



# 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 Philip Hills

We've had a flying start to the new term and there is so much to share with you. New Year is a time for new resolutions and we've been reinforcing our behavioural expectations in assemblies and briefings. We have introduced STEPS (see page 3), which is a handy acronym for summing up the politeness, respect and thoughtfulness towards others that we expect from all of our pupils.

It was good to see our Year 7 basketball team make a positive start – hopefully we will see some wins along the way. We hope you will be able to join us on Monday evening for the Webinar on Social Media, Gaming and Keeping Children Safe online (Page 6). The online world is changing at breakneck speed and the experts from Digital Awareness UK will talk you through the trends to be aware of and the best ways of educating and protecting your children online.

Assessments are upon us already for Years 7 and 10 with Years 8 and 9 soon to follow.

For Year 11, Mock GCSEs are imminent and now would be an excellent time to help your son or daughter make a revision timetable to use in conjunction with the CGP Revision Guides that we handed out to everyone in September. We will also be offering a number of revision and support classes for Year 11 in the weeks ahead: do please encourage your child to attend as it will make a real difference to their success in the summer. There are some superb online resources for all year groups to work on, too: see page 2 for further details.

Finally, many congratulations to Janvi Shah for her success with her excellent poem, which you can read on page 3. The poem is timely in that it highlights the importance of a positive attitude, remaining undaunted and making the right choices for success.

@thegrangebushey



# Year 11 Assessments

A reminder that Year 11 assessments are taking place the week before half term (07/02) and the week after half term (21/02). The timetable and exams content is currently being organised and will be shared with parents and students shortly.

Students should make the most of the resources available to them including their revision guides and online applications, for example GCSE pod etc

## Assessments for Years 7, 10, 8 & 9

A reminder of the assessments for other year groups which are taking place in January. Most assessments will take place on the following dates:

**Year 7 and Year 10, week commencing 10 January**

**Year 8 and Year 9, week commencing 24 January**

Resources can be found on:

- Google Classroom for all subjects (students can log on using their school accounts)
- Eedi Maths (google it and log in with students' school google login)
- HegartyMaths (google it, choose school name, and complete details)
- Seneca Learning (google it, and login with your class code)
- GCSE pod (for year 10, google it and log in with students' school google log in)

## Covid Update

### Masks

It is essential that your child brings in their own mask to school. Do not rely on the academy to provide one for your child.

### Lateral flow Testing

Please ensure your child takes a lateral flow test at home twice a week – Sunday and Wednesday. Please report the test result, even if it is negative: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

### **What to do if your 12-15 year-old child missed their appointment at school to receive their Covid vaccination**

If for any reason your child missed the opportunity to receive their vaccination at school, or were declined their vaccination because they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, you have the following alternative options :

#### **Booking vaccination appointments online**

You can book your child's 1st dose online from the day they turn 12. You can usually book their 2nd dose from 24 hours after they had their 1st dose. You'll be offered appointment dates from 12 weeks after their 1st dose. [Book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment](#)

Getting the vaccine at a walk-in vaccination site

Your child can get a 1st dose at a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site from the day they turn 12. They can get a 2nd dose if it's been 12 weeks since their 1st dose. [Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

For the above options you will need to accompany your child to any venues offering the vaccination to give consent.

### **Phase 2 of Vaccinations within school**

The SAIS (School Aged Immunisation Service) will be offering the opportunity for students to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the vaccination within school on 2 February 2022. Further information on this will follow in due course.

# STEPS

This half term we have introduced STEPS to all of our students across the academy. Year 7s have been working on this very successfully since the beginning of the academic year.

Students always refer to staff as Sir or Miss. It's a sign of respect. The Sir or Miss at the end of a sentence is like a full stop. When we refer to The Grange Full Stop, we are referring to the Sir or Miss that pupils habitually add to the end of their sentences when talking to staff.

**STEPS - It's who we are. It's what we do at The Grange Academy.**



## Congratulations Poetry Competition Winner

Huge congratulations to Year 11 student Janvi Shah, whose original poem *What is a choice?* was chosen to be published in *Empowered - Words Unchained*, a publication by Young Writers.

Janvi submitted her poem as part of a competition based on the theme 'Choices' and was chosen to be published out of over 12,000 entries.

We are extremely proud of Janvi and her hard work and we look forward to reading more of her thought-provoking poetry in the future.

**Theme: Choices**  
**What is a choice?**  
**By: Janvi Shah - Year 11**



*What is a choice?  
If not a new memory,  
A daunting nightmare,  
Brought to life  
After chasing infinities  
Of what ifs? And however?  
It's like you are the owner  
Of the world's best candy shop  
The world's your lollipop  
But,*

*What flavour will you choose?  
What if it ruins your mood?  
A plethora of options  
Yet you seem inclined  
To stop time, and  
Wonder.  
It holds you down,  
Every second you linger  
A little longer,  
What is a choice  
If not an abyss  
Of unknown bliss?*

## Year 8 Mathematics



Year 8 enjoyed "Hands on Maths" to apply their learning of Ratio by making Rice Crispy Cakes.

They weighed the ingredients and ensured they had the correct proportions.

Our photo shows Callum, Kyle, Kurt and Pelis.

At the end of the lesson they were able to enjoy their cakes!



# Year 7 Basketball

The Year 7 basketball team have been to their first game this week. We took a large squad to allow as many students to play as possible.

We went 0-4 up very early on. Tyler and Harrison made some great spaces. Adam and Brian combined well. Jess H won every rebound and used that to score two baskets. Our opponents got one back on the break to make it 4-2 at the first quarter.

We swapped five of the team and Nicky, Ava, Sophia, Alex and Charlie C came on court. The girls were hassling the opposing team in winning the ball and getting the passes back. Charlie and Alex found the corners to give Nicky the space to dribble with the ball. Unfortunately even though we had the ball, the other team scored two baskets late on in the quarter to go 4-6 up.



Third quarter Charlie came on and was always in space. Micha won so many interceptions. Jess B made continuous forward runs and Charlie D was always making space. Jess started alongside them. We ended up playing an extra five minutes and in this extra time the opposing team scored three more baskets to go 4-12 up. Tyler came on to give us some more energy.

Last quarter we scored two. Brian scored a great shot and both his free throws. Harrison was good getting into space. Nicky was good at dribbling with the ball. Adam did well too.

Brian won Player of the Match. Nicky has been picked as captain.  
Final result: 8-14

**Training is every Monday after school. Students must attend training to be picked for the team.**

# Year 11 'Drop Down Day'

The Year 11 drop down day started the new term in style. The aim of the day was to provide students with options and information about what their post-16 studies might look like.

Students who had applied to The Grange Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form had the chance to experience a day in the life of a sixth former. Our post-16 teachers prepared and delivered A-Level and BTEC lessons for some of our most ambitious Year 11 students. Lessons included a gory heart dissection in Biology, an exploration of Marxism in English and the opportunity to discuss the formation of legal contractual relationships as we introduce Law at A-Level in 2022/2023.



Several other students in our cohort had the chance to hear from Chris Mitchell, Principal at Elstree Screen Arts Academy who gave a passionate presentation about the specialised courses his academy has to offer; technical skills, trades, crafts and technologies which support the entertainment, film, television, theatre, visual arts and digital communication industries. Our Year 11 students were very engaged - and Chris' enthusiasm for wanting students to challenge themselves was infectious with several students showing great interest in making an application.

Students also made use of the CV writing session delivered by Chloe Alder - Resourcing Manager from Align. Chloe gave the students direction and insight into best practice for CV writing along with the task of putting pen to paper to create their CV, which for many students was their first attempt.

The day, for both groups of students, concluded with various team-building tasks. Commando Joe's set up a task based on commands and trust as student leaders had the task of guiding their blindfolded team mates through a treacherous course of simulated hazardous terrain as quickly and safely as possible. The students preparing for life in the sixth form also had to navigate their way around the sports hall using mats and without stepping on the floor in what proved to be a rather more challenging activity than originally anticipated!

Students left happy, motivated and engaged and, hopefully - with a renewed sense of purpose as they look to conclude their Year 11 studies.

Pleasingly, many students have applied for Sixth Form at The Grange, continuing the upward trend, with a record number of external applicants from other schools this year.

## Performing Arts



Our "**Summer Spectacular**" event will take place in the week beginning 27th June 2022, and will include musical performances from the Guitar Club, Brass Band and Choir along with a "sixty-minute Shakespeare" modern-English version of 'The Tempest' from our Drama club.

**Choir** (Monday 3pm) and **Guitar Club** (Tuesday 3.30pm) are open to KS3 and KS4 students free of charge.

**Brass Band** carries a cost of £60 per term and includes 90 minutes of music making each week and the hire of an instrument - please visit this link to sign your child up for this club: <https://forms.gle/GMZVtueZ8NkyZ6Mq7>  
We are very grateful to Future Academies for subsidising the costs of the Brass Band activity.

Auditions for '**The Tempest**' take place on Wednesday 2nd February at 3pm but students can come along on Wednesday 19th and 26th January to rehearse their lines before the big day!

Please see Mrs Johnson or Mr Wride if you have questions about music or drama activities.



# Parent Webinar

## Social Media, Gaming & Keeping Children Safe Online

The Grange has invited leading online safety organisation Digital Awareness UK to deliver an online safety webinar to help our parents feel empowered to keep their child safe online, on Monday, 17th January from 6pm - 7pm.

Throughout this pandemic, we've seen all the wonderful benefits technology has to offer, but with issues such as online hate speech, misinformation and sexual harassment increasing at disturbing rates, it's never been more important to protect young people from online risk.

We would encourage you to join us for the 1 hour webinar where Digital Awareness UK will talk you through:

- Major trends in how young people are using apps and games.
- Critical digital issues to be aware of.
- The practical steps you can take to protect your children from online risk and to encourage happy and healthy tech habits.

You can sign up for the webinar here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-grange-academy-social-media-gaming-keeping-children-safe-online-registration-161609405081>

Here's a short video about how the webinar will work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOrWXmuKIIY>

If you have any questions about the webinar, please direct them to Vice Principal, Mr Nagle:  
[j.nagle@thegrange.futureacademies.org](mailto:j.nagle@thegrange.futureacademies.org).

We look forward to hopefully seeing you on the day.

## PSHE Update (Personal Social Health Education)



We have had a great start to the new year with our PSHE sessions. Students have been looking at creating New Year Resolutions to support them with their study over the next few months and exploring topics such as 'Space' and the outside world. This week students have been studying 'Enterprise Skills' in Year 8, 'Failure and Success' in Year 9, 'The Dangers of online games and gambling' in Year 10. Prior to Christmas the Year 7 students started work on Relationship, Sex and Health Education which continues this half term.

Our RSHE sessions have continued with the importance of a healthy lifestyle and this week's focus is **Growing up and Puberty**, here are some helpful hints of how to talk to your child about this subject:

**Get the tone right:** The first step to getting the tone right is to make it a conversation rather than a lecture. Listen as much as you talk. This encourages young people to pay attention and open up too. It's really important that you don't come across as judgmental, critical or disapproving of what they say.

**Get the timing right:** Talking about important issues needs to be done at the right time. Starting a discussion just as they're going out the door to meet friends, before bed, or in the middle of an argument about other things can lead to conflict. You're more likely to have a greater impact on your child's decisions about drinking if you have a number of chats. Think of it as part of an on-going conversation.

**Choose conversational triggers:** If you find it tricky to bring up the subject, you could find a 'hook'; – simply ask "What do you think?" and follow on from what they say. With any tricky topic it's not about 'having the talk' because it's not a one-off lecture. It's about building the habit of listening to each other and sharing thoughts and opinions.



# Future Teacher Training - Recruitment Webinars

## Get into Teaching with Future Teacher Training

### Webinar registration

If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming a teacher, please encourage them to attend a Future Academies Webinar.

This will be a great opportunity to meet some of the team at Future Academies and find out what makes a great teacher with the Future Teacher Training SCITT; learn about the schools you could be placed in as well as the application process and how to develop your teacher training application.

The next webinars are taking place on the following dates and times:

Dates	Start Time:
Wednesday 19th January 2022	4-5pm
Friday 4th February 2022	10-11am

We hope you are able to attend one of the dates listed above. Please register your interest in attending this event by [completing the form here](#), selecting your preferred date and providing some more information about yourself.

The link to join the webinar will then be emailed to all attendees prior to the date of the event.

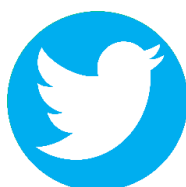


## Dates for your diary

w/c Monday 10 January	DCP1 Assessments for Year 7 and Year 10
Tuesday 18 January	Year 12 and Year 13 Parents Evening
w/c Monday 24 January	DCP1 Assessments for Year 8 and Year 9
Wednesday 2 February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose Covid vaccination for 12-15 years
Wednesday 2 February	Auditions for The Tempest
w/c Monday 7 February	Year 11 Mocks
Thursday 10 February	Year 10 Parents Evening
Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February	Half term holiday

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