



# NUNTII GRANICAE

ISSUE 22 • JULY 2022

THE GRANGE ACADEMY  
NEWSLETTER

A FORTNIGHTLY PUBLICATION FOR  
PARENTS AND CARERS OF STUDENTS  
AT THE GRANGE ACADEMY



## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dr Philip Hills

It's been a fantastic few weeks for getting out and about, from the Geography trip to Weymouth to the Art visit to Kew Gardens, to name just two. Pupils have also been exerting themselves in good causes such as the epic 26 mile walk around London which raised £3000.

Sports day was an epic event, too, keenly contested in the right spirit, with Hera emerging victorious and Apollo, who came second, bagging the cup for the best supported House. Pupils have certainly made the most of our new cricket strip and it was fantastic to see the charity match between Staff and Year 10s: special mention to Mr Jaffer for his batting!

Work experience is a key part of preparation for life outside of school and I have been delighted by the very positive comments from local employers including one from a local Primary School who praised our five placements as, 'The best we've ever had!'

There are so many positives from the year as a whole and it has been wonderful to settle into a normal rhythm post-Covid.

HUGE thanks to all of our staff for the effort they put in each day and to you, our parents, for supporting the high standards to which we encourage all of our pupils to aspire. I wish you all a restful and enjoying summer with your families.

@thegrangebushey





# 26 Mile Sponsored Walk in London



On Friday 1st July over 90 students and staff set off at 6.00am on the biggest challenge of their life - to walk a marathon 26 miles in one day.

Following a train journey into London we started walking at 7.30am - our journey took us along the River Thames starting at Kew Bridge in the West to Tower Bridge in Central London as we crossed 19 bridges.

Along the route students walked past the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye, The Shard and many other memorable sites.

Students were very tired as the journey progressed and we managed to get through over 50 blister plasters, use a Boris Bike to support one student who was unable to walk towards the end and beg the Tate Gallery to let us in to use the toilets!



**We completed the walk at 9.00pm after 14 hours at Trafalgar Square - the students had one final photo and a sing along - congratulations to all who participated - we are still counting the donations but look to be heading towards £3,000.**



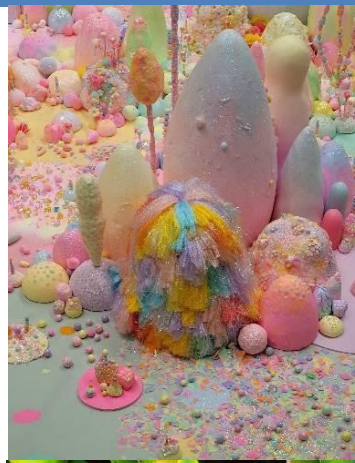
# Kew Gardens

On a rather cloudy start to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the art department took 30 students to Kew Gardens in South London. The students were given a map and instructions to explore, draw and take photos. Students had the opportunity to wander round the famous glasshouses, palm houses and sculptures dotted around the gardens – inside when it was wet, outside when the sun was shining.

The students were able to record their observations in oil pastels, colour and tone pencils. Students were found on the steps to the Temperate House busy sketching away, some students were seen sitting on benches drawing from the rich tapestry of flowers in front them and others were found taking photos of the vistas from the tree lined avenues.

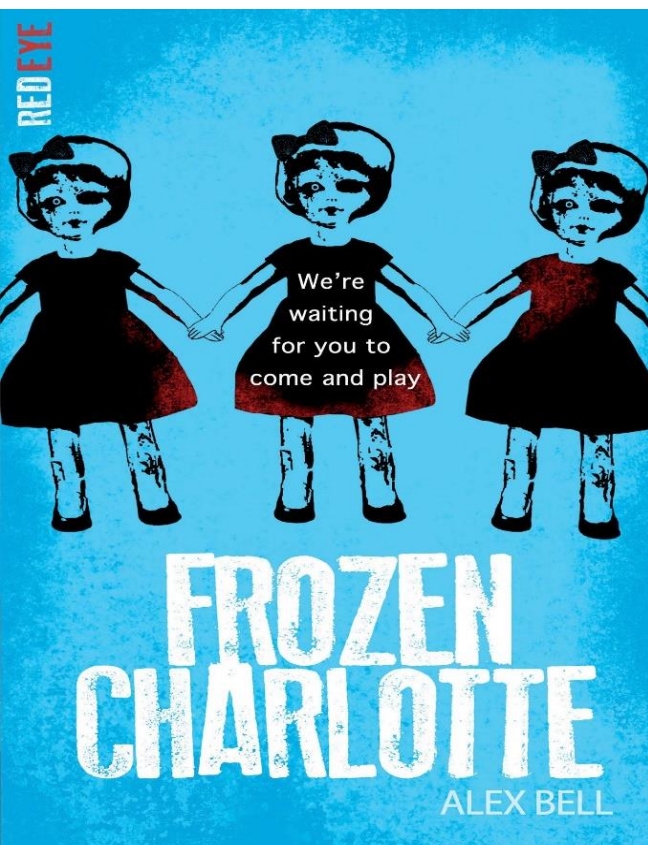
This year Kew is hosting an exhibition by 'Pip & Pop' as part of their 'Food Forever' festival. 'When Flowers Dream' is a collection of pale coloured almost sweet looking forms, placed in an open space allowing the viewer to walk round and interact with the installation.

What a treat - the students loved it! The sun came out in the afternoon and it was a wonderful finish to an exciting and enjoyable day.



## The Grange Reads ....

Every issue will include a review of a book available to borrow in our fantastic Learning Resource Centre (LRC). New books are available from different genres of fiction - here is our top recommendation.



### Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell

*We're waiting for you to come and play...*

*Dunvegan School for Girls has been closed for many years. Converted into a family home, the teachers and students are long gone. But they left something behind...*

*Sophie arrives at the old schoolhouse to spend the summer with her cousins. Brooding Cameron with his scarred hand, strange Lillas with a fear of bones and Piper, who seems just a bit too good to be true.*

*And then there's her other cousin.*

*The girl with a room full of antique dolls.  
The girl that shouldn't be there.  
The girl that died.*

Remember, the LRC is open before and after school and during break and lunch if you need a place to complete your homework.



# Year 9 Pathfinder day



A warm sunny day in mid June was the backdrop for the Year 9 Pathfinder Day at the University of Hertfordshire. 48 students and 4 staff headed off to the Hatfield Campus.

Our students were divided into 4 groups that competed against each other in various tasks and quizzes aimed at raising awareness of what university study is all about. Each group was led by a University of Hertfordshire student who ensured that the competitive spirit was fully embraced!

Students were given a guided tour of the campus to see first hand what it is like for students living there, the campus cat being a particular highlight for some of the Year 9's!

The final task for the day was for each group to create a presentation of what it is like to live and study at the University of Hertfordshire with the staff team judging which was best. All groups did a fantastic job creating resources, models and text and each group had its own presentation style!

In the end the red team were hailed as winners having wowed the judges with the detail in their presentation.

# Year 10 Work Experience Week

On Monday 20th June our Year 10 cohort went out of their comfort zone and undertook a week long period of work experience. This is the first time since the covid pandemic that students have been able to take part in face to face work experience - the excitement (and nerves) had been building for some time! Student placements took place in a diverse range of business, from Schools and Nurseries to Hotels, Builders Merchants and Riding Stables. The job roles were also varied with students taking on responsibilities as Solicitors Assistants, Design Assistants and working in Marketing.



The week was hugely successful and we were delighted with the wonderfully positive comments from the companies that hosted students, and in some cases, students have been offered employment opportunities in the future. Students gave 100% effort to the roles in which they found themselves and all enjoyed the opportunity to be "outside the classroom".



# SPORTS DAY

The PE department were delighted to be able finally to host the very first Grange Academy Sports Day - our first Sports Day since July 2019! The sun was shining as the whole school made their way to Woodside stadium for a day of fun and competition.

Students had spent the week making banners and decorations to make the stands look amazing and led by Mr Wride, students were quickly into the singing, whistle blowing and cheering on of their team.

The day started with some 6th form races and then the guided running races which led to a few fallers, but students showed great resilience in getting up and finishing their races guaranteeing valuable points for their House. As the weather heated up the field events took place and hundreds of students were spread all around the stadium giving everything to try and score as many points as possible.

After a few more races on the track, including the entertaining and fun space hopper races we moved onto the tug of war - a fiercely contested final saw Year 9 being won by Athena and Year 10 being won by Zeus.

The afternoon saw the culmination of the track events with the ever popular 100m and relay races. Parents were on their feet cheering and the atmosphere was brilliant, with all students battling to earn as many points as possible. The day finished with the 6th form versus staff relay and for the first time in years the 6th formers were victorious - We have already started a training programme for staff to ensure this won't happen again next year!

Students then gathered in front of the stands as the points were totalled up. Apollo were awarded the best supported House Trophy for their amazing support and noise throughout the day. The final standings were as follows:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>Hera</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Apollo</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Athena</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>Zeus</b>

We wish to thank all the staff who worked so hard to ensure the students had an amazing day, the parents who came to watch and most importantly the students who behaved brilliantly, supported each other and gave 100% effort in very hot conditions.



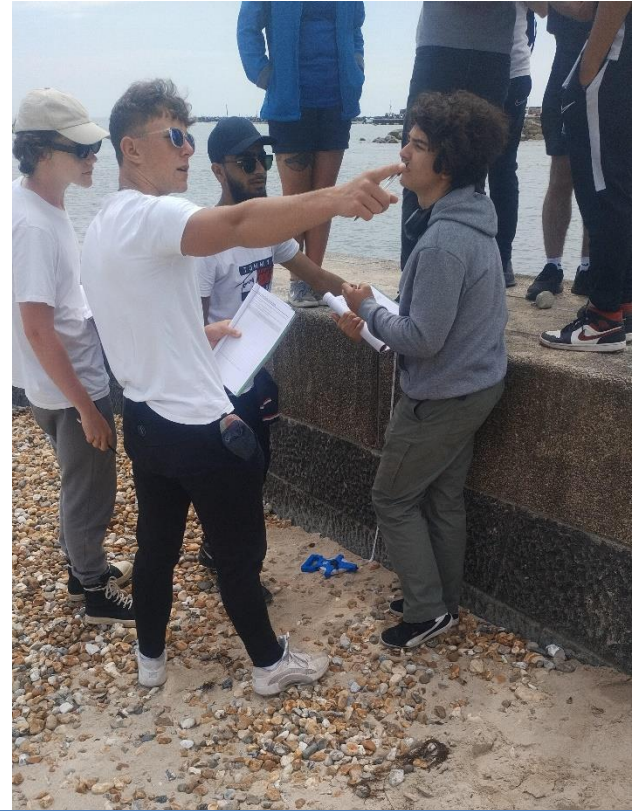


# A Level Geography Field Trip



The year 12 geography students partook in coastal investigation fieldwork on the Dorset coast in Weymouth. They were accompanied by Mrs Rogers, Mr Finnie and Mr McCarthy. Throughout their 4 days of investigations students learned to use various fieldwork techniques including beach profiling, wave investigations, environmental quality assessments, observations of coastal settlements and for a bit of fun, had a go on a giant swing. The students were also able to investigate the effectiveness of coastal engineering strategies and see the plans for future strategies to protect the coastline.

The areas that students investigated included Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and the town of Weymouth itself just to name a few places. The students also spent time reviewing the data collection where they learned new presentation techniques such as spearman's rank and plotting radar graphs. The students learned a lot and really appreciated that they got to see these places and processes in person rather than from a PowerPoint.



## Vaccinations

If your Child has still not received their Meningitis ACWY & DTP Vaccination please can you email the school team at [Vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk](mailto:Vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk) to make an appointment at your nearest clinic.

We are aware due to COVID 19, that some immunisations have been missed. This is an important vaccination and part of the NHS Immunisation Schedule.

Please check that your child is up to date with vaccinations, and contact the team if your child is still missing the ACWY and DTP Vaccination.

On Monday 11th July we were excited to welcome our new members of staff into school to run an induction for new teachers starting with us in September. The morning comprised of in-depth training and discussions on curriculum, teaching and learning and pastoral care at The Grange Academy.



In the afternoon, new teachers had a chance to meet their teams, review resources and observe lessons so they are ready to hit the ground running in September. We are delighted to welcome some experienced teachers who will be a great addition to our teaching team.

Alongside this, we will continue to host a number of trainee teachers, helping us to invest in the long term growth and success of teaching and learning in the school.



# Year 11 PROM

The first prom since 2019 took place on the 24th of June and gave the students the opportunity to really let their hair down, or do their hair up as was the case for many! A highlight of the school calendar for many, the students used the opportunity to dress up in amazing frocks and some flamboyant suits, which gave the event colour and grandeur.

The red carpet saw students arrive in some extravagant vehicles which in turn provided a backdrop to many photos. Inside the venue the ornate Grand Hall was decorated in a manner fitting of the occasion with a sequin wall, balloon arch, sweets table and a huge variety of food. However, the students' preference was the dancefloor, which was regularly full during the three-hour event as the DJ played a variety of modern music and some older classics even the staff recognised.

The event was a well-deserved celebration for our students who have worked hard throughout their time at the academy: the smiles and joyous dance moves spoke volumes about how close the group has become, which is a delight to see. It was a fantastic way to end the year and for this a huge thank you must go to Mrs Copley for her tireless organisation of the event and her team of helpers who made the Grand Hall look so impressive.



## House of Commons Work Experience, June 2022 - Joshua Gale

A few weeks ago I worked with Dean Russell, MP for Watford. Not many people are offered this opportunity, so I obviously chose to pursue it, and before I knew it I was walking the halls of Westminster. I got to see where the country is run from and everything behind the scenes. I never realised how much work there actually is, the staff the MPs have working for them making sure everything runs as smoothly as possible in such a hectic workplace. I obviously got to meet Dean and I gained an understanding of what he actually does for Watford over the course of the week. On top of that I got to see notable figureheads such as Dominic Raab, Priti Patel and Boris Johnson. I was given the opportunity by Dean and his staff members to sit in on Prime Minister's Questions on the Wednesday I was there. In all honesty it was a very weird feeling as this is what we, as the general public see on TV each day, and to them it's just their workplace. The experience was amazing and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity. A big thank you to Dean, Marcus and Victoriae for allowing me to work with them and making me feel welcome, and of course a massive thank you to Mr Simmons who provided and sorted this opportunity out for me.





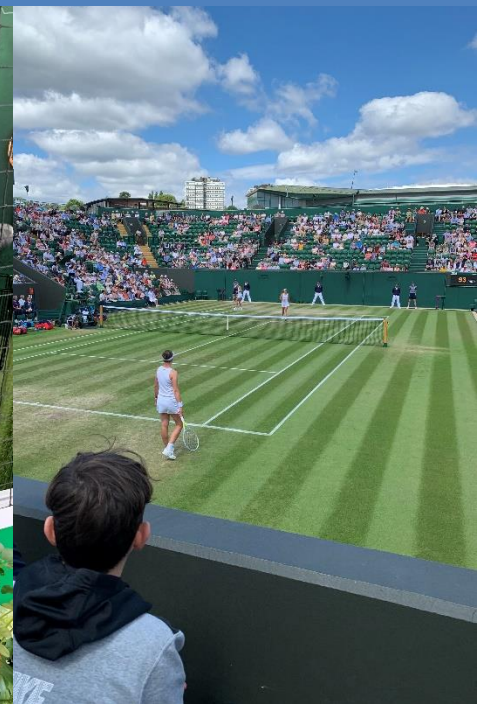
# Wimbledon 2022

48 pupils and 4 staff visited Wimbledon during the second week of the championships. Sat on Court No. 2 we were able to watch some doubles quarterfinals, with fantastic seats.

Pupils had a great time, and tried out being a ball boy, or testing the speed of their serve.

Strawberries and cream were eaten on the hill watching the big screen, as we cheered British Player Cameron Norrie on to his quarter final win.

Pupils were an absolute credit to the school and had such a great time.



*The next sporting trip is to Twickenham to watch the rugby - England v Japan. If interested please speak to the PE Dept.*

## Royal Holloway University – Scholars Graduation



Wednesday 13th July was a very special day for the 12 Y9 Scholars Programme students. The students were invited to a graduation awards ceremony in the wonderful setting that is Royal Holloway University.

The students had recently received their results from the research papers they had been working on with 5 students being awarded a 1st, 6 students a 2:1 and 1 student a 2:2.

These results are truly excellent and show how well the students applied themselves to the task that was set out in March.

We are sure you would like to join us in congratulating the students on their magnificent achievement.

### Join our Fantasy Football League

Calling all Pupils, Parents and Staff. Do you know your football? Do you want to prove you are the best? Join our league – it is free and great fun. We will include monthly winners and a trophy for the overall winner at the end of season. You must enter by Friday 5th August.

To join please visit –

<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

Create your team of 15 players, using the budget given. Then join the league.

**League Name - The Grange Academy**

**League code: w7p9be**

### Students vs Staff – Cricket - GA 15 Blast

The staff were victorious in the first staff v Year 10 Cricket match on Thursday. Fantastic to see so many staff, pupils and parents coming to support the event. Year 10 opened the batting scoring a fantastic 103 for 3 off 15 overs. Anosh scoring 25 runs was a highlight for the batting team. The staff all took a turn at bowling with Mr Simmons and Mr Putman leading for the team. Staff came into bat and Mr Evans finished with a strong 23. Mr Nagle, Mr Mack, Mr Jaffer and Mr Finnie get special mentions for great batting. Staff won with 104 runs for 0 off 10.1 overs. This is the start of a tradition and the staff look to retain against the current Year 9 next July.

@thegrangebushy





# EPQ Presentations

Students studying the Extended Project Qualification shared their progress so far on their project with staff on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July after school. There were many fascinating projects that the students had investigated including 'How embryonic stem cell can help to cure heart disease', 'Can electric or hydrogen be the future of transport?' 'To what extent does interior design affect your mental health?' and 'To what extent is veganism the way forward in modern society?'

Students have been working on their individual projects since September, researching their chosen question and developing either an artefact or a 5000 word essay culminating in their formal presentations of their research and ideas this week.



## Criminology Studies

Year 12 Criminology students have recently participated in a Mock Trial based on the recent case of 'Amber Heard vs Johnny Depp'.

The students were presenting a case of alleged domestic violence to a selected Jury and a Public Gallery. The students have been working on this for a few weeks, using their knowledge learnt in Criminology this year.

Everyone did a fantastic job with strong and concise arguments for both the Defence and the Prosecution. The jury came in with a verdict of 'Not guilty'.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 21 July	End of term
Thursday 18 August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 25 August	GCSE Results Day
Monday 5 September	Term starts for Years 7 and 12
Tuesday 6 September	Term starts for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
Tuesday 20 September	Academy Open Evening

### STEPS

Everyday, No Excuses.

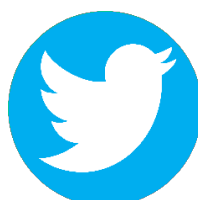
**We always use.....**

**S** Sir/Miss  
**T** Thank You  
**E** Excuse Me  
**P** Please  
**S** Smile

It's who we are, It's what we do at The Grange Academy

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