



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 MESSAGE

DR P. HILLS

It has been a long and demanding year for students, parents and staff alike and I would like to pay tribute to all of you, particularly to those pupils and teachers involved in sitting and marking assessments for GCSE and A level – your efforts have been heroic in very difficult circumstances. The distance learning on Google Classroom during the second lockdown went very well in the spring term, as did the remote parental evenings and we have all made huge strides in using remote technology.

You will shortly be receiving a detailed email, but I can confirm that School will be closing at 12noon on Thursday 22 July, the last day of term for all pupils, with reception closing at 12.30pm. Students with FSM will be able to use their allowance at break time. Our Student Council have selected Cancer Research as our school charity for this term and we will be having a non-uniform day on that last day of term: please would your son or daughter bring in £1 to contribute on the door to this very deserving cause.

We will be emailing, too, regarding the September return to school, following the recent DfE statement on the corona virus. The return to school will be staggered again to enable initial lateral flow tests to take place. After these initial tests lateral flow tests will continue to be done at home with kits which will be provided. From 19 July onwards NHS England rather than schools will assume responsibility for track and trace.

On Wednesday, our Year 10 English students were treated to fantastic performances of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* by The Globe Players. Their responses in the accompanying workshop showed a real depth of engagement and it was wonderful for them to be able to experience a live theatrical performance after such a long hiatus.

We are looking forward to a keenly contested sports week next week in Year Group Competitions. Please note that students will need to come in full PE Kit on the relevant day for their year group.

For those families with children eligible for free school meals, Hertfordshire County Council are offering sporting Holiday Camps with the added benefit of a free meal every day. Full details are at the end of this newsletter.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONT

On the subject of food, we had some impressive entries in our 'Bake Off' competition as revealed inside.

As well as keeping active outside, I would urge all students to read at least two works of fiction over the holidays. Our Year 11 pupils have already started to make the leap into Sixth Form via the transition weeks, where they have experienced A level-style teaching in subject taster sessions and embarked on independent research.

I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing Vice Principal, Mr Ian Sudbery, who has recently departed for a senior leadership role in The Shared Learning Trust and to our Assistant Principal, Ms Lorraine Mulcahy, who is retiring after almost a decade of stalwart service to the Academy. Our thoughts and best wishes go with them and to the other members of staff who are moving on. We have recruited some truly outstanding new teachers for the next year, with the help of Future Academies together with a talented group of school leaders. So that the new leadership team has time to settle in, we have already welcomed our new Vice Principals, Mr Adam Snell and Mr Ali Jaffer at the end of this term, together with our new Head of Mathematics and Associate SLT member, Mr Sanjeev Kochhar. Another Vice Principal, Ms Laura Abbott, will be joining us at October half-term. All of the new leadership team members have extensive leadership experience in their previous schools as well as being outstanding teachers in their own right and they are committed to working with their colleagues in taking the academy to the next level.

Finally may I wish all of you a happy, healthy and safe summer: I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and revitalised in September.

THE GLOBE PLAYERS

Year 10 welcomed The Globe Theatre Company to The Grange who performed for the students Shakespeare's Macbeth and An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley.

Seated surrounding the stage, students saw Macbeth come to life, as the actors brought out the true nature of the witches and Lady Macbeth as they plotted and planned a future based on ambition and power.

In between scenes the actors touched on the themes and context of the play, allowing the audience a greater understanding of Shakespeare's purpose and intent in regards to his audience and message. With only a limited number of actors and props, as well as no scenery, pupils were able to experience first hand how a theatre production at that time would have been performed, allowing them to focus on the dialogue and actors themselves.

After a short break, the actors performed the modern play An Inspector Calls. Once again the actors captured the essence of Priestley's message, bringing to life the words on the page and encapsulating the tension within this dramatic play. With a simplistic set and duality of multiple characters, the Globe Theatre Company recreated the elegance and wealth of the aristocratic society from the early 1900s. We witnessed the true intensity of family relationships in a crisis, and the attitudes which accompanied the rejection of moral and social responsibility.

At the end of each performance, the actors ran a Q&A session for students who drilled the performers about the play and the characters themselves. The actors not only provided responses based on their own interpretations and understanding of the individual characters they portrayed, but also about how the plays are relevant to society today and how we can learn from the message each playwright intended to be delivered with each performance.

Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for students and the staff, bringing to life the plays being studied for the GCSEs next year.



SPORTS WEEK

APOLLO, ATHENA, HERA OR ZEUS - WHO WILL BE VICTORIOUS?

We are looking forward to afternoons of sport next week. The students have been provided with all of the information they need, but please do remind them of the schedule:

Day	Year Group
Monday 12 July	10
Tuesday 13 July	8
Wednesday 14 July	9
Friday 16 July	7

> On the allocated day:

- Students must come to school in full PE kit
- The year group will have first lunch 12.30-12.55, then go straight to the Sports Hall to register

> Students should bring plenty of water, sun cream and a hat if it is hot!

> Activities include netball, basketball, football and rounders.

SIXTH FORM NEWS: YEAR 12 TRANSITION PROGRAMME 2021

The Year 12 Transition is an important programme of events that this year is taking place across 3 weeks. Our Year 11 students who have applied to Sixth Form have been attending lessons, meeting current Year 12 and 13 students, getting to know their form tutors, learning about life in Sixth Form and taking part in team building activities. The programme has been very busy and we have been impressed with the maturity, focus and enthusiasm of the students.

The step up from GCSE to A Level is significant and we tailor our Sixth Form transition lessons to bridge the gap between Year 11 and Sixth Form, building on existing knowledge and preparing for new topics covered across the two year courses. Students have been taking part in lessons in their chosen subjects and have also been undertaking independent work during study lessons, giving them the full Sixth Form experience.

For our team building activities, students worked together in their forms using communication, problem solving, initiative and cooperation to complete the challenges. Developing these skills will not only support them during their time in Sixth Form but are also valuable skills for life. The team building was great fun; the effort and participation of the students was excellent, and the competition was very close...but a big well done to Ms Koneswaran and 12B, who won overall!

It has been a great couple of weeks so far and we are looking forward to the final set of activities next week to finish off, before turning our attention to Results Day in the summer, Sixth Form enrolment and the start of term in September.

SCHOOL BAGS

In response to feedback from students and parents regarding schoolbags, we are pleased to announce that a larger, premium quality school bag will also be available for purchase.

Retailing at £23.99, it is a larger, branded rucksack, providing extra detailing and padded lumbar support. The new bag is available to pre order from www.uniform4kids.com or via Pullens in Stanmore.

The slightly smaller, current rucksack will also remain available for purchase at £13.75.

THE GREAT GRANGE BAKE OFF' HOUSE COMPETITION 2021

Wednesday afternoons in the food room recently have been a flurry of excitement as G12 was turned into the Bake Off Tent!

As Week 1 coincided with Healthy Eating Week, the Signature Challenge was 12 identical products with a healthy twist, and inspired a wide range of cakes and biscuits. Star Baker for this week was won by Shawon (Athena).

Week 2, The Technical Challenge, required students to follow an unseen recipe to make Viennese Fingers in one hour and 15 minutes. The concentration in the room was so intense, you could have heard a pin drop and the results were delicious! Caitlin (Apollo) was Star Baker for this challenge with 12 perfect biscuits.

The most fun is always in Week 3 – The Showstopper – when the contestants had to make 12 individual cakes representing nature in British Summer-time. There had to be an element of height to their dishes. The cakes produced for this round were very professional and Star Baker, who hit the brief perfectly, was Chloe. (Hera)

The overall winner for The Great Grange Bake Off 2021 was Caitlin (Apollo).

Well done to all the competitors, the bakes were amazing!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

If your child is in receipt of benefits related free school meals, then please see the information below regarding summer holiday camps.

What will your kids be doing this summer holiday? Are they in need of action-packed days with the added benefit of a free meal?

Would they be interested in football, basketball or a multi-sport camp? Maybe they would enjoy being part of a theatre performance or even just spending more time exploring the great outdoors! If so, HAPpy Holiday Camps are taking place across Hertfordshire this summer and might be just the answer!

It's all thanks to Hertfordshire County Council who have joined forces with the Herts Sports Partnership to organise a huge programme of activity for the school holidays.

Activities will be running in different venues across the county for children and young people aged between 5-16 years, and all include a nutritious meal each day. As of today even more camps have been added to the programme.

If you are an eligible family (in receipt of benefits related free school meals) you can book for free using your unique HAPpy Booking Code. When prompted, please make sure you enter the whole code, which includes the ! symbol.

Your unique code is: 4FY5J!

You will be able to search for activities using your postcode or child's age – places are limited and strictly on a first come basis so be quick and book online today at <https://www.sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking>

If you are having trouble booking, you'll find a step by step guide on the booking page explaining what to do. Still need help? Hertfordshire Libraries have computers you can use, and friendly staff who will be able to help. While you're there, why not check out their 'Wild World Heroes' Summer Reading Challenge?

Additionally, there are a range of fun online Enrichment Activities to look through, with ideas for learning more about arts and crafts, history, music and theatre, plus ways to keep your family active for 60 minutes each day! View these at <https://www.sportinherts.org.uk/hafhappy>.

Lastly, our information page has links to a variety of organisations and advice you and your family may find useful. Visit this at <https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/useful-local-services>

