

THE GRANGE THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2023

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As we approach the Summer Break, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support during this term and throughout the year. The Summer Term is always a special one as we reflect upon the year and all the amazing progress our pupils have made. We have celebrated the successful journeys that our Year 11's have made and wished them well with their future studies. We have learnt as a school things we need to do better moving forward and one key aspect of that is having you as parents, carers and all stakeholders to be more involved in the daily life of the school. I would like you to meet face to face with the key adults involved in your child's support whilst here at The Grange. I would like to work with you directly on areas you would like us to develop as a school.

You will read in this newsletter all the additional work that will be being undertaken during the break and these are all to ensure all our pupils get the best opportunities that they can.

We hope you have a wonderful break and that the sun does shine wherever you are. Please do look at the links regarding safeguarding and keeping safe online.

Have a great Summer

From all the staff at The Grange

Jonathan

SPORTS DAY

Our Annual sports day took place on Thursday 20th July, it was a huge success with parents coming along to spectate. Our cake stall and raffle were very popular and we raised £412, this year we will be donating proceeds to Cancer Research UK and The Rainbow Trust.



ARTHUR'S FUNDRAISING



Arthur (Year 10) has been doing some charity work this term, walking 100km to raise money for the Dogs Trust, raising £275 in total. He has faced numerous different social situations, visiting different venues and being among members of the general public. This has allowed the staff to support him in modelling appropriate behaviour in these social situations, highlighting to Arthur when he has got it right, e.g. by showing good manners or being considerate to others using the same space as him. Although in the school environment, social interactions are still a challenge for Arthur, when out in public, there has been definite improvements in his social development when among the public.
Well done Arthur.

A.T. FORM GROUP CAN CRUSHING

The A.T. form group have been busy crushing cans that they have collected for a good cause. The cans are weighed in and they managed to raise £105 for the Air Ambulance. They collected enough cans to fill 3 small skips - Congratulations all.



SUMMER WORKS

This Summer there will be lots of updates and renovations going on throughout the school.

Upper School:

- **Dining Rooms** – Knocking through the archway to create one dining room and extend the serving station.
- **Gym Shower block** – Full refurbishment / knocking through storeroom to create female shower facilities.
- Knocking down and re-building pastoral room.
- Upgrades to Fire alarm system.
- **Outdoor Gym on middle banks installed.**
- **A.T. classroom** – Full Paint work.
- **A.S. classroom** – Full paint work.
- **C.M. classroom** – Full paint work.
- **Surgery** – Strip out and full paint work.
- Art room flooring.
- All door faces stripped back and repainted ready for new door signs.
- Kitchen ducting and equipment service.

Lower School:

Repairs to play
equipment flooring

Manor:

New sleep-in wetroom
Downstairs toilet refurb
Entrance Hall new flooring
Touch up playroom repairs

Spinney:

Replace doors
Touch up entrance hall paintwork

Whole Site

Windows internal / external Gutters
PAT testing
Tree works as per annual survey

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GCSE results day - Thursday 24th August 2023

Autumn term starts - Thursday 31st August 2023

Half term - Depart Friday 13th October - Return Monday 30th October 2023

End of Autumn term - Wednesday 20th December 2023

DofE expedition

Some of our students have recently taken part in both the Bronze and Silver award expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. For the expedition section, the students have to participate in both a practice expedition and a qualifying expedition. The Bronze group had 2 days of hiking for both expeditions with an overnight camp on the first night. The silver group had 3 days of canoeing for their expeditions.

The bronze group were hiking for a minimum of 6 hours each day. The silver group canoed for 7 hours each day, at every lock they came to on the canals the group had to lift their boats in and out of the water too, which was very hard work!

All students from both groups showed immense levels of teamwork, navigation skills and perseverance as it was a really testing and tiring few days for everyone.

The school are so proud of each and every one of the Duke of Edinburgh students for completing their awards and most importantly sticking with it when things become difficult. Well done to you all.

A big thank-you to Lianne and all the staff who supported with the expeditions.



YEAR 11 LEAVERS CEREMONY

Our Year 11's Leavers Ceremony took place on Saturday 1st July. It was lovely to look back at the students time at The Grange. We wish them all the very best for the future.



THERAPY

We are very excited to be finishing this term as a full therapy team, as Lucinda (art psychotherapist), Jess (therapy assistant) and Lydia (occupational therapist) joined us at the beginning of 2023



Melissa Heena
Chauhan
Clinical Lead,
Consultant
Psychotherapist



Laura Runcorn
Psychotherapist
and
Senior Clinician



Ruth Byrne
Speech & Language
Therapist
and Senior Clinician



Jonathan Kemp
Integrative Therapist



Lucinda Story
Art Psychotherapist



Lydia Hill
Occupational Therapist



Jess Foster
Therapy Assistant

To celebrate our growth we're starting a new series where we will be sharing more about our therapists and their roles here at the Grange. This month Lydia talks about what occupational therapy actually is...

Occupational therapy aims to enable people to do the things they want and need to do. We call these things our "occupations". Occupations are all of the everyday activities we do that bring meaning and purpose to our lives. They could be tasks like brushing our teeth, roles like being a student, or being a friend, or activities like cooking a meal (Royal College of Occupational Therapists, 2021).

Ultimately, occupational therapists help young people overcome challenges completing their occupations, so they can grow, develop, learn, have fun, socialise and play.

I think Katie Mary's beautiful analogy about occupational therapy aptly describes what it is we actually do:

Picture a wall in front of you. As far to the left, as far to the right and as far high as you can see. In that wall, there is a door, and that door is locked. On the other side of that door is what makes your heart happy - playing, painting, going to school, taking your dog for a walk, taking care of yourself without any help... it could be anything. That's your occupation.

Some people are born lucky and have their key, and they can walk through the door their whole life without a problem. Other people aren't as fortunate. They've either lost their key or never had it to begin with.

It's my job to get them through that door. If I can't, we bust a hole and make a new door.

Katie Mary, American occupational therapist and member of the American Occupational Therapy Association

What is
OT?

LOWER SCHOOL WENT TO PGL

All Lower School pupils attended PGL for 3 days and 2 nights and had the most amazing time. They completed the following activities; Zip Wire, Buggy Building, Survivor, Climbing, Fencing, Vertical Challenge, Canoeing and Sensory Trail. They came out of each activity with confidence and joy and the trip was a huge success! An experience they will remember with fondness for a long time to come.



Online safety: top tips



Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like 'What's your favourite game or app to play on?'

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest.

They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.

- They will probably be able to teach you things you

don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.

- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.

- Remind your child that they

shouldn't share

personal information with people they don't know online.

- Let your child know they can come to you

or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help manage what they see and do online new settings and explain to them

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how they help to keep them safe.

how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who

they're

talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.

- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- Call the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000** to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



FAMILY SUPPORT

Introducing the Family Support Team at The Grange. Angela Leese and Bev Sussmes are both new to the team, working as Family Liaison Outreach Workers.

Angela and Bev are on hand to offer emotional and practical support to the families of pupils at The Grange. Whether you feel need longer term support or just someone to talk to, Angela and Bev would love to hear from you.



BRAVE THE SHAVE

Two very brave members of staff took on the challenge of Brave The Shave in aid of Macmillan Cancer charity. This is a cause close to their hearts. Joe (Year 11) volunteered to shave Kev's head and Emma from our Student support team was the volunteer to do Paulas. They raised in excess of £800 for a great cause.

Well done to both.



PARENTAL SURVEY

Please find a link below for our Summer Term Parental Survey. You can help us form a better partnership between school and home by answering the questions on the survey.

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/YH0P3SFZFQ](https://forms.office.com/E/YH0P3SFZFQ)

GET TO KNOW US

This term we would like to introduce you to the Senior Leadership Team at The Grange,



Jonathan Sleath
Principal



Ed McDonald
Head of Education
September 2023 start



Gaynor Donley-Williams
Deputy heateacher



Katherine McKenna
Assistant Heateacher



Owen Whelband
Assistant Headteacher



Melissa Heena-Chauhan
Clinical Lead



Peter Dolan
Head of Care

STAFF LEAVING

This term we are saying goodbye to the following staff:
We wish you all the best in your new adventures.



Adele Smart
PSHE and Careers teacher



Rosemary Turner
Student Support Mentor



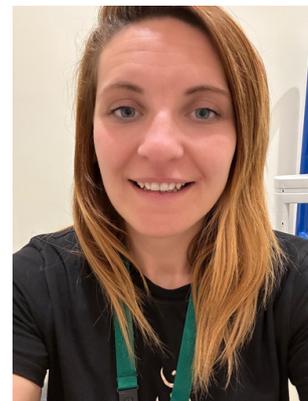
Eleanor Stringer
Care Worker



Naveed Moosa
Student Support Mentor



David Smith
Care Home Manager



Samantha Davies
Student Support Mentor

We look forward to welcoming the students back on
Thursday 31st August 2023 for an exciting year ahead.