

Principal's Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of our Academy Newsletter.



It is fantastic that so many parents as well as grandparents have now been vaccinated and that infection rates from Covid-19 continue to fall. We remain vigilant, however, in school and your cooperation in ensuring that your children come to school equipped with a mask each day is much appreciated. Lateral flow tests remain important, too, and we would ask you to continue to support your child in conducting these at home with the kits provided and to share the result each time, whether void, positive or negative, with Test and Trace to help with contact tracing. Please let the school know, immediately, of any positive result and keep your child away from school. Reporting your result helps the NHS monitor the spread of the virus, combat the virus and save lives.

Interestingly, in the USA, the Pfizer vaccine has just been approved for the 12-15 age group, as we learned in a fascinating assembly from our own Mr Tyrrell this week, on the subject of smallpox (*variola*) and the development of vaccinations. It is of course early days, but, as Mr Tyrrell pointed out, it is likely that at some stage (probably in the autumn) all pupils of senior school age in the UK will be offered a vaccination against Covid-19. We will of course, liaise closely with families when that time arrives.

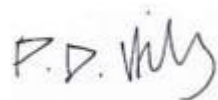
Assessments have begun in earnest for Years 11 and 13 this week. Please encourage your son or daughter to make sure that they arrive in good time for the beginning of each assessment, which will form a key part of the Teacher Assessed Grades.

It has been excellent to see our sports and activities after-school programme continue to roll-out, in spite of the inclement weather of the past week. More activities are coming on stream all the time and there are likely to be competitive athletic events within year group bubbles against other schools after half-term, which is great news.

Preparations for the Year 11 Prom in late June are continuing and it is pleasing that two thirds of the year group are signed up: it promises to be an evening to remember.

I don't want to end on a down-beat, but I would ask everyone to pay attention to the notices in this edition regarding parking and cycling – they are really important both for student safety and for our relationship with our local community.

It was a delight for me to meet with those pupils in Years 7 & 8 who have accrued the most achievement points (well over 300 in many cases!) and to celebrate their success. Many congratulations to all of them. We will be holding similar events with other year groups in the next few weeks.



Dr Philip Hills

Celebrations

The top 20 students for Success Points from Year 7 and Year 8 were rewarded this week at two celebrations hosted by the Principal. The students were very humble about their successes, but we did manage to get photos!

The achievement of other year groups is to be recognised in the coming weeks.

Year 7

Abdul, Toby, Amarisiel, Scarlett,
Charlie, Bradley, Kayden, Lily,
Mia, Bianca, Ana, Andra, Alesia,
Reece, Rosa, Lily Grace,
Janka, Molly



Year 8

Emiley, Henry, Caitlin,
Ian, Frank, Hannah,
Carla-Natalia, Donnell,
Vanda, Weronika, Liam,
Laura, Erin, Alfie, Lafortune,
Niam, Kavya, Lanie-Grace,
Archita, Rhys

Well done to everyone and keep up the excellent work.

Student Leadership Opportunity – Year 8 only

Year 8 students will be invited to spend a day shadowing the academy reception staff and acting as an 'Academy Student Leader'. They will help with minor tasks such as delivering messages, forgotten lunches and PE kits, and collecting students who have forgotten they have a dental appointment (this happens more often than you may imagine!)

This will be a rewarding experience for students as it not only gives them an insight into the day-to-day running of the academy, but also provides them with an opportunity to learn new character and employability skills.

This scheme already runs in many secondary schools and it is something we have been keen to do for some time.

House News

It has been great to see the new House Events starting this week with the Science department running a Wind Up Car Challenge - it has been fascinating to watch the students navigate the physics behind creating the best and faster car. See more in the write up below from the Science Department.

New overall House Leaders have emerged, Apollo have stormed to the top of the leaderboard with 21,023 points - their flag will wave proudly at the front of the school for the next two weeks as the current champions.



It was also great to announce the 40 House Captains in Years 7-10 last week - they will play a full role in coordinating events moving forward.

House Science Competition



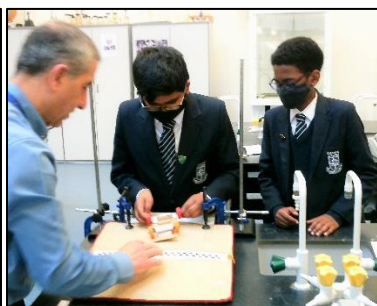
To commemorate Science Week we ran a competition in the science department for students in years 7 to 10 to construct a wind up racing car using simple recycled materials, including bottle tops, paper and cardboard. Some fantastic cars were constructed within a strict time limit of 30 minutes, and the

winners were determined by how far the cars travelled.



Even though the propulsion engine was built from rolled up paper, many cars managed to travel over 100cms!

The winners were: Elisa (year 7), Ronnie (year 8), Anna, Amankona and Nathanne (year 9).



Year 11 Destination Data

If you are a parent or carer of a year 11 student, please remind them to complete the destination questionnaire if they have not already done so. This data is submitted directly to Hertfordshire County Council, and is strictly confidential.

If you have any questions please liaise with Ms McGowan, Head of Year 11.

Careers and Enrichment

Last week, all students received an email to create an account on Unifrog. Unifrog is an online next steps and careers platform that empowers students to set goals and make plans for their future. We'd like to encourage all students to create an account and begin using the platform.

We are pleased to have started our Careers Guidance Interviews via David Ritchie and Associates with our Year 10 students. Students should be prepared to meet with Margaret Raichura where they can draw up an action plan for their next steps. Year 12 and 13 are welcome to meet with Miss Hayward after school if they would like to have an impartial careers guidance session.

We are excited to begin hosting students for enrichment and societies after school. You will notice these are still in bubble groups. Once this ends, societies will be opened to a wider variety of year groups. Please note: these will run alongside our sports offer that is already taking place.

Society	Staff Member	Year Group	Day
Chess & Board Game Society	Mr McCarthy	9 & 10	Monday
History Society	Mr Calverley	Please see Mr Calverley	Wednesday
Latin Reading Society	Mr Sayer	7	Wednesday
Poetry Society	Ms Kinsella	10	Friday

Cycle Safety

A number of students cycle to school and we would like to encourage this as a safe and healthy mode of transport. Unfortunately, data shows that over 1,900 school children are seriously injured riding bikes each year. In order to ensure that students at The Grange are safe, there will be a requirement that all students travelling to school by bike will be required to wear a cycling helmet. Students who do not follow this safety guidance will not be permitted to use their bike in future.

In order to allow parents and students time to purchase the right helmet we will formally introduce this rule from Monday 24th May 2021.

We are also monitoring how safely students ride their bikes. Students who are deemed to be unsafe will be asked not to use their bikes to come to school as they are putting the safety of themselves and others at risk.

We are currently in the process of accessing a bike riding qualification. We will share further information about this in the future.

Parking Plea

We are lucky to have substantial onsite parking at the academy and this includes spaces clearly designated for Disabled Badge Holders. Please ensure that at all times, including the morning drop off and end of day pick up, that you only park in these bays if you are eligible and your vehicle displays the relevant badge. Thank you for your consideration.



HM Government



Test and Trace

Twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing

Test at home
Report online
Keep life moving

Let's take this next step safely.

GET YOUR TESTS
FROM SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

