



# NUNTII GRANICAE

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THE GRANGE ACADEMY  
NEWSLETTER

A FORTNIGHTLY PUBLICATION FOR  
PARENTS AND CARERS OF STUDENTS  
AT THE GRANGE ACADEMY

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

DR P. HILLS

It's been another packed fortnight of activity at The Grange, with one or two new faces and a host of enrichment events. We were delighted to welcome record numbers of visitors to The Grange Open Evening last Thursday. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for the academy and we received numerous compliments for our guides in the feedback. All of our departments put on superb displays, with Modern Languages arguably the pick of the bunch with their 'fiesta' themed room, though Science ran them very close: their brass pennies, in particular, proved a popular memento! Our caterers, Cucina, also did us proud by providing a wonderful taster menu for our many visitors. Huge thanks to students and staff for putting on such a memorable and successful evening. For those who may have missed out on this event and our two show-round mornings, the Senior Leadership Team will continue to offer bespoke tours on an ad hoc basis to families after school. [Please contact admissions@thegrange.futureacademies.org](mailto:admissions@thegrange.futureacademies.org) for further details.

Modern Languages have also been to the fore this week as Ms Gatti and her team have been celebrating World Languages Week celebrating with a series of assemblies and events. It seemed like we were in the middle of a global sporting celebration, too, as our Lower and Upper Marketplaces were festooned with a plethora of national flags.

Our footballers continue to perform well, with a couple of strong wins for our Year 7 and Year 8 teams over Westfield. The oval ball continues to be popular, too: our Year 7 and 8 pupils have already enjoyed some fantastic training sessions with Watford Rugby Club out on our superb pitches.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Kevin Hall, an army veteran with a strong track record in schools, who arrived last week, ready to put our pupils through their paces and to work with them on the RESPECT programme as part of the Commando Joe's initiative.

There are a huge numbers of Enrichment Clubs running, both at lunchtime and after school. Do talk to your child about these and encourage them to come along and take part! Do encourage them, too, to take a look at GCSE Pod online; while it is particularly relevant to Years 10 and 11, there are a host of challenging resources which are suitable for all pupils to sample. For those with mocks exams coming up there are some great resources on retrieval practice and revision techniques, too.



@TheGrangeFA



## OPEN EVENING

We were delighted to welcome visitors to The Grange Academy for our first ever actual open evening on 23 September 2021. Parents and prospective students for 2022 were treated to guided tours from our wonderful students, and a presentation from the Principal, Dr Philip Hills which included our vision for the academy, a talk from William in Year 8, and our Head Students, Aaron and Rhiannon talking about their experiences and plans for the future.

Our very talented Year 13 student Hannah, treated us all to a performance of 'Jingo' on the piano and the presentation was completed by Beth Innes, a Parent Governor. Beth spoke passionately about The Grange and her experience of The Grange over the last year, highlighting the strengths of the academy, her son's feedback on Latin (his favourite subject!), how impressed she was with the remote learning provision during lockdowns, and the plans for the future.

Student guides toured parents around the academy, taking in the wonderful classroom displays and activities. We received excellent feedback on the night and via emails since:

## FEEDBACK

*'Thank you so much to our tour guide from Year 8 who gave my younger daughter and I, the most wonderful tour of the school last week. She was friendly and professional - a real credit to the school. She was very happy to share her knowledge with us and answered all our questions'*

*'Really enjoyed it! Great facilities, friendly staff and polite kids. My son has said it's his top choice'*

*'Very impressed, changed my perception of the school'*

*'We were very impressed with the school, my son really enjoyed the tour and the staff were friendly and informative, thank you'*

*'Excellent tour and facilities. Really surpassed our expectations. Thank you to our tour guide who was lovely'*

The evening was followed this week by open mornings, allowing parents to see the academy in action.

**If you were unable to attend the open evening, or the subsequent open mornings, and you would like a tour of the academy before the application deadline of 31 October, please contact us:**  
[admissions@thegrange.futureacademies.org](mailto:admissions@thegrange.futureacademies.org).

## COMMANDO JOE'S

As part of our Covid 'catch up' plan, The Grange are delighted to be working with Commando Joe's, a well established in-school programme to support education.

Commando Joe's utilise the expertise of former service personnel to improve the educational outcomes of students through their RESPECT programme, working on Resilience, Empathy, Self-awareness, Passion, Excellence, Communication, Teamwork.

The aim of the students attending these sessions is to engage and inspire them to have a passion for learning and promote positive behaviours.

Our Commando Joe, Mr Hall, spent 23 years in the British Army. Since leaving the forces in 2018 he has been working in secondary schools.

His previous job was running a Combined Cadet Force at a school in Hackney. Now part of the Commando Joes team he will be working full time in the academy as the behaviour mentor.



## STUDENT ID CARDS

It is essential that students always carry with them their academy ID card, they need this for accessing Cucina and the printers. Please ensure your child remembers their card even on the days when they have PE.

## VACCINATIONS FOR AGE 12-15 ON 12 OCTOBER 2021

- The academy have sent parents and carers the information from the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) regarding the Covid 19 vaccination programme, which will take place on Tuesday 12 October 2021.

# GCSEPOD

The Grange has invested in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools worldwide.

This means students now have access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts.

Every Pod is mapped to an exam board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that students need for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists.

One of the best things about GCSEPod is that a student can download any Pod to their mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet.

You can download the GCSEPod app from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported) to access this feature.

GCSEPod also has the ability to identify knowledge gaps and automatically send playlists to help fill them. After completing any homework set on GCSEPod, students will get a personalised "Boost Playlist" of Pods relevant to their identified areas of weakness.

Mainly aimed at Year 10 and Year 11, there is good stuff to access for all year groups so please make sure your child activates their account.

Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click "Login" in the top right-hand corner. Any problems, then ask your child to talk to their teacher. Please do make the most of this amazing resource.



## ATTENDANCE

We have seen a fantastic start to the year with regard to student Attendance and Punctuality. At present, our attendance stands at 94.7% which is the highest ever but not quite at our target for this year of 95%. Remember, students with attendance over 95% have an 82% chance of achieving outstanding exam grades compared with only 27% of students whose attendance is below 88%!

At half term we will launch our 100% Attendance Club - these students will be presented with a badge and received enhanced rewards the longer they continue to attend every day!

## ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

On Wednesday 29 September a number of students received training to become anti-bullying ambassadors. This was delivered as part of the Diana Award and ensures that we now have fully qualified staff and students to support and promote our anti-bullying agenda. As you are aware we take bullying very seriously and this year we have a particular focus on peer on peer abuse and online/cyber bullying. As the year progresses we will share with parents guidance materials and training to help keep your child safe online.

## LOST PROPERTY

This is a plea for all uniform to be clearly named. We are beginning to see a number of items turn up in lost property and without a name we can't reunite it with its owner. Unclaimed items of lost property are disposed of half termly.

## COVID UPDATE

Many schools are beginning to see cases of coronavirus creep up. Please do all you can to mitigate the risk of transmission:

- ensure your child takes a lateral flow test twice a week
- encourage them to wash and/or sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day
- limit social contact (avoid large indoor gatherings with no mitigations in place).

If you need lateral flow kits, please speak to the academy.



# SPORT AND ENRICHMENT

## FOOTBALL NEWS

Year 7 won 4-2 v Westfield. Goals from Harrison x2, Jack D and Micah. Man of the match – Charlie.

Year 8 won 5-2 v Westfield. Goals from Owen, Reece and Kayden x3. Man of the match – Kayden

## RUGBY NEWS

We are so grateful to Watford Rugby Club for coming each week to deliver fantastic sessions after school for year 7 and 8. Please come down next week and join in. No need to sign up, just bring kit and get involved.

## ENRICHMENT

Our Enrichment Clubs are up and running. If you have not signed up yet, forms are available from your Form Tutor or from Mr Simmons in G.48. A big thank you to all the staff running clubs and to all those students that are supporting the programme

## DEBATING CLUB

TGA's sharpest minds were put to the test this week as they joined Ms. Osman and Mr. Lugg's Debating Club. Like a ping-pong ball shot across the table, the opposing sides had to prove their case on the issue of whether mobile phones should be allowed in schools or not. Though lively, the debate was respectful and a welcoming atmosphere was created. Testament to this enjoyment was the eagerness with which the participants left to start research on their topic for next week of whether juveniles should be tried and treated the same way as adults.

Students can join us at Debating Club on Tuesdays in Room 1.21 at 3.20pm.

## LANGUAGES WEEK

To illustrate the European Day of Languages, the MFL department hosted a week of foreign language celebration. Pupils arrived on Monday morning to discover displays of flags of the world and were soon seen to name the countries. Each morning year groups attended an assembly where students from the school presented their ideas of why speaking a foreign language is important in their mother tongue. Special mention and thanks to Janvi, Lizzy, Nikky, Graziella, Dhoha, Mahdiya, Julia, Mishante and Aayaan who gave up their time to participate in the assemblies. The audiences were impressed by the range of different languages spoken by our students. Form tutors encouraged pupils to consider taking an additional language for their GCSE and giving learning a new language a go. As a result, the MFL dept has had an increasing number of inquiries from students who wish to take up an additional language for their GCSE option.

**Merci tout le monde!**

## NATASHA'S LAW

The Food Information Amendment, also known as Natasha's Law, comes into effect from the 1st October 2021. It places responsibility on all food businesses to provide a full list of ingredients and allergen labelling on all food prepacked for direct sale.

In order to adapt to Natasha's Law, Cucina have reviewed their labelling systems so that they can be confident that the information on the labels is accurate. The foods that are affected are those that they pre-pack and place within fridges and counters, including sandwiches, baguettes, salad boxes, pasta pots, and dessert pots. From 1 October 2021, they will have a full label that clearly identifies the food item. There will then be a complete list of ingredients and the allergens will be highlighted using a bold font within the ingredients list as shown in the example.

This new labelling system should not detract from the importance of notifying the academy of your child's allergy needs. If necessary, please do so via your child's Head of Year.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week commencing Monday 4 October	Year 11 Careers Interviews recommence
Tuesday 12 October	Covid Vaccinations for age 12-15
Monday 18 October	Year 11 Mocks commence
Tuesday 19 October	Flu jabs for Y7 to Y11 commence
Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October	Half term holiday
Thursday 11 November	Sixth Form Open Evening

## Open Evening



## Languages Week



## Rugby News



## CONNECT

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