

# THE GRANGE THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Summer 2024

## PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER MESSAGE

The academic year 2023/24 is drawing to a close, and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a chance to relax and recharge this summer (hopefully the sun will shine!). It has been a very busy year for us as always at The Grange, with a wide range of successes experienced across our community, which we should all be proud of.

Of course, we underwent a full Ofsted inspection in January. This was very successful and led to a highly positive report. However, although it was good that inspectors viewed the everyday work that staff do and how fantastic our pupils are, we do not do what we do for Ofsted. As a school we do what is right for the pupils to ensure they can leave us and move onto successful post 16 pathways, to enable them to live positive lives beyond The Grange.

We held a delightful year 11 leavers event on Saturday 13th July to celebrate the journey our pupils have been on with us and between all the pupils leaving this year they have a combined total of 62 years at The Grange. We know they are going to miss being here and we are going to miss them, but they are ready for their future studies and life beyond The Grange.

We would never claim that we get everything right all the time. We do always reflect on issues and challenges in order to continually improve our practices and provision with the aim of making it right. As the Principal I am aware of the commitment myself and staff members devote to this community, in ways which are often unseen. I know that we aim to do all we can and to improve year-on-year. We are constantly reviewing our practice with an aim of creating the best environment for all our children: we will continue to be relentless with this and as always welcome your feedback!!

As usual, we will have staff changes next year. We will be sad to see staff leave, who have dedicated themselves to The Grange, but we will be excited to see new staff arrive who are enthusiastic about the impact they can have on our community. The staff team and I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable, safe, and well-deserved summer break, and we all look forward to the Autumn Term.

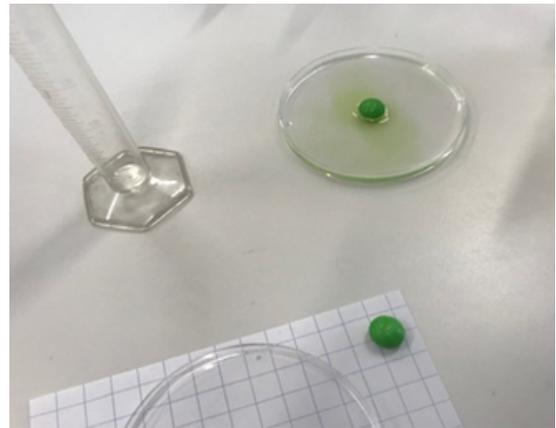
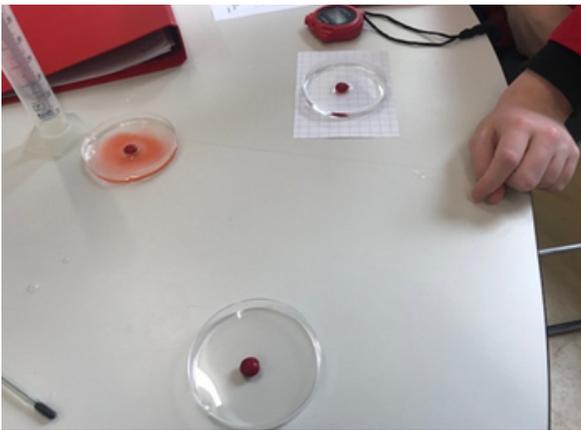
# SCIENCE

Term 6 has been a busy one in the science department (as always)! We have enjoyed hosting several transition events for the Students that are currently at our Lower School, who will be joining us in September.

Year 11 have worked hard to complete their coursework, which will result in many of them gaining their Level 2 Award or Certificate in Science.

As always, there have been lots of weekly practical sessions. Most year groups have been studying Chemistry topics this term which include pH testing and investigating the best indigestion remedies! There has also been experiments with the rates of diffusion and different factors that effect it, this has proved to be a popular experiment (obviously nothing to do with the piles of skittle sweets used)!

With some nice weather arriving (at last) we have also taken the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the lovely grounds we are so lucky to have. The lakes have been used for pond dipping and also as a source of water for purification experiments. The study of Ecology and Biodiversity has given us the opportunity to utilise all of the outdoor facilities we have access to here while giving our Students (and Teachers) the chance to move around outside of the classroom.



# LL TUTOR GROUP VISIT LOPC

Some of the children are working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Outdoor Ed group joined them at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits on this day. They participated in Paddle Boarding and Kayaking. They all had to put on their life jackets, collect their kayaks and paddle boards and listen to the instructions on how to be able to safely use them. It was all members of LL tutor group, Rhys from PG joined them also.

They all had a great time, great interaction. Lots of giggles and fun was had by them all.

They were all very excited to be able to jump in the water after they had completed their lesson. The weather was beautiful thankfully.



# LOWER SCHOOL - SUMMER TERM

What a term we have had here at Lower School, we have packed so much into the term as well as all of our wonderful learning!

We went to PGL and completed lots of amazing activities, Archery Tag and Zip Wire!

We had a day out at the Theatre in Leicester watching 'The Boy at The Back of the Class' of which some of us had read the book. It was a great experience, enjoyed by all.

Our Outdoor Education trips have taken us to Twin Lakes which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, including the staff.

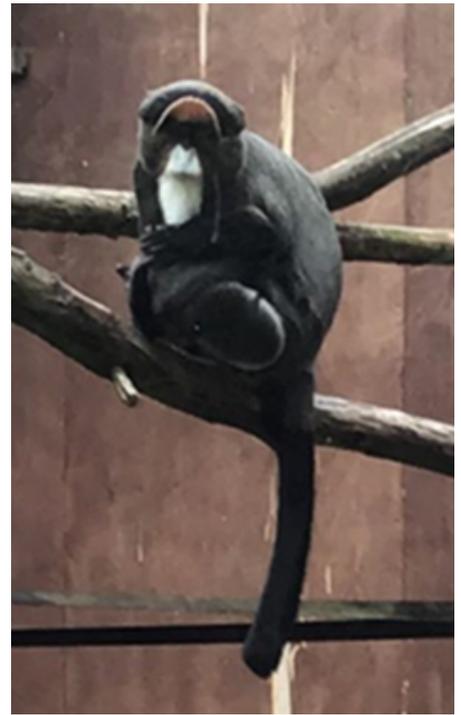
We've had weekly assemblies celebrating all sorts of occasions and people, the most exciting of all was Armed Forces Day where we had two visitors, talking us through life in the forces and cadets, and putting us through our paces by teaching us to march!

To top off a fun filled term we got two new members of The Lower School community, Primrose and Dandelion our new Rabbits!! They are getting used to us and their new home and are settling in very well.



# EC TRIP TO TWYCROSS ZOO

On Monday 8th July EC Tutor Group went for a day out to Twycross Zoo. The weather was fantastic, and we had a lovely day. The highlights had to be the penguins (who seemed very happy to swim across and listen to us talk, the bonobo (an endangered great ape), the giraffes, the Aldabra tortoise (a very sedate chap) and the orangutans. It was incredibly busy with groups from other schools, but we set the example with our excellent manners and behaviour when moving around the zoo, and when approaching staff to ask them information about the animals. It was a fantastic end to an amazing year.



# THE MANOR TRIP TO SKEGNESS

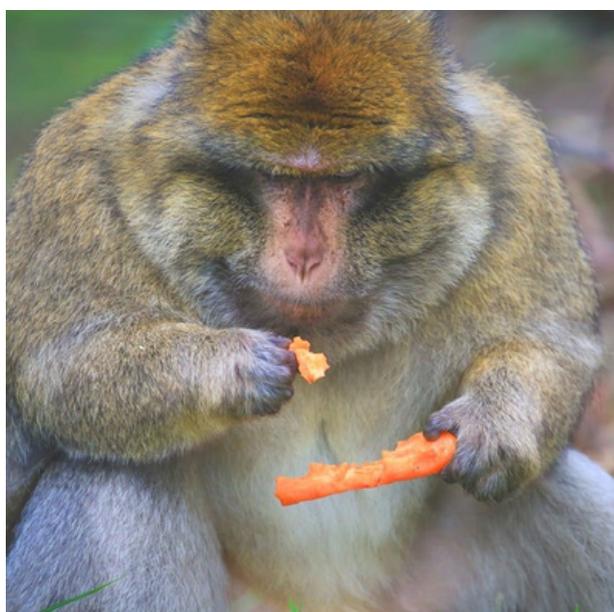
On Tuesday 2nd July The Manor students went on their end of school trip to Skegness. They had a fabulous time playing games and generally enjoying the beach, the amusements and of course the obligatory stick of rock! Ice cream was enjoyed by all along with Fish and Chips - not to be missed when visiting the seaside, alongside dodging the seagulls!



# THE SPINNEY TRIP TO WOBURN SAFARI PARK

The Spinney home enjoyed their end of term trip to Woburn Safari and experienced close encounters with many animals, some even rested on the roof of our school vehicle!

We got to see some of the safari stars like Raja the male elephant in the Woburn Safari Park herd, Raja lives with four females Chandrika, Damini, Yu Zin and juvenile Tarli, in a specially designed house. Mirijam is a Southern White Rhino; she lives alongside two other rhinos. Casper is a Rothschild's Giraffe and lives among the herd of giraffe's. Berlinga is a male monkey, he is part of the troop of Barbary Macaques monkeys, we wonder if he was one who jumped on the roof!

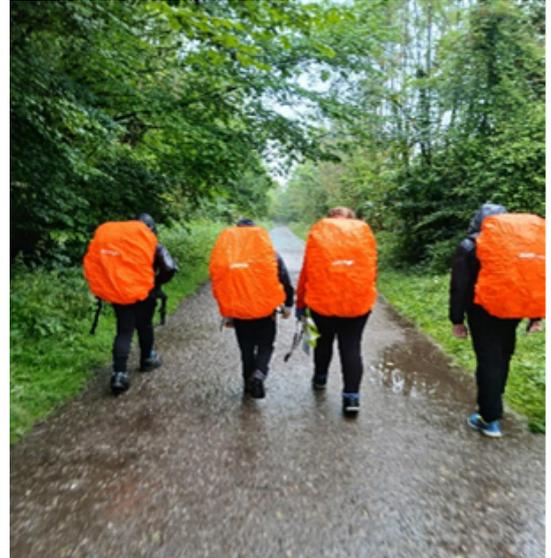


# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## **Duke of Edinburgh –Bronze expedition- Walking in the Peak District and camping at Park House campsite -9th and 10th of July.**

Amariyon, Lucy, Kodi and Oliver, had an incredible expedition. They completed their walks and coped very well despite the gloomy wet weather. We also had thunder storms! However, this did not deter them from completing their team goal and achieving their Bronze award - well done team!

Led by Darren Evans, supported by Lianne Palmer, Lisa Baines and Charlotte Flouri.



## **Duke of Edinburgh – Silver expedition- Canoeing on the river Nene and camping at Yarwell Mill campsite - 24th to the 26th of June**

Amy, Dorrian, Callum, Margaret and Max, were also successful in the completion of their expedition. They had an amazing few days showing great resilience and determination. They worked incredibly hard as a team, showing fantastic care and support for each other - well done to you all.

Led by Leicester Outdoor Pursuits, supported by Lianne Palmer, Lisa Baines, Ben Bettany and Owen Whelband.



# SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKSHOP

Pupils welcomed a civilian officer from Leicestershire Police into school who delivered a very informative workshop around Substance Abuse. Pupils were very engaged with the visit and activities.

A reminder of the information previously shared:

Common signs & indicators of drug use

Detecting drug use, particularly among young people can be challenging, the following are some general warning signs we recommend being aware of;

- Bloodshot eyes, or pupils larger or smaller than usual
- Sudden weight loss or weight gain
- A deterioration of physical appearance or personal grooming habits
- Unusual smells on breath, body or clothing
- Tremors, slurred speech or impaired coordination
- A drop, in school attendance or performance
- A sudden change in friends and interests
- Frequently getting into trouble, such as fights or accidents
- Lack of motivation or appearing lethargic
- Periods of unusual hyperactivity or agitation

Talking to young people about drug use:

Most young people will never take drugs, but many still have questions about them which they struggle to find answers to, often relying upon their peers or the internet for information. These sources are not always reliable so we would encourage creating an environment where a young person feels that they can approach parents regarding this issue. Some good advice for parents is;

1. Don't panic - if you find out that your child has tried drugs, your first reaction may be one of anger or panic. Wait until you're calm before discussing the matter, show care and concern rather than anger and judgement which may shut any conversation or future disclosure down.
2. Do your homework - Make sure you know enough to discuss the issue in an informed way, there are many websites with a wealth of reliable information (many listed within this document).
3. Avoid 'scare tactics' - Young people will often know more about drugs than you may think, so it's pointless to say something along the lines of "Smoking Cannabis will kill you!"... pointing out that Cannabis can worsen mental health, especially if you start smoking in your teens may be more of a deterrent. Scare or shock tactics are often counterproductive.

4. Be Realistic - Only a minority of young people will ever experiment with drugs, an even smaller proportion of those who experiment will develop something which could be referred to as a drug problem.

### **Further Information**

It's important that we don't just rely upon hearsay when it comes to issues such as drugs, it's vital that we use, and recommend trusted sources of information, the following are worth visiting for further information.

Frank is a support service that provides information about drugs plus advice for those using drugs, as well as parents/carers.

**[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)**

Adfam has local support groups and helpful information for families affected by drugs and alcohol.

**[www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)**

Drug Science is the leading independent scientific body on drugs in the UK, working to provide clear, evidence-based information without political or commercial interference.

**[www.drugscience.org.uk](http://www.drugscience.org.uk)**

**There are many podcasts on the Drug Science website should you wish to listen to any on your favorite podcast player.**

Listen to episodes on your favourite podcast player



# FRANK

0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com

Friendly, confidential drugs advice



# Adfam



# Drug Science

If you have any further worries or concerns throughout the holidays or indeed in general there are help lines below which may be useful:

## Places I can go to for help and advice

**shout**  
85258

**WORRIED?  
NEED TO TALK?**

Call Childline on  
0800 1111

Worried about  
drugs?

**FRANK**

0300 1236600

Text 82111

**YOUNGMINDS**

youngminds.org.uk



**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

It's free, you don't have to tell  
us your name - and we're  
here to talk all day and night,  
whatever your worry.

# CARE HOME CLOSURE



It is with much sadness that OFG has made the difficult decision to close The Spinney and The Manor residential homes.

The Manor and The Spinney residential homes will be closed from:  
Friday 19th July 2024 – the last day of term.

Some of our students and indeed staff have been here for a number of years.

The students have a combined total of 29 years here at The Grange, they will be missed and I am sure they will miss being here...but we really wish them all the very best for a positive journey in their education.

The care staff have done a fantastic job of supporting our students through this very tough and emotional time, putting their own thoughts worries and concerns aside in order to fully support our students.

Staff both in school and care have been here to support each other and the students with extra care, patience and understanding.

We wish all the care staff well in their future endeavors too:  
Some will be staying on in other roles within The Grange and some will be off to pastures new:

Peter Dolan, Nichola Johnson, Lauren Shilcock, Erin Zivtins, Emma Young, Jack Hewson, Joe Poole, Nichola Rashely, Clare Allen, Chris Dixon, Dave Ormian, Clauvis Nkwana, Dan Berville, Megan Berridge, Amy Stedman

Thank you all....

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# STAFF LEAVERS

We would like to thank our staff leavers for their care and devotion to our students over their time with us.

Lesley Bath has been our art teacher and head of student support mentors for 19 years. she has had a lifetime of inspiring our students creativity. Lesley will have seen the school change and adapt more than the majority of us and has been an integral part of The Grange life.

Jonathan Kemp has been with with us for 6 years as a therapist. He has been one of our longest standing team members in the therapy department and has played a vital role in providing our students with the support that they need

Emma Cresswell has been with us for 5 years as Head of English, she has been a pivitol member of staff and has inspired our students with her love of the English language and lifelong learning!

James Murphy has been with us for 3 years as a part of our maintenance department he has been a great team member and vital in the up keep of our beautiful buildings and grounds.

Samantha Gavey has been with us for 1 year as our Head of Science, she has brought our science department into the 21st Century with bespoke experiments and learning.

Keith Mason Moore has been with us for 1 year as our PSHE teacher. Although his time has been short he has provided our students with life skills which hopefully they will carry forward into their future lives.

We wish you all the best in the future.

# 2024 TERM DATES

## **Autumn Term 2024.**

**INSET Training Days:** Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th August 2024

**School Opens to pupils-** Thursday 29th August 2024

## **Half term closure**

Depart on Friday 18th October 2024

Return on Monday 4th November 2024

## **End of term**

Depart on Friday 20th December 2024

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We look forward to welcoming the students back on  
Thursday 29th August 2024 for the Autumn Term.





*The end*