



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

The weather may have been decidedly mixed this week but it has been a joy to see our pupils enjoying the sunshine and the opportunities to play and compete outside. Our Year 9s and 10s were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet and compete with our sister school, Future Academies Watford, on Monday, although the fear of lightning and a slippery surface put paid to the javelin and other throwing events(!) It has been excellent to see numbers steadily growing for our after school cricket club, ably led by Mr Mack.

Congratulations to our Year 7 prize winners in the Aesop's fable competition: there were some very creative stories.

Our Year 13s and Year 11s have been pressing on with their assessments and teachers have been going above and beyond with their marking of a huge number of scripts. I know that everyone is in need of a break after an unusually long half-term!

Before that, though, there are a number of superb careers-based activities for Year 11 which you can read about inside: I do hope everyone makes the most of these opportunities as it is never too early to start thinking about next steps. On that theme, I would urge everyone to use their log-in take a look at the Unifrog website, to which we have recently subscribed. In addition to superb up-to-the-minute information on universities and courses, there are a host of free Personality and Interests tests to provide tailor-made suggestions on careers and related options. Check it out and be inspired!

For parents and carers there is an important online webinar coming up on Monday 14th June about Social Media, Gaming and staying safe online. You should have received an email with a link to the free sign-up. All families have to face the trials of trying to limit screen time, and this can be difficult, especially with teenagers, as I know from domestic experience!

The webinar will offer practical tips and suggestions on how to prevent too much screen time and how to keep your children safe online.

End of year exams will be taking place after half-term, with Years 10 and 12 first up. These will be an important trial run before the real thing next year, so please do encourage your child to revise carefully and to ensure that they are going to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep.





ATHLETICS COMPETITION MAKES A WELCOME RETURN

We waited a long, long time for this athletics match, our first competitive sports fixture since Easter 2019. Then unbelievably we had rain, hail, thunder and lightning!

Both students and staff were excited as we drove across Watford to Woodside Stadium for the season's first athletics match. The night's focus was on the Year 10 GCSE students who needed video footage of their performances to go towards their final GCSE practical grades next summer.

Despite the horrendous weather all of the students were heroic and gave 100%, and we recorded some excellent results. Special mention goes to Dylan, Syrianna and Eduardo who all managed to place in the top three in their respective events - well done!

The next athletics match is on Tuesday 25th May and again the focus is on Year 9 and 10 students. After half term we switch to Year 7 and 8 students with athletics matches for them on Tuesday 8th June and Monday 21st June. Hopefully the sun will come out for these future matches!

AESOPIC FABLE COMPETITION RESULTS

We are delighted to announce the results of the recent Aesop's Fable competition.

Congratulations to Jess (7F) who was awarded a Commended for her fantastic fable with its thought-provoking moral, which is now printed with the other winners in an amazing booklet.

Amarisiel (7D) is the winner of The Grange Academy Award, she created a brilliant fable, and demonstrated a great command of the Latin language.

We have a further Latin Drama/Reading competition coming up next half term, we are looking forward to more brilliant entries and successes!



CAREERS UPDATE

Year 11 have begun taking part in 5 days of careers based workshops and activities. They will be connecting with organisations such as The Army, Watford FC, WiseUp and the University of Hertfordshire to create CVs, build university level study skills and take part in team building activities. Students will get the opportunity to upload their new CV and cover letter to Unifrog to help track their progress for the future.

Students will also put their newfound employability skills to the test by taking part in mock interviews with 30 volunteers across a range of sectors. Our volunteers have experience on Broadway, working for the NHS and conducting huge finance deals at the Bank of America to name a few. They will be meeting with students, interviewing them and providing helpful feedback.

This packed week will allow students to explore their potential and prepare for the world of work. Students are encouraged to network with volunteers to get their name known, hopefully opening the door for future work experience opportunities.

Year 12 will also be meeting with the University of Hertfordshire for a 'Wayfinder' morning, discussing UCAS, Applications and all things University life! As well as this, Year 12 and 13 have been receiving weekly Careers Round Up emails from Miss Hayward. We encourage all Sixth Form students to look through the opportunities they are being sent. From Virtual Work Experience to Apprenticeships, there is something for everyone. The weekly round up emails also ask students to consider relevant Labour Market Information when making decisions about their future.

Year 10 have been successfully taking part in their Careers Guidance Interviews, and we've had excellent feedback from our students and the advisor. Keep up the good work, Year 10!

All year groups have now had access to Unifrog for two weeks. We are disappointed to see that most students are yet to log in to their account. Please encourage your child to go back through their emails to find their details. Students have the ability to create a Personality and Interests Profile, which will allow them to explore their personality types and give them tailored suggestions for their next steps, and skills to work on. There is also a comprehensive library of resources and webinars should students require goal setting inspiration.

PARENTAL WEBINAR ON 'SOCIAL MEDIA, GAMING & KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE'

Monday 14th June 2021 at 6.00pm

We are all more and more concerned with the safety of young people online - especially when they use social media and are gaming.

The Grange Academy has teamed up with Digital Awareness UK to provide a webinar for parents and carers on Monday 14th June at 6.00pm on the dangers of these online tools and to give strategies for parents to keep their children safe.

The webinar will be delivered by Zoom and is for over 18's only.

In order to register your interest in this webinar, please check your email which contains a link to sign up and get your access codes.

Please contact Mr Nagle should you have any further questions regarding this training or have concerns for your child in their use of social media or gaming.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Face Coverings

Just a reminder of the current guidelines from the Department for Education regarding face coverings:

“Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers.

Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.

In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.”

As our students adjust to the latest relaxation of the rules surrounding face coverings, rules that have been in place for some time, we appreciate that some students may wish to continue wearing a mask for the time being, in communal areas of the school (but not in classrooms). If this is the case for your child, please reassure them that this is acceptable on a voluntary basis.

As stated in the information above from the DfE there is the option to reintroduce face coverings if a localised situation should occur, so do keep masks stored safely at home, in case they need to be reintroduced.

Please note, that for the time being, the Year Group Bubbles, including break and lunch times, and staggered start and end times of the school day will remain in place.

Lateral Flow Tests

It is important that we continue with the programme of lateral flow testing as a way to pick up on asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. Pleasingly, rates in the local area remain low, but as a community we should be prepared that cases could increase as more measures are lifted.

Therefore, please continue to encourage your child to complete two lateral flow tests a week and report the results online.

If you need any support with testing your child, please contact your Head of Year or Mr Nagle, Vice Principal.

