

## *News from The Grange*

23 April 2021

### Principal's Welcome

Welcome to our new newsletter. We hope you like the new, clearer format. As a classicist I couldn't resist the opportunity for a Latin tag, particularly one which highlights the etymology of the Middle English word 'Grange' (meaning 'granary' or 'barn') via Old French and medieval Latin (*granica (villa)* 'grain house' or farm').

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the Easter break and there has been a real sense of calm, purposeful work and preparation around the Academy this past fortnight.

Details of the school based assessments for years 11 and 13 have now been sent to all pupils and parents, together with individualised timetables. I am sure that all of our pupils will want to seize this opportunity to show what they can do. I am especially grateful to the work of all of our teachers and Heads of Department in setting and marking these assessments at relatively short notice.

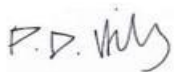


Clubs and activities are up and running again and the sense of enjoyment in our students as they play sport in the spring sunshine is palpable.

Indoors, however, we still face the threat of Covid-19, which is why everyone still needs to wear their masks indoors at all times, including in classrooms. We really appreciate your ongoing cooperation with this and with the home lateral flow-testing, with the kits that have been issued to all pupils.

Last week we honoured HRH Prince Philip, with the Union Flag flown at half-mast. One of his greatest legacies is of course, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. We will be launching this shortly at The Grange so watch this space!

Wishing you a warm weekend



Dr Philip Hills

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### Enrichment & Careers

The Science department is excited to announce their Inter-House Science Competition! Students in years 7-10 will get the opportunity to build and race their very own racing cars. The fastest and most effective car will win a prize! The competition will take place between 4th-7th May. Please encourage students to check their emails and sign up now!

Every week we are celebrating 'Career of the Week'. Last week students found out about what it takes to become a Heritage Officer, this week they have been looking at the pathway to becoming a Counsellor. Students should look out for 'Career of the Week' posters in their classrooms and see Miss Hayward if they have any questions or would like some early careers advice.

We are excited to roll out our Societies and After-School Clubs calendar next week so please do watch out for an email from Miss Hayward.

**In the meantime, Summer term sports clubs are already up and running, in bubbles:**

Day	Year Group	Activity	Finish Time
Monday	10	Football	16:15
	8	Cricket/Trampolining	15:50
Tuesday	10	Trampolining	15:50
	8	Netball	15:50
Wednesday	9	Football/Trampolining	15:50
	7	Netball/Cricket	15:50
Thursday	7	Football/Trampolining	15:50
	9	Cricket	15:50
Friday	11	Basketball	16:15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clubs are open to students of all abilities, the changing rooms will be available if students need to change</li><li>• Students should wear school PE kit</li><li>• Attend a club – get involved!</li><li>• Any questions, please ask a member of the PE team</li></ul>			

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## Attendance

We are delighted that our Attendance continues to improve, currently sitting at 94.5%. This is significantly higher than previously and shows the resilience, drive and motivation that students have to attend school. Despite this we still want to be better and to be excellent we need to be over 96%.

### ***Did you know?***

*Students with over 96% attendance have an 80% chance of passing their GCSE's in Year 11 achieving level 5 or higher in the majority of their assessments. Compare this to only 18% of students achieving the same grades when their attendance drops below 85%!*

## Uniform

We are really pleased that students have returned to the academy after the Easter holidays looking very smart and well equipped for studies. Some students need a reminder that make up and jewellery are not part of the uniform apart from a wristwatch and a single stud earring in each ear. Please remind your child and help them to adhere to the uniform rules.

We also recognise that some students may have use of an electric scooter at home. Currently, the only place a privately owned e-scooter can be used is on private land. We consider that e-scooters can be dangerous and therefore they are prohibited from being brought onto the school site. Should a student bring an e-scooter to school, it will be confiscated for two weeks in line with other banned items.

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## Term Dates 2021-22

Term dates for the next academic year 2021-22 are available on the website and can be found here - [Term Dates 2021-22](#)

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## Upcoming Assessments for Year 11 and Year 13 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

The summer exam season is always a stressful time, and we appreciate that the pandemic continues to create additional challenges for both students and staff.

Parents/Carers, and Students of Year 11 and Year 13 should refer to the letter sent out earlier this week. This letter contains more detailed information regarding the upcoming assessments which will help teachers produce the 'TAG' (Teacher Assessed Grade), but in the meantime here is a short summary:

- Teachers will **assess students against a national standard**, which will be defined by the examination boards before the Easter break.
- Departments will submit grades which will be **quality assured by the school**. This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the examination board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
- The school's grades will be **quality assured externally** by the examination boards, which may include random sampling of our school's evidence.
- If the examination boards are confident in our submitted results, **then the examination boards will award students their final grades**.
- If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to **appeal**. Details will be included in the results envelope / email.

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## House News

Next week we are delighted to announce the new Student House Captains and House Competitions for the Summer Term. Over 100 students have formally applied to be a House Captain and take an important leadership role within the school.

Events already planned include: The Great Times Table Challenge, The Grange Bake Off, Mixed Rounders, Monologue Writing competition, The Wind Up Car Challenge and a Cultural Experience with the Modern Languages department.

Exciting times are ahead!

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## Lateral Flow Tests

Following the latest Government guidelines, please continue to support and encourage your child to take a lateral flow test twice a week at home, three to five days apart. You do not need to notify the academy **unless the test result is positive**. However, please report every result through the track and trace website - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

## Test and Trace payment for parents

The Department for Education has announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace, are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria (which includes receipt of certain low-income benefits).

The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and borough councils in Hertfordshire (and ends on Wednesday 30th June) ensures that parents receive some financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities and are unable to work from home. See the UK government website for more information - <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>.