



# 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 has been another very busy week at The Grange.

Competitive sport has returned in earnest in many forms. All year groups participated in the recent House Tug of War competitions, which were vigorously contested and loudly supported, with Hera the House gaining the most overall points.

Monday evening Athletics meets have continued and our Year 7s and 9s have enjoyed competing in district six-a-side tournaments. Although Covid restrictions have rendered a whole-school Sports Day unfeasible this year, we are all looking forward to a year-based Sports week commencing 12th July.

The harmful effects of social media and the risks of peer-on-peer abuse have been much in the headlines recently. Following on from our Digital Awareness evening for parents, the Sexual Awareness workshop for Year 10s was very well delivered and received and we are looking at holding a similar event for Year 12s, shortly.

For those at a loose end in the summer or just wanting to consolidate their knowledge, the SummerPod courses are free and a great option. This is in addition to the normal GCSE Pod revision service, to which we subscribe and which is free to all pupils at The Grange.

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is on the rise in Hertfordshire (JFK in Hemel Hempstead has recently introduced a 'fire-break' and switched to remote learning for the majority of its pupils). We urge all parents to make sure that their children are conducting lateral flow tests twice a week at home, so that we can keep the school open and continue to protect the vulnerable.

Finally, it was a delight to host our sponsors, Lord and Lady Nash, on Thursday afternoon. They hugely enjoyed sitting in on classes, talking to pupils and hearing about how well the new curriculum has gone down at Key Stage 3. They were particularly impressed by our Student Voice pupils and the lead they have provided in raising money for Cancer Research. Lord Nash, a keen cricket fan, was bowled over by our wonderful grounds and by our plans for cricket development, following on from Mr Mack's successful introduction of an after-school cricket club.





## HOUSE NEWS

Some excellent tug of war competitions took place over the last three weeks. Every year group took part in these exciting and highly competitive events! Congratulations to Hera who won overall top spot.

## MUSIC COMPETITION

EXTENDED DEADLINE - 2 JULY

Students are reminded to submit their video entry to Mrs Johnson, it can be uploaded by completing the entry form, using their academy student email address - [click this link](#). The deadline for entries has been extended to Friday 2nd July. See Mrs Johnson if you have any questions.

## SPORT NEWS

### Athletics

The four athletics matches for this adapted COVID hit season are now completed. Huge congratulations to students from years 7 - 10 who have taken part in any of the matches. It was lovely to see so many different students getting involved and competing so well against other schools, despite the unseasonal weather at some of the matches.

We are hoping that September will see the return of a full programme of fixtures and all students will be back taking part in a wide variety of sporting activities and in competition with other local schools.

### District 6 a Side Football

It has been fantastic to see competitive football back in the Watford district. Our year 7 and Year 9 students have played against five other schools in a very well run football tournament. All of the students acquitted themselves well and were a credit to the academy. Sonny in Year 7 deserves a mention for his performances and we'd also like to thank Daniel, from Year 12, for coaching the Year 7 football club. Thanks also to Mr Walker and Mr Ahmed for coaching the Year 9 club.

### Sports Week Reminder

As you know, a full school sports day is not possible this term but Sports Week will be running for individual year groups during the week beginning Monday 12th July. Look out for more details in assemblies and PE lessons.



## STUDENT VOICE

Our student voice have been prominent around school and have recently chosen to support Cancer Research as our whole school charity. They have set an ambitious target of raising £1000 by the end of term. A number of events will take place in the last few weeks including a non-uniform day on Thursday 22nd July.

# PSHE

PSHE - On Monday 21st June Year 10 students worked with an external provider for the day to develop their knowledge of Sexual Awareness. There was a particular focus on Consent and Sexual Abuse and Harassment. The Year 10 cohort made some valuable contributions, learnt a lot and were very mature in their approach to a very sensitive topic.

## NEWS FROM GCSE POD - INTRODUCING SUMMERPOD

An exciting and inspiring new FREE student programme has been designed to support students and parents with learning this summer!

From the **26th July and over the course of 3 weeks**, students and parents are invited to participate in engaging and interactive webinars, and gain access to interviews with subject specialists, resources, task sheets, podcasts and more.

It is very simple to register either as a parent or a student, check out the website:

[www.gcsepod.com/summerpod](http://www.gcsepod.com/summerpod)

## LETTER FROM THE RT HON GAVIN WILLIAMSON CBE MP SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has written this week to secondary school and college parents and guardians in England to talk about the importance of regular testing when it comes to keeping covid out of the classroom.

*"The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant.*

*With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep covid out of the classroom.*

*This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children who are in secondary school or college to carry on testing at home, twice a week.*

*As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in our response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country.*

*I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital.*

*Secondary pupils and college students, households and their bubbles, along with school and college staff have now completed more than 50 million tests since these were introduced back in January. That really is an incredible number and we need you to continue your efforts.*

*It is wonderful to see so many children back in school and through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe ensuring we can also keep your children in school with their friends."*