stars for Summer Term 2.



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

### Year 7

7D - Amaya F  
7I - Taj S  
7S - Layla D  
7C - Logan G  
7O - Heron J  
7V - Ireoluwa A  
7E - Thomas K  
7R - Ropa N

### Year 8

8D - Akima E. H  
8I - Chloe W  
8S - Rio M  
8C - Toby D  
8O - Georgia D  
8V - Archie L  
8E - Noah S  
8R - Noah S





## Cornwall Water Sports Trip A Fantastic Start to the Summer Holidays

Twenty four students, accompanied by Mrs Bradley, Mr Walsh and Mr Olde, as we kicked off the summer holidays in style with our annual Water Sports visit to Cornwall. The trip was packed with adventure, new experiences and plenty of opportunities for students to challenge themselves while enjoying the stunning Cornish coastline.

Throughout the visit, students took part in a wide range of exciting activities. They experienced the thrill of surfing at the famous Fistral Beach, tackled the challenge of coasteering at Swanpool, and enjoyed stand-up paddleboarding and the ever-popular Mega SUPs. Evenings were spent playing games together, watching spectacular sunsets and making the most of the beautiful surroundings, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The trip was about much more than water sports. It provided students with the opportunity to develop confidence, resilience and teamwork as they supported one another through new challenges. Whether catching their first wave, navigating the coastline or simply encouraging their friends, every student embraced the experience with enthusiasm and a positive 'We Can' attitude.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented the school throughout the visit. Their behaviour, maturity and willingness to step outside their comfort zones were exemplary, and they were a credit to both themselves and their families.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Bradley, Mr Walsh and Mr Olde for giving up part of their summer holidays to lead the trip and ensure it was such a memorable experience for everyone involved.

We look forward to offering more students the opportunity to take part in this unforgettable adventure next academic year.

***"The trip was about much more than water sports. It provided students with the opportunity to develop confidence, resilience and teamwork as they supported one another through new challenges."***











## Summer Music Showcase

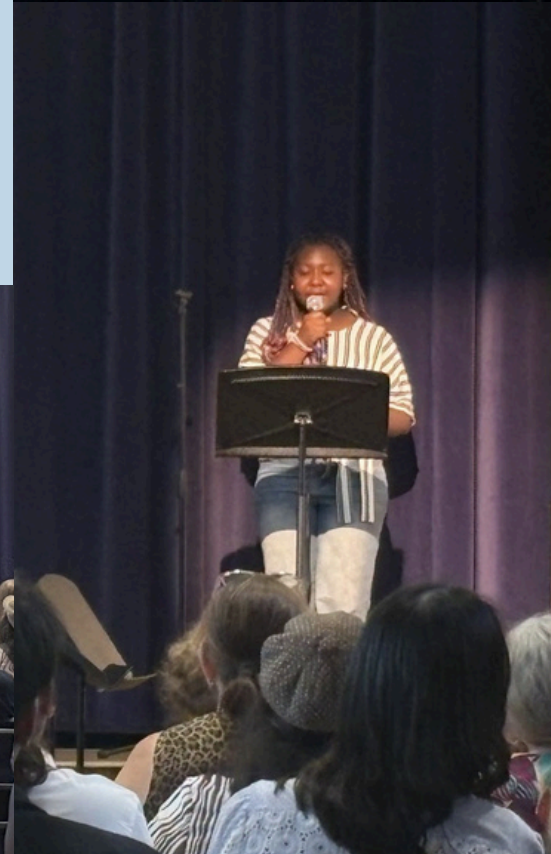
Our Summer Music Showcase was an absolutely stunning celebration of our students' talent, creativity and confidence, a true highlight of the Summer Term. The programme featured an incredible range of performances, from contemporary chart hits to classical works, showcasing just how diverse and accomplished our young musicians are.

Across Key Stage 3, GCSE and Sixth Form, students delivered powerful vocals, expressive instrumental performances, beautifully arranged duets and full-ensemble pieces. Standout moments included interpretations of Diamonds, If I Ain't Got You, Sweet Child o' Mine, Golden Hour, Fire on Fire, Saturn, and many more, each performed with professionalism and heart. Our choirs and orchestra also shone, bringing richness and energy to the evening, while our tech crew kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Mrs Kirk, whose hard work, organisation and musical leadership pulled the showcase together. Her dedication ensures our students have unforgettable opportunities to perform, grow and shine on stage.

We are also incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTA, **Friends of the Grange School - Aylesbury** for providing refreshments for our amazing audience of families, students and staff.

Most of all, congratulations to every single performer. Your talent, courage and commitment made the night magical. We are so proud of you









## A Fantastic Showcase of Year 12 Work Experience!

From 6–10 July, our Year 12 students stepped into workplaces across the local community gaining real-world insight, building confidence, and showing exactly what our We Can ethos looks like in action.

Work experience is a vital part of our careers pathway at The Grange. It builds on the strong foundation set in Year 10, where students undertake a full two-week placement, and extends into Year 12 with opportunities that deepen independence, professionalism and ambition.

This year's programme has been exceptional and our students have truly shone judging by some of the feedback showcased below. One additional highlight came from Archie's placement, where his contribution made a genuine impact:

***"Archie is doing a great job. Here is the result of his project .....something we have been wanting but unable to do for over a year in the town centre. This will comfortably be our most viewed story of the week and is going in next week's print paper as a double-page spread, so fair to say Archie has done a fantastic job and had plenty to take away from it hopefully."***

<https://www.bucksherald.co.uk/.../in-pictures-the-16...>

A huge thank you to Mrs Devanney, Head of Sixth Form, and our Careers & Enterprise Coordinator, whose organisation, guidance and dedication make this programme possible every single year. A big thank you to all our employers and families for supporting our students. Your encouragement helps them grow, aim high, and step confidently into their futures.

Well done to every single Year 12 student for representing our school so brilliantly. Your professionalism, maturity and enthusiasm have been recognised across the community, and we are incredibly proud of you.

***"From 6–10 July, our Year 12 students stepped into workplaces across the local community gaining real-world insight, building confidence, and showing exactly what our We Can ethos looks like in action."***





## Year 12 Work Experience



"Brixen created an excellent first impression arriving early at the office and dressed in a professional manner. He demonstrated excellent communication skills, introducing himself to patients, asking relevant and appropriate questions, and showing a genuine interest in each individual. He showed emotional intelligence and maturity beyond his years, both in how present he was throughout the visit and in the way he interacted with the family. I saw this patient again today and the family commented on how compassionate and caring he was — they think he will make an excellent nurse, a sentiment I also share."

so proud  
of  
You



## Year 12 Work Experience



"It has been an absolute pleasure to host Zara with us at Longdean. She has been a real credit to your school and it has been delightful having her with us in English."

Longdean School



## Year 12 Work Experience



"The fact Archie fitted in seamlessly and had multiple articles published speaks volumes about his impact. From day one he was enthusiastic, communicative, conscientious and engaged. By Friday he was barely distinguishable in his writing from a trainee reporter."

Bucks Herald/Hammers News







## Student Skipper Team Progress!

Our Skippers have completed another fantastic year as outstanding role models within our school community. Through their dedication, kindness and commitment, they have continued to make a positive difference to the lives of others and have helped make The Grange School the welcoming, supportive place it is today.

### Thank You Year 10 Team!

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Year 10 Skippers, who have now completed their leadership roles as they prepare to begin Year 11. Many of these students have served as Skippers since the role was first introduced when they were in Year 8, helping to establish what has become a valued tradition at The Grange. Over the past three years, they have led by example, supported younger students and embodied our WE CAN values every day. They leave behind an inspiring legacy and have set an excellent standard for future Skippers to follow. We wish them every success in their future leadership opportunities.

### Welcoming Our New Year 8 Skippers

In June, our Year 7 students were introduced to the role of a Skipper during assembly and invited to apply to join the team for Year 8. We were delighted to receive an incredible 49 applications, with 39 students progressing to interview. During the interviews, students spoke confidently about why they wanted to become a Skipper, what our WE CAN values mean to them and how they would contribute to the school community. They also tackled one of our favourite interview questions: Is a hotdog a sandwich? The quality of responses, enthusiasm and maturity shown by our Year 7 students was exceptional, making the final decision incredibly difficult.

Originally, we planned to appoint 15 new Skippers. However, the standard of applications was so high that we appointed a record-breaking 20 students, creating our largest-ever extended Skipper team.

Following training in September, our new Skippers will begin their roles and will be formally introduced to the school during assemblies at the start of the new academic year. We are excited to see the enthusiasm, leadership and fresh ideas they will bring to the team.

### 50 Strong Skipper Team!

We can't wait to introduce our full team of 50 Skippers from Years 8, 9 and 10 to the school community during our first half-term of 2026-2027! Look out for an update as we return both in our Parent and Carer Weekly Bulletin and via our social media channels!

***"We can't wait to introduce our full team of 50 Skippers from Years 8, 9 and 10 to the school community in September. Look out for an update as we return both in our Parent and Carer Weekly Bulletin and via our social media channels!"***





## Year 11 Prom 2026: A Night to Remember at Creslow Manor

What an incredible evening our Year 11 students enjoyed on Thursday 9 July as they celebrated their five-year journey at The Grange School with a truly unforgettable Prom at the stunning Creslow Manor. The beautiful setting, the amazing outfits, and the joyful atmosphere made it a night filled with friendship, laughter and memories that will last a lifetime.

Prom is such an important milestone. It's a moment to pause, reflect and celebrate the achievements, resilience and relationships that have shaped each student's time at school. Our Year 11s embraced every second, and we could not be prouder of them.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Miss Pastore, Miss Pollard and Mr Black for their exceptional hard work in planning the event and transforming Creslow Manor into such a magical space. The decorations looked incredible and helped create a truly memorable evening.

Thank you also to all staff who attended on the night. Your support and presence meant so much to our students and helped make the evening even more special. We were delighted to receive wonderful feedback from the venue owners, who praised our students for being polite, respectful and a credit to the school.

This newsletter features a selection of images capturing the joy, friendship and celebration of the evening.

Congratulations once again to our wonderful Year 11. We hope Prom was everything you wished for and more.

# Prom night

### **Student-Voted Prom Awards**

*This year's awards perfectly captured the humour, personality and spirit of this brilliant year group:*

**Prom Queen – Orlaith T**

**Prom King – Cyale A**

**Best Couple – Sofia H & Sefay L**

**Best Dressed Female – Olivia S**

**Best Dressed Male – Donovan M**

**Funniest – Ashley G**

**Chatterbox – Tafari R**

**Life of the Party – Khloe E**

**Most Likely to Be an Influencer – Saami H**

**Most Likely to Be a Millionaire – Sam B**

**Most Likely to Be Prime Minister – Jack W**

**Drama Queen – Cadie W**

**Drama King – Ashley G**

*Every award reflects the unique character and charm of our students – a year group full of energy, kindness and individuality.*











# conGRATulations

## Student Shout-Out!

Student Shoutout to Hollie E in 7D and Amairah M in 7S

During the summer term, Year 7 had the opportunity to enter a competition run by Taylor Wimpey, South Midlands, to design a 'new home' card for new residents moving into their new home on Hampden Fields

26 students entered the competition and Hollie and Amairah's designs were chosen by the Taylor Wimpey Team as the winners! Their designs will be in all the new homes on the Hampden Fields development and they each took away a generous Amazon voucher to spend on whatever they wish!

[You can read the full story here in the Bucks Herald](#)

***"If you'd like to let us know about a #StudentShoutout we'd absolutely love to hear from you! Drop Mrs Cooper-Smith an email with the details and a photo and we'll do the rest!"***







## Transition 2026 – A Wonderful Start to the Journey Ahead

We were thrilled to welcome our new Year 6 students for two fantastic Transition Days as they prepare to join us in September as our next Year 7 cohort. Across both days, our soon-to-be Year 7s embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, positivity and confidence and we could not be more proud of them.

From the moment students arrived, the atmosphere was full of excitement. The day focused on helping everyone feel comfortable, supported and ready for their next chapter. Students took part in:

- Team-building activities designed to spark new friendships
- Meet-and-greet sessions with their form tutors and Year 9 buddies
- School tours to help them become familiar with their new surroundings
- Fun challenges that encouraged teamwork, communication and confidence

The highlight of the day was our energetic Fit and Funky session. Despite the warm weather, students filled the hall with laughter, brilliant dance moves and plenty of encouragement for one another which was a perfect ending to a brilliant first day.

Our second day gave students a real flavour of life at secondary school. They enjoyed a range of taster lessons, discovering new subjects, new learning styles and new opportunities.

The day began and ended with whole-year assemblies, bringing everyone together to reflect on their experiences and celebrate their achievements. Students also spent more time with their form tutors and our fantastic Year 9 buddies, who will continue to support them in September as they step into their new roles as Year 10 mentors. Throughout the day, students showed maturity, curiosity and resilience, even in the challenging heat. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces.

***"We were thrilled to welcome our new Year 6 students for two fantastic Transition Days as they prepare to join us in September as our next Year 7 cohort. Across both days, our soon-to-be Year 7s embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, positivity and confidence and we could not be more proud of them."***





We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, our brilliant Year 9 buddies, and every student who took part with such positivity over the two Transition Days. The energy, kindness and teamwork shown by everyone involved helped create a welcoming, supportive atmosphere that made these days such a success. It was wonderful to see staff and students working together to ensure our new Year 6 pupils felt confident, included and excited about joining our school community.

***"Transition is an important milestone in every young person's journey, and these two days played a vital role in helping our new students feel ready for the next chapter."***



**Transition 2026 - Day 1**

Transition is an important milestone in every young person's journey, and these two days played a vital role in helping our new students feel ready for the next chapter. Over the course of the event, pupils built new friendships, grew in confidence, settled first-day nerves, and became familiar with their new school environment. Most importantly, they left feeling excited and prepared for the opportunities that await them in September!





Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



Transition 2026 - Day 1



**ENGLISH WITH**  
**MISS BUCHANAN**



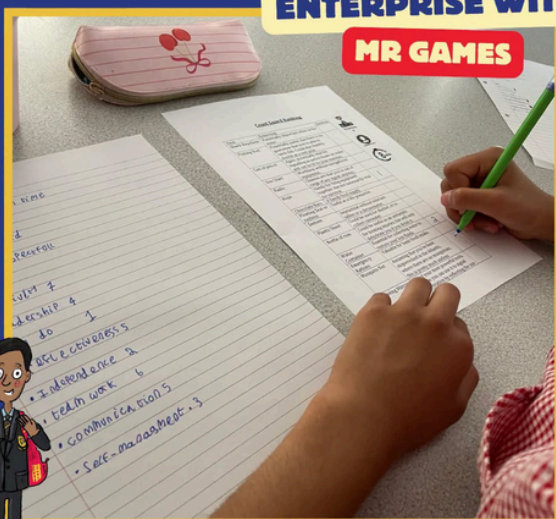
Transition 2026 - Day 2

**SCIENCE WITH**  
**MISS GLOVER**



Transition 2026 - Day 2

**ENTERPRISE WITH**  
**MR GAMES**



Transition 2026 - Day 2

**MATHS WITH**  
**MISS HASSARD**



Transition 2026 - Day 2

**HISTORY WITH**  
**MR BLACK**



Transition 2026 - Day 2

**GEOGRAPHY WITH**  
**MR DHARSEY**



Transition 2026 - Day 2



## Key Stage 3 Awards Evening 2026

Our Key Stage 3 Awards Evening on Tuesday 14 July 2026 was a wonderful celebration of achievement, resilience and dedication across Years 7, 8 and 9.

The event opened with a warm welcome, reminding families that each award represents not only talent, but the determination and perseverance that define our school community.

The evening began with refreshments provided by our PTA before Miss Brown welcomed guests and introduced two beautiful music performances from Khloe C, Rhein B, A'Diyah K, and Camille M.

The awards were presented in two parts, recognising Significant Progress and Subject Achievement across the full curriculum. The programme also included the prestigious Overall Contribution Awards for DISC and OVER in Years 7, 8 and 9.

A highlight of the evening was the presence of our special guest, Nicola Ellis MBE, Assistant Principal for Student Support & Engagement at Buckinghamshire College Group. Her closing remarks reflected her decades of work championing inclusion and supporting young people.

It was a joy to celebrating students who have shown exceptional progress, achievement and contribution throughout the year. The atmosphere was warm, joyful and full of pride as families applauded each winner. A truly memorable celebration of our students' accomplishments and the We Can spirit that drives our school community.

*"your talent brought you here. your determination made you shine."*

***"Our Key Stage 3 Awards Evening on Tuesday 14 July 2026 was a wonderful celebration of achievement, resilience and dedication across Years 7, 8 and 9."***





### Our Year 7 Winners

Advik G – Spanish Achievement, Maths Achievement  
Alfie C – History Achievement  
Amelia R – Drama Progress  
Ayesha N – ICT Progress  
Bo J – DT Achievement  
Callum W – Overall DISC  
Deona J – Science Achievement  
Emme B – DT Progress  
Finley P – Boys PE Progress  
Imogen T – Geography Achievement, English Achievement  
Jabez S – Art Achievement  
Jaime D – Enterprise Achievement, Girls PE Progress, PSHCE Achievement  
James T – Drama Achievement  
Jasmine P – Girls PE Achievement  
Katherine R – French Achievement  
Kella B – English Progress  
Leo D – Music Progress  
Liam T – Art Progress  
Logan G – PSHCE Progress  
Madia B – Urdu Achievement, Maths Progress  
Marlie H – History Progress  
Max A – ICT Achievement  
Maxwell S – Boys PE Achievement  
Michael Z – Overall OVER  
Momina M – Urdu Progress, Science Progress  
Niamh T – Music Achievement  
Rahni G – Library  
Riley Q – French Progress  
Ropa N – RS Achievement  
Rory K – Spanish Progress  
Talia S – RS Progress  
William G – Geography Progress

### Our Year 8 Winners

Akbar A – RS Achievement  
Alexa T – Overall DISC  
Amber M – Maths Progress  
Arabella T – English Progress  
Ben S – ICT Progress  
Carter L – Spanish Achievement  
Daniel C – Boys PE Achievement  
Deanna V – French Achievement  
Dinuthi S – Overall OVER  
Evie T – Girls PE Achievement  
Georgia D – History Achievement  
Hollie-George R – Geography Progress  
Inigo H – Spanish Progress  
Isabel G – Library  
Israa A – Urdu Progress, PSHCE Progress  
Jaxon F – RS Progress  
Katy B – Drama Progress, Music Achievement, Science Progress  
Mason W – Boys PE Progress  
Mona B-Z – Science Achievement  
Mona M-J – PSHCE Achievement, Art Achievement, DT Achievement  
Noble M – Music Progress  
Peace M – Geography Achievement  
Pearl B – Art Progress  
Saif H – DT Progress  
Senula R – Maths Achievement  
Shalom M-K – History Progress  
Sophie R – Girls PE Progress  
Sruthiha V – French Progress  
Tori C – Drama Achievement, ICT Achievement, English Achievement  
Umair K – Urdu Achievement

### Our Year 9 Winners

Abi B – PSHCE Achievement  
A'Diyah K – Overall OVER  
Alessia A – Art Achievement  
Alisha A – Urdu Progress  
Amina M – PSHCE Progress  
Ben T – Drama Achievement, Music Progress  
Camille M – Music Achievement  
Danny S – English Progress  
Delna J – Library  
Dylan B – Enterprise Achievement  
Elizabeth A – RS Progress  
Elsie F – Spanish Progress  
Hunor C – English Achievement  
Iba K – Urdu Achievement  
Isabelle H – French Achievement  
Islay C – DT Progress  
Jasper R – Drama Progress  
Khloe C – History Achievement  
Madhulika R – ICT Achievement, Art Progress  
Mia Z – Girls PE Achievement, Overall DISC  
Myriam M – Maths Progress  
Nahal N – Geography Achievement  
Nikita K – Spanish Achievement  
Sarah D – Science Progress, Girls PE Progress, DT Achievement  
Setayesh N – Geography Progress  
Smit P – ICT Progress, Maths Achievement  
Taylen L – History Progress  
Tiphaine S – French Progress  
Tommy S-S – Boys PE Progress  
Urvashi L – RS Achievement  
Veda K – Science Achievement  
Yasir N – Boys PE Achievement

  
Congratulations



## Key Stage 4 & 5 Awards Evening 2026 – A Celebration of Excellence

Our Key Stage 4 & 5 Awards Evening, held on Thursday 2 July 2026, was a wonderful celebration of achievement, dedication and resilience across Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form. The evening brought together families, staff and supporters to recognise the outstanding accomplishments of our students as they continue their journey towards GCSEs, A-Levels and future pathways.

Guests were welcomed with music in the foyer and refreshments provided by our amazing PTA before Mr Sabin opened the event. The awards showcased achievements across the whole curriculum with each subject honouring both top performers and students who demonstrated exceptional progress or passion for their learning, which is a true reflection of the We Can spirit that defines our school community. Special awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, The King's Trust, Work Experience and the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to the School were also presented.

We were honoured to welcome Yvette Thomas MBE as our Guest of Honour. Her closing remarks highlighted her remarkable 40-year career in education and her passion for supporting young people across Buckinghamshire and beyond.

Huge congratulations to all of our award winners, who have excelled academically, shown exceptional progress, or made a significant contribution to school life. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, determination and ambition.

A huge thank you to our families for joining us, to our staff for organising such a meaningful event, to our PTA, Friends of The Grange School for their support and of course most of all to our amazing students!

***"A huge thank you to our families for joining us, to our staff for organising such a meaningful event, to our PTA, Friends of The Grange School for their support and of course most of all to our amazing students!"***



*Congratulations!*





Afaf R – Physics;  
 Progress in Business  
 Studies  
 Aisha A – Biology  
 Alexander J – D.T  
 Product Design; Progress  
 in English Language  
 Anais H – History  
 Arya A – Criminology  
 Asa H – Enterprise Hero  
 Bethan E – Progress in  
 Drama  
 Bettina A – Chemistry;  
 Progress in Product  
 Design  
 Carl H – Maths  
 Charlotte T – Progress in  
 History  
 Daisy N – Construction  
 Daisy P – Outstanding  
 Contribution to the  
 School  
 Daisy S – Progress in  
 Sociology  
 Emma B – Health &  
 Social Care  
 Felix L – Contribution to  
 Music; Duke of Edinburgh  
 Award  
 Hannah G – Progress in  
 Physics; The Kings Trust;  
 Progress in French  
 Harry H – Progress in  
 Maths  
 Holly H – EPQ  
 Hubertas P – Progress in  
 Art  
 Isabella H – Progress in  
 Criminology  
 Isla P – Art

Jack W – P.E; Year 11  
 DISCO  
 Jacob F – ICT &  
 Computing  
 Jaxon E – Sixth Form  
 Jenson G – English  
 Language  
 Jordan B – Progress in  
 ICT & Computing  
 Juveria K – Progress in  
 The Kings Trust  
 Kainaath R –  
 Achievement in Sport  
 Katie T – Duke of  
 Edinburgh Award  
 Kevin K – Progress in  
 Food Tech; Travel  
 Kimberley R – Progress  
 in Travel  
 Layla A – Progress in  
 Psychology  
 Liam P – Business  
 Studies  
 Liana J – French;  
 Progress in English  
 Literature  
 Lucy S – BTEC Business  
 Matthew P – Progress  
 in BTEC Business  
 Mel P – Progress in Film  
 Studies  
 Millie F – English  
 Literature  
 Nathaniel F –  
 Psychology  
 Niamh M – Geography  
 Nicole P – Religious  
 Studies

Rachel C – Progress  
 in Music  
 Rijaab M – Sociology  
 Romy L – Progress in  
 Geography  
 Sadia G – Urdu  
 Sam B – Duke of  
 Edinburgh Award  
 Sofia M – Progress in  
 Religious Studies  
 Sofia T – Film  
 Studies; Drama  
 Sufyaan A – Progress  
 in Urdu  
 Tadiwa M – Progress  
 in Chemistry  
 Teddy H – Music;  
 Progress in Spanish  
 Theo K – Progress in  
 P.E  
 Thisanan P –  
 Progress in Biology;  
 Work Experience  
 Thomas P – Year 11  
 VERY  
 Tiffany O – Progress  
 in Health & Social  
 Care  
 Toby D – Year 10  
 OVER  
 Tristan M – Year 10  
 DISC  
 Tyler D – Spanish  
 Unathi M –  
 Attendance  
 Zack U – Progress in  
 Construction  
 Zelda G – Food Tech

*Congratulations*





## 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](mailto: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 was a busy final half-term in our School Library and Learning Resource Centre despite the space being regularly used for examinations, with our 'We Can' spirit it didn't stop us organising lots for our students!

### Book Club

This year we launched a Year 7 book group, for National Year of Reading, on a Tuesday lunchtime. This proved so popular we had to set one up on a Thursday too by popular demand! It's been brilliant fun and we will continue with this in September for our new Year 7's.

### Book Editors

We introduced Book Editors who had their work submitted to Barrington Stoke publishers. Well done Alfie C & Rahni G



### Taking Reading Outside of the Library

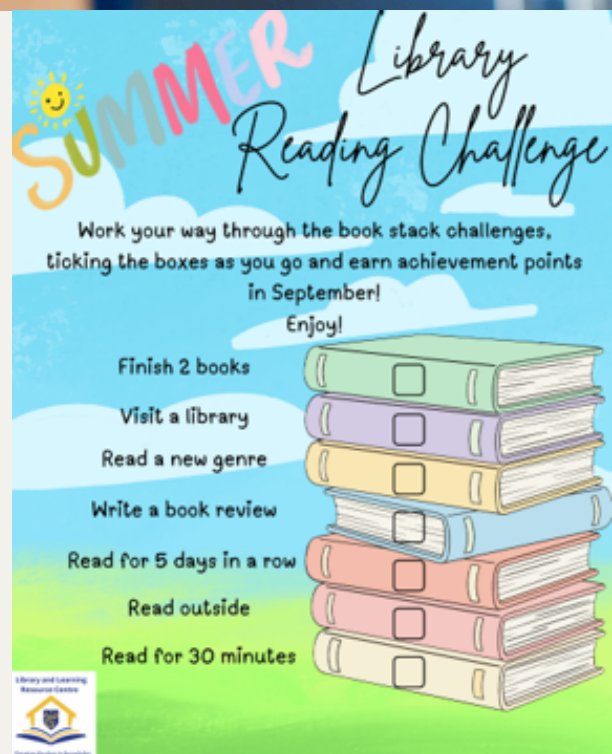


We have held book swaps, and giveaways to ensure students have access to books especially during the long break and have launched a summer challenge.

We also took the library to sports Day with a quiet area with games, colouring and, of course, books. The activities were very much appreciated by students!

### Summer Reading!

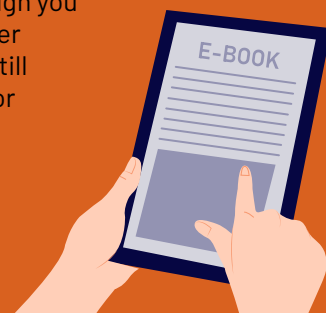
Did you have a go at our Summer Reading Challenge? We have lots of ebooks available on our free platform and don't forget we've [signed up to First News](#), a free newspaper designed especially for students. [You can visit your local library](#) to access lots of new reads and we have lots of recommended reading lists on our school website!



### E Books

Don't forget although you are on your Summer Holidays you can still read our eBooks for free!

Do check out our online reading platform below to keep up your fabulous reading!



<https://grange.eplatform.co/>





## Statistics

We have not been able to share our usage statistics this year as we have changed our Library Management System, but we can tell you that Year 7 are our best customers, 71 took out the most books as a form and our keenest reader is in Year 9. We issued over a 1,000 books since April when our new system was installed, so well on target to better last year's figures.

## Top Readers!

Well done to our top readers!

Year 7 - Imogen T (7S)

Year 8 - Omaira A (8V)

Year 9 - Delna J (9D)

Year 10 - Maxmilia R (10E)

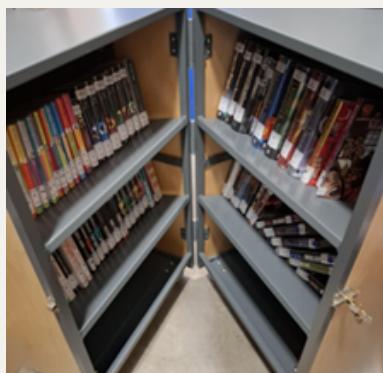


## Displays

This half-term we have displayed books on and The World Cup, Summer Reading, New Books, Books in Verse and celebrated Refugee Week to encourage students to read more widely.

## Pop-Up Library

We now have our very own pop-up library and are very grateful to the Friends of the Grange, our PTA for supporting us.



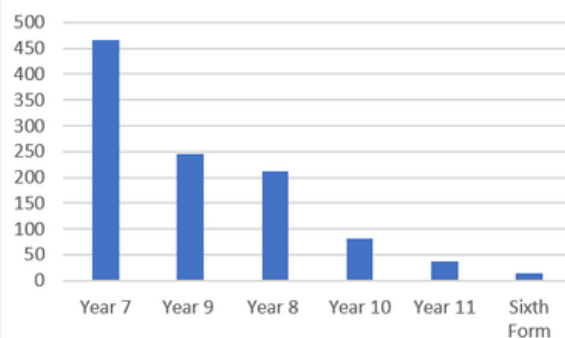
## Sonia Leong Workshop

On Monday 6 July, we were thrilled to welcome award-winning manga artist Sonia Leong for an inspiring workshop with our students. Sonia has spent over 20 years creating graphic novels, illustrating for major publishers, and teaching young artists through her popular how to draw manga guides.

Students enjoyed hearing about Sonia's creative journey, her career in professional illustration, and the challenges she overcame along the way. She encouraged everyone to believe in their talents, follow their passions and recognise that dedication and resilience can turn creativity into a career.

The highlight of the visit was a hands-on manga masterclass, where students learned expert techniques and created their own characters. What a truly unforgettable experience! If you're feeling inspired, don't forget to explore the brilliant manga collection available in our school library!

Books Issues by Year Group from April 2026



Sonia Leong Workshop - 6 July 2026





## 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 during the second half of the Summer Term!

### Transition Games

What a fantastic day welcoming our future Year 7 students to The Grange for our annual Transition Games!

Pupils from Bedgrove Junior School, Turnfurlong Junior School, and William Harding Combined School joined us for a day packed with fun, teamwork and friendly competition. Activities included Tag Rugby, Vortex & Disc Golf, Team Building Challenges, Benchball, Football, Tennis, Handball, Tag Games, Capture the Flag and Crazy Rounders

Transition events like these are so important in helping our soon to be new students build confidence, make new friends, get to know our school and staff, and feel excited about starting secondary school in September.

A huge thank you goes to our incredible Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 Sports Leaders, who worked tirelessly to set up, organise and run each activity. Their enthusiasm, leadership and encouragement ensured everyone had a brilliant day.

We'd also like to recognise our fantastic Year 7 buddies, who led their groups throughout the day, helping our Year 6 visitors feel welcome and supported while joining in with all the activities.

We are incredibly proud of the teamwork, leadership and community spirit shown by both our students and staff.



"A special shout out goes to Freddie L (Year 12), who once again demonstrated outstanding leadership. Having worked so well with our Year 8 football team over the past two years, Freddie was selected to help manage this year's event. Alongside Mr Olde and Mr Pascoe, he played a key role in ensuring everything ran smoothly, solving any unexpected issues and helping deliver a memorable experience for everyone involved."





## Cricket Skills Event

Our Sports Leaders were proud to support a fantastic cricket skills event today for primary school pupils from across Buckinghamshire. The whole team were outstanding throughout the day, encouraging, supporting and inspiring the younger children as they developed their batting, bowling, catching and fielding skills. Their enthusiasm, patience and confidence helped create a fun, welcoming environment where every child felt able to have a go, learn new skills and enjoy the game.

Our young leaders were excellent role models and represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating leadership, teamwork and a real commitment to helping others succeed.

A huge thank you to the Insignis Academy Trust and Bucks Cricket for organising such a brilliant community event. We are incredibly proud of the positive impact our Sports Leaders had and the way they helped inspire the next generation of cricketers. Thank you too to Mrs Shepherd for accompanying the team.

## Young Leaders Oak Green Sports Day

On the 16 June 16 fantastic Year 9 students who had been selected as Young Leaders visited Oak Green school to help with their Sports Day

A huge well done and thank you to Priya P, Jay M, Sarah D, Sam H, Oscar T, Mia Z, Tyler S, A'diyah K, Nikita K, Megan W, Sienna C-S, Tremayne W, Holly B, Kean F, Mia W, and Bernardo M.

The whole team were brilliant role models, encouraging pupils throughout the day and helping the event run smoothly by acting as leaders and officials. Their enthusiasm, maturity and teamwork were outstanding.

A special thank you to Miss Bellin for accompanying the students, and to Mrs Shepherd for her organisation of yet another brilliant community sports project.







## Drama Club Summer Showcase!

We enjoyed a brilliant evening on Thursday 16 July as our Drama Club students took to the stage for a superb Summer Showcase.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Drama Department for organising such a fantastic evening and to the stars of the show, our truly talented students, whose creativity, confidence and dedication shone throughout every performance.

Our audience enjoyed a series of impressive scenes from the Key Stage 3 set texts, performed in a unique site-specific theatre style. By using different spaces around the school, our students brought each story to life in imaginative and immersive ways.

Year 7 performed the Library Scene from *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* by Alan Ayckbourn, celebrating imagination, courage and friendship.

Year 8 presented a powerful duologue from *The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty* by David Caltutt, exploring themes of peer pressure, bullying and responsibility.

Year 9 performed a thought-provoking scene from *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, examining friendship, difficult choices and their consequences.

Congratulations to all of our performers:

Year 7: Izi M, Olivia M, Elsie R, Michael Z, Chendra S, Lana Z, Casey S, Ava S and Amelia O.

Year 8: Holly S and Tori C.

Year 9: Abi B, Jasper R and Jenuli G.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families and friends who joined us to support our students. Your encouragement and applause helped make the evening extra special and meant so much to our young performers.

We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved and can't wait to see what they accomplish next!



***"A huge thank you to our wonderful Drama Department for organising such a fantastic evening and to the stars of the show, our truly talented students, whose creativity, confidence and dedication shone throughout every performance."***







## Walton-on-the-Naze - Geography Educational Visit

In the final half-term Year 10 and Year 12 Geography students experienced a brilliant Educational Visit to Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, which brought learning to life through hands-on fieldwork, real data collection and geographical investigation.

Our students carried out their GCSE physical geography study, exploring the question: “How effective are the hard engineering strategies at preventing coastal erosion in Walton-on-the-Naze?”

They got stuck in with longshore drift measurements, north/south groyne comparisons and beach profile analysis.

We then headed up to The Naze to compare results with the unmanaged coastline, giving students a powerful contrast between natural coastal processes and human intervention.

Year 12 also completed a human geography investigation exploring the impact of tourism on Walton-on-the-Naze, analysing how visitors shape the town’s economy, services and landscape. On the final day, they designed their own independent fieldwork study, practising the skills needed for their NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) an in-depth research project of their choice.

Educational visits cement classroom learning, build confidence in real-world data collection, deepen understanding of physical and human processes, and make geography meaningful, memorable and exciting. They help students see geography in action, not just read about it.

A huge thank you to Mr McFadden, Mr Dharsey, Mrs Jaffrali, Miss Rai, Mrs Cox, Mr Pynn and Miss McCafferty for supporting the trip and to our students, who were absolutely brilliant throughout.

**“Educational visits cement classroom learning, build confidence in real-world data collection, deepen understanding of physical and human processes, and make geography meaningful, memorable and exciting. They help students see geography in action, not just read about it.”**







## Duke of Edinburgh 2026

This half term our incredible Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students, joined by 20 enthusiastic staff volunteers, completed their final expedition for their Bronze Award.

The amazing adventure at Braidwood Scout Camp involved a 7-mile walk on Saturday, an overnight camp in tents we proudly pitched ourselves, and another 7-mile walk on the Sunday. Throughout the expedition, our students behaved impeccably and represented the school brilliantly.

We all had so much fun! The weather was beautiful, our spirits were high, and it was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved. A huge thank you to all the students who took part and to our amazing staff volunteers who generously gave up their weekend to support the expedition. One student's comment perfectly captured the spirit of the weekend when they realised teachers were volunteering their own time and not being paid.....

***"I always knew we had the best teachers. That confirms they really are the best and just how much they care about the students!"***

Over the course of the expedition, students developed and demonstrated a wide range of valuable skills, including map reading, cooking, teamwork, communication, resilience, and problem-solving. We will be hosting an award ceremony in the first part of the Autumn term to celebrate everyone's success! More information will follow soon!

In the meantime, students should continue working on completing all sections of their award. Support sessions will be arranged, and full details will be emailed home shortly, outlining everything that still needs to be completed. Students are also welcome to speak to any member of the DofE team if they require support.

***"We all had so much fun! The weather was beautiful, our spirits were high, and it was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved. A huge thank you to all the students who took part and to our amazing staff volunteers who generously gave up their weekend to support the expedition."***













## Science Eduational Visit - Thame Solar Farm

A group of Year 9 students enjoyed a hands-on visit to Thame Solar Farm, home to 17,500 solar panels generating around 4MW of clean electricity.

They learned how sunlight becomes power, saw a transformer up close, spoke with an electrical engineer, and asked brilliant questions about DC to AC conversion, grid supply, and how equipment copes with extreme weather.

Alongside the engineering, students explored the surrounding habitat, spotting grasshoppers, caterpillars, butterflies, and discovering how solar farms support biodiversity and work in harmony with nature.

### Student Highlights:

- Oscar loved learning about the huge number of panels
- Tabitha was amazed by the scale of the site
- Abi & Mia enjoyed catching butterflies and grasshoppers
- Smit & Avi loved exploring the wildlife
- Jay enjoyed learning about electricity
- Conor was fascinated by DC-to-AC conversion
- Henry learned how transformers react to extreme heat

A fantastic mix of science, engineering, and ecology. Renewable energy in action!

**“A fantastic educational visit! What a fabulous mix of science, engineering, and ecology.”**







## Super Speed Study Skills – A Year 10 Workshop

On Thursday 4 June, Year 10 took part in the Super Speed Study Skills workshop, expertly delivered by Natalie from Positively You. She brought brilliant energy and showed students some practical, memorable ways to study smarter.

Students learned how to improve their retention and recall through visualisation, association, spaced repetition and retrieval practice. They also explored tools such as the Feynman Technique, structured revision timetables and practical strategies for managing workload and overcoming procrastination.

Each student received a comprehensive study booklet and Bic pen to support their revision at home.

These skills will support Year 10 as they move into their GCSE year helping them revise more efficiently, stay motivated and take control of their learning

**“These skills will support Year 10 as they move into their GCSE year helping them revise more efficiently, stay motivated and take control of their learning.”**







## Happy Retirement Miss Jakeman!

During the final week of the academic year, staff both current and past gathered to celebrate the remarkable career of Miss Jakeman one of our current SENDCo's, who retires after an extraordinary 54 years at The Grange School. It was a truly special afternoon, with Mrs Jackson, Assistant Headteacher, delivering a heartfelt speech filled with wonderful stories that perfectly captured her journey, from joining The Grange as a student in 1961, returning as a teacher in 1972, and going on to become one of the school's most respected and much-loved colleagues.

Over more than five decades, Miss Jakeman has worn many hats! Teacher, Head of Geography, Assistant Headteacher, Premises Manager, SENDCo, mentor, historian and, quite simply, the oracle of The Grange. Her unwavering dedication, incredible knowledge, sharp wit and genuine care for generations of students and staff have left an immeasurable mark on our school community.

As Mrs Jackson reflected, her kindness, wisdom and unforgettable stories have touched countless lives. Whether supporting students, mentoring colleagues, keeping the biscuit tin stocked or sharing one of her famous sayings, she has been at the heart of The Grange for over half a century.

Mr Murray said:

***"I consider myself privileged to have worked with Miss Jakeman for many years. She has dedicated herself to a life of serving her hometown of Aylesbury, whereby she has been a cornerstone of The Grange School community for an amazing half century and more. She has been an advocate for equality and equity and my appreciation for her moral and ethical voice for our students is an example to all. There is no doubt in my mind that everyone who has known and met the legend that is Miss Jakeman will wish her a long, and fun filled retirement."***

Miss Jakeman, thank you for your exceptional service, your unwavering commitment and the difference you have made to so many young people and colleagues over the past 54 years. Your legacy will live on in the school you have helped shape and in the thousands of lives you have influenced.

We wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement filled with fishing, books, jigsaw puzzles, coffee with friends, and plenty of visits to Marks & Spencer! From everyone at The Grange School thank you and good luck. You will be missed more than words can say.

**"From everyone at The Grange School thank you and good luck. You will be missed more than words can say."**







## Careers Eduational Visit - Bucks Highway Alliance

On Wednesday 1 July, 12 of our students enjoyed an exciting day out with Mr Haycock, visiting the Bucks Highway Alliance's main Operational Hub at Griffin Lane, Aylesbury.

The visit gave students a fantastic opportunity to see first-hand the vital work the partnership delivers across Buckinghamshire every day. They also heard from a range of employees about the different career pathways available within the highways sector and the skills needed for these roles.

Students took part in a variety of hands-on activities, including learning how road gritters work, exploring the maths and science behind driving and spreading grit, and investigating the strength of different materials. One of the highlights of the day was getting up close to the specialist vehicles and experiencing the equipment used to keep Buckinghamshire's roads safe.

A huge thank you to everyone at the Bucks Highway Alliance for hosting such an engaging and inspiring visit and for helping our students gain a greater understanding of the exciting careers available in the highways industry.

A special thank you also goes to Mrs Devanney for organising yet another brilliant careers opportunity for our students. Your dedication to providing meaningful experiences that broaden our students' horizons is greatly appreciated.

**"A special thank you also goes to Mrs Devanney for organising yet another brilliant careers opportunity for our students. Your dedication to providing meaningful experiences that broaden our students' horizons is greatly appreciated."**







## Sociology and Criminology Educational Visit

On Tuesday 7 June our Year 12 Sociology and Criminology students headed to London for a brilliant visit to the Royal Courts of Justice and The Old Bailey.

No photos were allowed inside the courts, but below we've shared a few snaps from the day, including the famous arch outside the Royal Courts, our awesome group on the steps of St Paul's, and the red-brick buildings around Lincoln's Inn Fields, home to many barristers' chambers.

Students were able to watch real cases unfold, including seeing a witness sworn in. They were absolutely amazing throughout, a real credit to the school. A huge thank you to Mr McFadden, Mr Scott and Mrs Jackson for organising and supporting such a valuable experience.

A fascinating trip that truly brought classroom learning to life.

**"A  
fascinating  
trip that  
truly  
brought  
classroom  
learning to  
life."**







## Staff Take on Race For Life!

In torrential rain that soaked them to the skin within minutes, 21 incredible members of staff from The Grange School, with additional family members and our honorary teammate Pippin the dog, came together at Waddesdon Manor to take on the Aylesbury Race for Life for Cancer Research UK. We didn't do it for medals or times. We did it for the people we love. For those fighting. For those we've lost.

The rain poured, the paths flooded, and yet nothing could dampen the spirit of this team! They raced, they jogged, they shuffled, they walked and talked... but most of all they laughed! The camaraderie was really something special: colleagues supporting colleagues, friends lifting friends, everyone moving with the same purpose

We are so proud to say that 'Team Grange' raised a phenomenal £3,684 for Cancer Research UK. Every step, every soggy kilometer, every shared moment mattered!

What a night. What a team. And as always... **we** most definitely **can**!

**“What a night. What a team. And as always... we most definitely can!”**







## Religious Studies Educational Visit to Amaravati Temple

On Thursday 11 June, our Year 10 Religious Studies students who are currently learning about the worldview pathway for Buddhism visited Amaravati Buddhist Temple in Hemel Hempstead to deepen and enrich their learning.

Led by Ms Seneviratne, Subject Leader for RS, students toured the temple, observed monks chanting, and learned about the Buddhist practice of dāna – generosity and giving. They also took part in a thoughtful Q&A session, showing curiosity, respect and excellent engagement throughout.

A huge thank you to Mrs Seneviratne for organising and leading such a meaningful visit. Educational experiences like this are incredibly valuable. They take learning beyond the classroom, bring complex ideas to life, and help students connect with worldviews in a real and memorable way.

It was a calm, reflective and inspiring day that all students thoroughly enjoyed.

**“It was a  
calm,  
reflective  
and  
inspiring  
day that all  
students  
thoroughly  
enjoyed.”**







## A Note From The Chair of Governors

Summer term is always busy with exams, outings, events and this year heatwaves thrown in.

The students seemed to handle the exams very well, it can be a stressful time for them and for you supporting, but as long as they work hard and do their best we can ask no more and should be proud of them. As a school we celebrate all their achievements.

Governors have been busy supporting the school in many ways - being members of interview panels, visiting the school and being critical friends with things from student outcomes to health and safety as well as our regular meetings. We are lucky to be able to visit during the school day and see the school in action and also meet the students. I sat on an interview panel with students this year and am always impressed when I do that with the maturity and wisdom that they demonstrate - not the easy audience that some candidates anticipate.

I know one of the key areas that the school will be focusing on next year will be attendance. It is key that students are in the room if they are to learn but it also sets them up for future life - employers clearly are not happy if staff are constantly absent and it will impact their career progression. The earlier good habits are learned the better.

This time of year is always sad as we say good bye and good luck to some students and staff with some of our staff taking well earned retirement after combined service of centuries at the school!

I hope you all had a good summer and are ready to return to school for September.

*Zena Sutcliffe*

Chair of Governors

***"This time of year is always sad as we say good bye and good luck to some students and staff with some of our staff taking well earned retirement after combined service of centuries at the school!"***

***Good Luck!***





## Health and Social Care Workshop

On Wednesday 3 June we welcomed teams from Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Buckinghamshire New University for a hands-on, inspiring workshop for Year 10 Health and Social Care students which explored the huge range of careers in healthcare.

Students took part in:

- Guess the Job activity
- Career insights from BHT & BNU
- Three practical carousel sessions
- Q&A session on joining the NHS
- Career journey guidance advice session

Our students were fully engaged, hands-on and enthusiastic throughout. Huge thanks to the fantastic teams from Bucks Healthcare Trust and Bucks New University for delivering such an inspiring experience.

A special thank you to Mrs Devanney our Careers Co-ordinator & Mr Newton for organising another highly valuable experience for our students.

**"A special thank you to Mrs Devanney our Careers Co-ordinator & Mr Newton for organising another highly valuable experience for our students."**







## Former Student and BBC Broadcast Journalist Inspires Sixth Formers!

Former Grange student Chetan Pathak returned to school to inspire our EPQ and Level 3 BTEC Business students with an incredible communication skills workshop, organised by Mrs Devanney.

With over 20 years' experience as a BBC Broadcast Journalist and Presenter, as well as being a Business Communication Coach, Event Host, Voice Over Artist and Audiobook Narrator, Chetan delivered a dynamic, engaging and highly interactive session focused on developing effective communication and presentation skills.

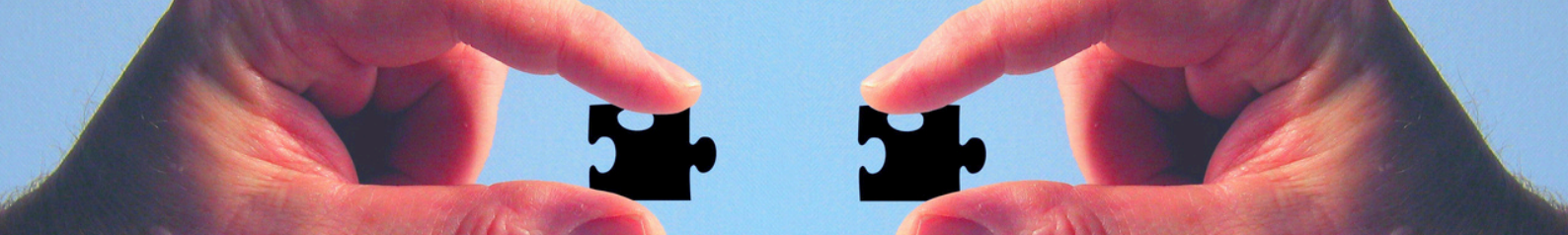
Students came away with practical communication techniques they can put into action immediately, helping them to build confidence and strengthen their presentation skills as well as supporting them to prepare for interviews and professional opportunities in the future.

It was fantastic to welcome Chetan back to The Grange School and see our students so engaged throughout the workshop. Thank you for sharing your expertise and inspiring the next generation of communicators!

***"It was fantastic to welcome Chetan back to The Grange School and see our students so engaged throughout the workshop. Thank you for sharing your expertise and inspiring the next generation of communicators!"***







## 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](mailto:marketing@grange.bucks.sch.uk)**

**Visit us on the web at [www.thegrange.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.thegrange.bucks.sch.uk)**

## A Note from the Attendance Office

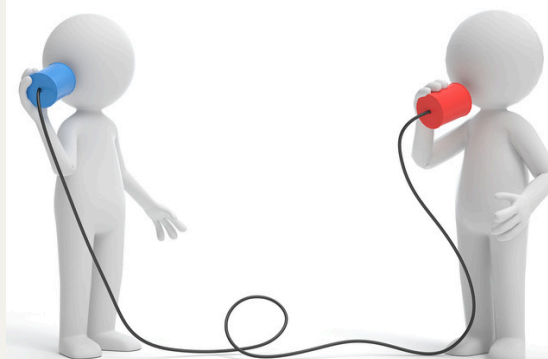
A gentle reminder that all absences should be reported by the MCAS app, or via telephone on 01296 390959 before 8.30am.

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<br>Each Year  | 99%  | Excellent      |
| 5 Days off School<br>Each Year  | 97%  | Good           |
| 10 Days off School<br>Each Year | 95%  | Slight Concern |
| 20 Days off School<br>Each Year | 90%  | Concerned      |
| 30 Days off School<br>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%





## 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. When the weather is 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."**







# 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](mailto:pta@grange.bucks.sch.uk)**

