



NUNTII GRANICAE

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THE GRANGE ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

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



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME Dr Philip Hills

Year 7 & Year 8 – Trust Champions

In spite of the recent cold snap things have been really hotting up on the sporting front at The Grange. Our Year 7 and 8 boys' football teams are the Future Academies Trust Champions, having seen off first the Hertfordshire competition and now Pimlico in the final. Huge plaudits to all the players in both squads and to their coaches.

We are having a big push on our whole-school reading programme this term (page 3). Do click the link to Accelerated Reader and encourage your child to read at home and to do the online quizzes to gain their certificates.

It was excellent to see our Year 9 Brilliant Club members (pictured inside under Hertford's 'Bridge of Sighs') on their tour of Oxford University, looking to follow in the footsteps of Bhavini Patel and others.

We have been delighted to welcome a new Head of Music, Miss Anderson, and we look forward to a host of new musical opportunities over the next two terms.

There is lots of news, too, about changes to the school day inside. Please make sure to read how The Grange plans to deal with the industrial action on 1st February on the last page. If your child is in a year group not in school that day there will be plenty of online activities to engage them and to enhance their learning.

To end on a sombre note, all schools and the wider society are hearing about an increase in the use of vapes. We have spent a lot of PSHE time on this. The health risks are huge and we could be facing a generational time-bomb in terms of lung disease and nicotine addiction. Do please make sure that you have a chat with your child about the dangers.

@thegrangebushey



Changes to the school day

To develop our operational systems and structures, we are making some minor changes to the school day.

We are moving from having two morning breaks to one break from 10.40am-11.00am each morning.

Lunchtimes will be extended by 5 minutes.



There will be no changes to the length of the school day, students are required to be here for 8.30am in the morning, and the end of the school day remains for Key Stage 3 at 3.00pm and Key Stage 4/5 at 3.10pm.

This new structure begins on Monday 30 January 2023 and will improve the following areas of the school:

- Students will move around school more efficiently - getting to lessons quicker
- Students will have more time to have lunch and attend Enrichment Activities
- Students will have greater food options at break as we open more service points
- Student timetables will be clearer, avoiding confusion over which lessons take place at which times

8.30am	School starts
8.35am – 9.00am	Tutor Time
9.00am – 9.50am	Period 1
9.50am – 10.40am	Period 2
10.40am – 11.00am	Break
11.00am – 11.50am	Period 3
11.50am – 12.40pm	Period 4
12.40pm – 1.25pm	Lunch for Y9, 10, 12, 13
	Period 5 for Y7, 8, 11
1.25pm – 2.10pm	Lunch for Y7, 8, 11
	Period 5 for Y9, 10, 12, 13
2.10pm – 3.00pm	Period 6 for Y7, 8, 9
2.10pm – 3.10pm	Period 6 for Y10, 11, 12, 13

Should you or your child have any feedback regarding these changes as they take place please email or contact Mr Nagle at The Grange: j.nagle@thegrange.futureacademies.org.

Reading

All students should be reading for at least 20 minutes every day. This will improve their literacy skills which will help them in every single subject at school.

To support this, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are taking part in the Accelerated Reader programme. This is an online reading programme which measures students' progress in reading.

All students have had one reading lesson per week since September to support the improvement in their reading skills. All students are familiar with using this software.



Those Who Read Succeed!

Please talk to your child about the book they are currently reading and foster a love of reading culture at home.

Why read 20 minutes at home?

Child A Reads:	Child B Reads:	Child C Reads:
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year

The average word count for a typical novel is anywhere from 70,000 to 120,000 words

Between 15 and 25 books a year!



3 or 4 books a year



Less than one book per year



Want to be a better reader? Simply read!

When your child finishes a book, they should complete the quiz on Accelerated Reader to check their understanding of the text. The programme will then suggest books at the right level for your child to improve their reading skills. Many of these books are available in our school library.

Our school link to the software is

<https://ukhosted148.renlearn.co.uk/2240248/>

Please support your child by encouraging them to read every day in the holidays and to complete the online quiz at home when they finish a book.

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.

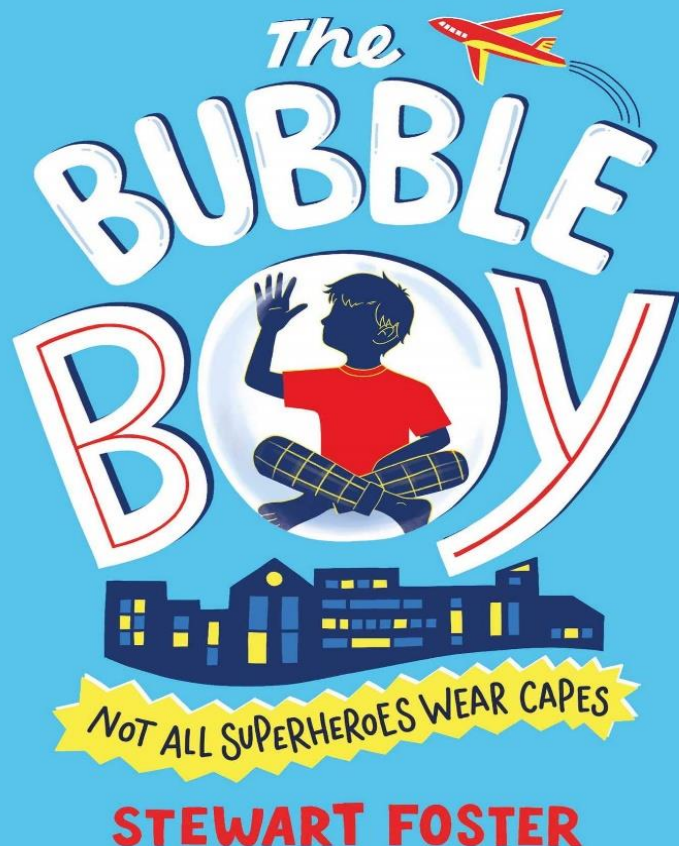
The Bubble Boy by Stewart Foster

They call it a crash when the blood goes from my head to my feet, pours out into the room and drains through a hole in the middle of the floor. They call it a crash when the walls start spinning and the pictures blur. Then the ceiling turns black and the floor turns black and I don't know which way I'm facing any more.

Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it for ever...

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

'A stunning novel that makes you laugh and cry'
Guardian



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Music at The Grange



The Spring Term has brought new life to the Music Department and the Head of Music, Miss Anderson, is promoting performance skills in her brand new extra-curricular activities timetable.


Many pupils are finding an interest in the subject due to the practical lessons that are being taught. Miss Anderson will be recruiting some peripatetic teachers very soon, but for the meantime she is promoting Lower School and Upper School Choir, Keyboard and Guitar Club, and Drumming.

The Year 11 GCSE music students are hard at work with their Solo and Ensemble Recordings and writing their compositions ready to submit as their coursework (see the photos) and they are coming after school on a Friday to revise for their upcoming written examination in June.

Miss Anderson has made some very important links with the famous Purcell School and she has planned a very big music event for June 2023. Auditions for instrumental and solo parts will be carried out w/c Monday 6th February.

In addition, the brass club will be reforming and rehearsals will be underway very soon.

Watch this space!

	 LUNCHTIME	YEAR 7 Lunch 2 (7,8,11): 1.30-2.10pm	YEAR 8 Lunch 2 (7,8,11): 1.30-2.10pm	YEAR 9 Lunch 1 (9,10,12,13): 12.40-1.20pm	AFTER SCHOOL 3:15 – 4:30pm
MONDAY				Year 9 Invitation Performance Skills	Year 7 & 8 CHOIR Anyone is Welcome!
TUESDAY	KEYBOARD & GUITAR CLUB				*ADVANCED CHOIR (Y9+) Invitation only Highest Standards of harmony and ensemble work
WEDNESDAY				KEYBOARD & GUITAR CLUB	
THURSDAY					Year 9 Prospective GCSE Pupils
FRIDAY				Year 9 Invitation Performance Skills	Year 11 Music GCSE Intervention



Sport Update

Sport	Vs	Result	Star of the Match	Scorers
U15 Girls Football	Future Academies Watford	Lost 1-7	Sophie	Flick
Year 8 Girls Basketball	Tournament	2nd	Jess H	
Year 9 Boys Basketball	Future Academies Watford	Lost 38-39	Daniel	Micah, Josh, Rion and Daniel
Year 7 Girls Netball	Immanuel	Won 18-10	Layla T	
Seniors Boys Football	Westfield	Won 10-1	Bryan	Harry D x4, Bradley x2, Casey, Harry E, Jack, Chamond
Year 9 Boys Football	Gaside Tournament	4th	Frazer	Sonny and Reece
Seniors Basketball	Immanuel	Lost 20-36	Isiaih	Cian, Casey, Mihai, Alex, Edouardo
Year 7 Girls Netball	Tournament	3rd	Neissa	
Year 9 Boys Football	Parmiters B	Won 3-2	Jack	Kalem, Reece, Wesley
Seniors Basketball	Bushey Meads	Lost 17-23	Max	Cian, Casey, James, Mihai, Max
Year 7 Netball	Joan of Arc	Won 12-10	Neissa	
Year 8 Netball	Joan of Arc	Won 8-5	Jess B	
Year 7 Boys Football	Trust Final v Pimlico	Won 5-4	Jonny Mack	Rauf, Mitchell x2 and Stanley x2
Year 8 Boys Football	Trust Final v Pimlico	Won 8-1	Harrison	Harrison x6, Kaila and Zaine
Year 9 Girls Netball	Trust Tournament	3rd	Che	
Year 9 Boys Basketball	St Michaels	Won 37-30	Tiago	
Year 11 Boys Football	Queens	Won 2-1	Becaye	Becaye and Calum
Year 9 Boys Basketball	Bushey Meads	Won 41-29	Daniel	
Year 7 Girls Netball	Reach Free	Won 11-6	Lucy	
Year 8 Girls Netball	Reach Free	Won 12-4	Jess H	
Year 9 Girls Netball	Reach Free	Won 7-6	Scarlett	
Year 10 Girls Netball	Reach Free	Won 7-6	Keira	



Supporter to Reporter: Senior Football vs Westfield

The Grange Academy started the game really well with 4 goals being scored in the first 15 minutes. The goals came from Harry D who scored a hat trick and a screamer from Bradley who had shot from outside the box and put it in the top corner.

Around the 20th minute Jack scored after picking up a loose ball in the box and finishing it. About 5 minutes later Bradley scored again with a good finish.

Just before half time Westfield won a penalty and converted it making the score 6-1 at half time.

In the second half Chamod scored a really good goal after he got the ball played through, controlled it and put it in the top corner. Later on Casey scored and then Harry E dribbled through on the right to finish a good move. Harry D netted his 4th of the game after dribbling through the Westfield defence and putting the ball away.

Full time score 10-1 to The Grange Academy and the man of the match was Bryan.

Dylan, Year 12



Champions !

Great news! Both the Year 7 boys football team and the Year 8 boys football team are National Trust Champions. After winning the regional tournament they both went to the finals against Pimlico Academy.

Year 7 won 5-4 - POM Jack - Goals by Rauf, Mitchell x2 and Stanley x2

Year 8 won 8-1 - POM Harrison - Goals by Zaine, Kaila and Harrison x6.

It's a fantastic achievement. If you follow our Twitter and Instagram accounts you will find videos and photos of the events.

← Proud of the teams: Mr Mack and Mr Putman

Safeguarding Update - Vapes

Society has currently seen a huge increase in Vapes and Electronic Cigarettes. Unfortunately, many local shops target children and young adults as the prime market to make money to sell these products at cheap prices illegally. We are aware from speaking to students that a number of young people are experimenting particularly with Vapes in the local community. After discovering this, we coordinated a structured plan of education both within PSHE lessons and more recently in assemblies. We have highlighted the dangers of Vape usage to all students:

Lung Disease
Mental Health Issues
Nicotine Addiction
Permanent Mood changes

Increased chances of alcohol / cigarette addiction
Lower Academic Achievement
Poisonous metals in your blood

We have also explained to students that these are banned items at school and a strong sanction will follow if students are found in possession of them. To ensure that students are not carrying Vapes we will complete random checks and searches on individuals and year groups in the next few weeks. If this does take place we will inform parents as per our "Searching and Screening Policy". We will also continue to educate via dedicated external experts.

Please can we ask that you discuss this topic with your children and ensure that they are fully aware of the legalities and school stance on this.

@thegrangebushy



Enrichment Update

Launch of Year 9 Brilliant Club

A cold, damp Oxford was the venue for the 2023 launch of the Brilliant Club programme.

The programme is structured around seven tutorials. Pupils also attend two events at partner universities to speak with current undergraduates and learn about university life. Fourteen pupils work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades.

We started the day with a tour of Wadham College where a kind and knowledgeable student ambassador showed us round the campus taking in the gardens, chapel and the college library. We also visited the student accommodation and the student common room. We then set off on foot for a walking tour of some of the sites of Oxford including the Bodleian Library and The Bridge of Sighs.

We made our way to Oxford Town Hall for lunch and the Brilliant Club launch presentation.

Two Oxford university undergraduate students spoke to us about their experiences of Brilliant Club and how the research skills they learnt helped them with GCSEs and A Levels. They then took questions from the audience, further elaborating on their time on the programme and how it positively impacted their subject choices as they moved through their school lives. The Brilliant Club coordinator then gave us some details of the programme and spoke about the final assignment - a 2000 word essay! Our students took this in their stride and we left for home in good spirits having enjoyed an informative day.



House Debating Competition

December saw our first every house debating competition take place. Students competed in their house groups, debating interesting topics such as should male and female athletes receive equal pay and whether the World Cup should have taken place in Qatar.

In the build up to debates, students learnt about how to debate and some persuasive techniques to help them win.



There were some stand out contributions from Rosa, Mayra, Ifza and Mason.

Due to the great response to the debates, we are also launching a Debating Enrichment Cub for Year 7 next term.

All the points from the debates have been collected and the results are:

1st Place	Zeus
2nd Place	Athena
Joint 3rd Place	Hera and Apollo



Academy Closure in Case of Severe Weather

Below is a reminder of the academy's contingency plan in the event of the need to close in an emergency, such as in severe weather conditions and where there are concerns over the safety of our students and staff travelling to the academy and moving around the academy site.

In the event of closure, the details will be communicated via:

- Text message and email to main contact numbers of parents/carers held by the academy (*Please update the academy if your contact details have changed or you have a new email address*).
- The academy website
www.thegrange.futureacademies.org

Further updates and relevant contingency plans will also be communicated via above as appropriate.

In the event of an early closure and the decision being made to send students home during the academy day, the academy will be vacated as soon as possible. Please ensure, therefore, that you adequately plan with your child a safe travel plan to reach home, or an alternative agreed destination.

If public exams are due to be held on the day of closure we will do everything we can to ensure the exams are not disrupted.

icanreport

helping students to report bullying & concerns

Just a reminder of the new communication method for students to report bullying and concerns that they might have for themselves or their peers.

This is an anonymous email address:

icanreport@thegrange.futureacademies.org

We would encourage students to use this communication during the holidays as well as term time should they want to report issues without speaking to an adult face to face.



Attendance & Behaviour Update



At The Grange we have been working on improving the quality of our Policies and Procedures. Please find attached a copy of our updated Attendance Policy. This gives clear guidance on the support and expectations for all students. Attendance is the first key to success both academically and socially.

With regards to exam success, just a few days absence makes a huge difference to students' chances of passing their exams. The table indicates how once attendance drops below 90% you dramatically reduce the chances to pass GCSE and KS3 exams. We ask that all students attend school everyday and where time is required off school for illness that this time is minimised and students return to school quickly with medication to help them even when they are not feeling 100%.

We are also currently revising the Behaviour Policy. Please find the current policy attached. We welcome any feedback from parents regarding this existing policy with any changes that you would like to see. Please forward these views to Mr Nagle:

j.nagle@thegrange.futureacademies.org

Attendance	Chance of Passing GCSE Grades 9-4
96%+	82%
95-96%	74%
92-95%	60%
90-92%	46%
88-90%	34%
88%-	27%

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NEU Strike Action

On Wednesday 1 February the NEU Trade Union are striking. This will mean that some teachers will not be in school to work or teach on this day.

Some staff at The Grange will not be striking on this date and so we are able to open the school for some students and still maintain their safety whilst providing their education.

On Wednesday 1st February Years 7, 11, and 13 will still be expected to attend school.

Years 8,9, 10 and 12 will be asked to stay at home and study using Google Classroom, SENECA, GCSE Pod, Sparx, and Hegarty Maths where work will be set where applicable.

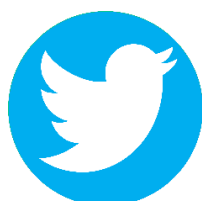
All SEND (EHCP) and Vulnerable students will be invited to attend school on Wednesday 1 February. You will receive a phone call to arrange this where required by the pastoral or SEND Teams.

All students who qualify for a Free School Meal on Wednesday will be provided with a food parcel on Tuesday 31st Jan to bring home to compensate for the fact that they are not in school the following day.

Further NEU strike action is expected to take place in this area on 1 March, 15 March and 16 March. Please make a note of these dates. We will liaise with parents regarding the provision available on these dates nearer the time.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 9 February	Year 10 Parents Evening
Monday 6 February – Monday 27 February	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 27 February	Year 8 Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 March	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 9 March	Year 6 Welcome Event
Wednesday 15 March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 22 March	Spring Showcase
Monday 27 March	Year 11 Applicant Tea
Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April	Easter Holiday
Monday 17 April	Start of Summer term



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