

THE GRANGE THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

PRINCIPAL'S SPRING MESSAGE

Whilst this term has been much shorter than the Autumn term it has still been an extremely busy term with so much going on! We are continuing to develop our school site. We have started to develop the plot of land behind our Gables site to provide more space for our pupils and to create a new Forest School area. On our Grange site we are adding in more areas for our pupils to sit and socialise in their lunch and break times. Mark our construction instructor has been working his magic levelling the land below the workshop area in readiness for us having animals onsite. We are hoping to start off slowly with our pupils supporting us to develop an animal care provision onsite. After Easter we hope to have two pigs and two Shetland ponies on site to provide learning opportunities and potential career pathways for all pupils.

Many of our pupils have started their examination period and have been working really hard to achieve their full potential. It is a stressful time for all pupils during this period and staff are working hard to support and allow the pupils to just be themselves.

Thank you as always for your continued support. There is a lot happening in Education with the new SEND White Paper, if you have any concerns or issues, please get in touch. What will never change though is the importance of education and to that end the partnership between home and school has always been, and will always be, a vital ingredient in the outcomes for pupils.

Have a great Easter.



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was a wonderful success at The Grange, with students and staff coming together to celebrate the joy of reading in a fun, engaging, and creative way. Across the school, there was a real buzz of excitement as students took part in activities linked to books, reading, and imagination. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, whether that was through dressing up, discussing favourite stories, exploring new books, or taking part in themed lessons and activities throughout the day.

One of the loveliest parts of the day was seeing the enthusiasm and effort shown by both students and staff. Costumes helped bring favourite characters to life and created lots of conversation, laughter, and shared enjoyment across the school. Events like these are so important because they remind us that reading is not just a classroom skill, but something that can spark curiosity, creativity, confidence, and connection.

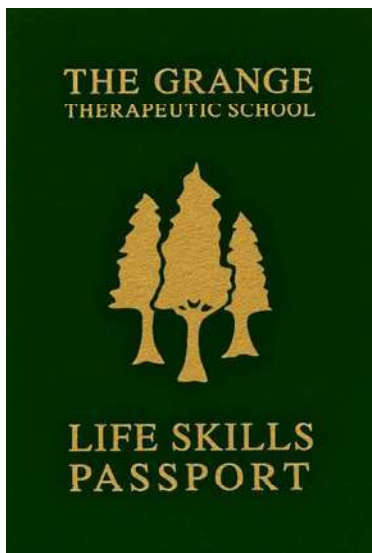
At The Grange, we know that reading looks different for every learner, and World Book Day gave us the chance to celebrate that. For some students, this meant discovering a new author or text type. For others, it meant building confidence in speaking about a book, joining in with activities, or simply enjoying the experience of stories in a positive and accessible way.

We were also delighted to be able to offer a free book to every student, helping to promote reading for pleasure beyond the classroom and encouraging students to continue their reading journey at home.

A huge thank you goes to all staff who helped organise the day and to all students who took part so positively. Their energy and enthusiasm made the day so special. World Book Day was a brilliant reminder of the power of books to inspire, engage, and bring people together.

We are very proud of how well the day went and look forward to building on this enthusiasm for reading throughout the rest of the year.





What is Life Skills Passport all about?

One of our values here at The Grange is “Prepare for Life” and we hope that this new initiative will do just that. We have identified over 60 life skills that we would like to equip our students with during their time here at The Grange. Many of these are taught in our everyday lessons, however some of the more unusual skills are saved for our Life Skills Days.

On Monday 23rd March we collapsed our normal timetable to hold our second Life Skills Day. The day was a great success with lots of positive feedback from both students and staff and we look forward to our final Life Skills Day of the year in June.

Once again, the students were amazing and showed real courage and resilience to have a go even if they were unsure. If you haven't already done so, perhaps you could ask your child what they enjoyed and learnt from our latest Life Skills day.

The Gables	Year 8 and 9	Year 10	Year 11
The Gables had an amazing day with Forest School Dave and Roxanna exploring nature and cooking lunch on an open fire in the beautiful surroundings of The Grange.	A small group took park in an enterprise day with Henry and rest heading out on bike or foot to a local garden centre and ordered and paid for their own drinks. The afternoon they had a film, games in the gym or join in with the litter pickers.	Year 10 remained onsite and were involved in mechanics, painting, decorating, applying for a bank account, passport and driving licence and litter picking.	Year 11 started off in site deciding on their route into Leicester and planning where to have lunch. In Leicester they took part in a historical scavenger hunt and then all individually ordered and paid for their own lunch.



SKI TRIP

What a week!

The Grange went back to Italy for their annual ski trip with OFG. After a delayed start getting on the bus, a 24hr journey down to Dover began. Passing through France and entering the Mont Blanc tunnel to the views of the Alps, we ended up at Pila Ski resort in North West Italy. The students managed themselves well throughout the journey and behaved throughout the trip. After a 6:30 wake up call, we had breakfast, on the bus, ski boots on, a 20 minute gondola ride later, we were ready for a 9:00 start on the mountain for our ski lessons.

As the students and staff were on the slopes with gravity taking control, we had a fantastic instructor team looking after us. Two of our students enjoyed their time on the beginner slopes, where as one student to attempt a red run towards the end of the week with their development! With no injuries, lots of pasta and pizza and consuming many cups of a highly recommended hot chocolate on top of the mountain, the week flew by. Safe to say we were all tired, but in good spirits.

What an amazing week and experience for our students with many first happening including; trying new foods; first time on a gondola; first time abroad; first time over 2000m; first time on a ship; first time saying "that was actually a funny joke" to staff; first time on a ski slope; first time attempting a blue run; first time on a red run; first time skiing on their own; first time making it to the bottom of the slopes and not falling over; trying to speak a new language; taking to new people; working with new people; the list goes on....

The staff would also like to say a big thank you to the parents for their support, the staff who remained on site to cover our lessons and the amazing people behind the scenes filling in the paperwork, risk assessments and booking the trip. Everyone helped to make this another success. Thank you!



THE GABLES SWIMMING

Over the past year, students have been working towards their Swim England badges through weekly swimming lessons every Monday. They have shown excellent commitment, resilience, and determination during each session, consistently working hard to develop their swimming skills and water confidence.

The progress made has been incredible. Some students were unable to swim at all when they first began their lessons, and they have now developed the confidence and ability to move safely and independently in the water. This progress was especially clear during the residential, where students were able to apply their skills in a real-life setting and demonstrate just how far they have come.

Students should be very proud of their achievements and the effort they have shown throughout their swimming journey.



THE GABLES CENTRE PARKS TRIP

Centre Parcs residential was an absolutely brilliant experience for our students and staff, and it's safe to say it was a highlight for everyone involved. From start to finish, the students fully embraced the trip and made the most of every opportunity.

One of the biggest positives was seeing students grow in independence. They managed their own routines, looked after their belongings, and made choices for themselves, often with growing confidence as the days went on. Many students pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, faced challenges head on, and showed real resilience along the way, something they should be very proud of.

Swimming was a firm favourite, especially the water slides, rapids and night swimming, which created lots of laughter and great shared memories!! Students also loved taking part in pottery painting, where they could relax, get creative, and enjoy a calmer activity together. This was a lovely opportunity for students to express themselves and take pride in something they had made.

Eating out, playing games, and spending time together in the lodges helped students build friendships and practise social skills in a relaxed setting. There were plenty of moments of teamwork, compromise, and support for one another, whether during group games or daily activities.

Most importantly, everyone had the best time! Students and staff returned home happy and tired with lifelong memories!!



“THE 100” COMPETITION

The competition invited our pupils to write exactly one hundred words – in either poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction – with the title “The 100”. It’s was a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their creativity, express their voices, and share their perspectives.

The limit of one hundred words made it accessible for all, while providing a challenge for more able students to be creative within the word limit. The title is flexible to be interpreted in whichever way they wish.

The students took this challenge on staright away and 3 of out students have been shortlisted for the competition.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY

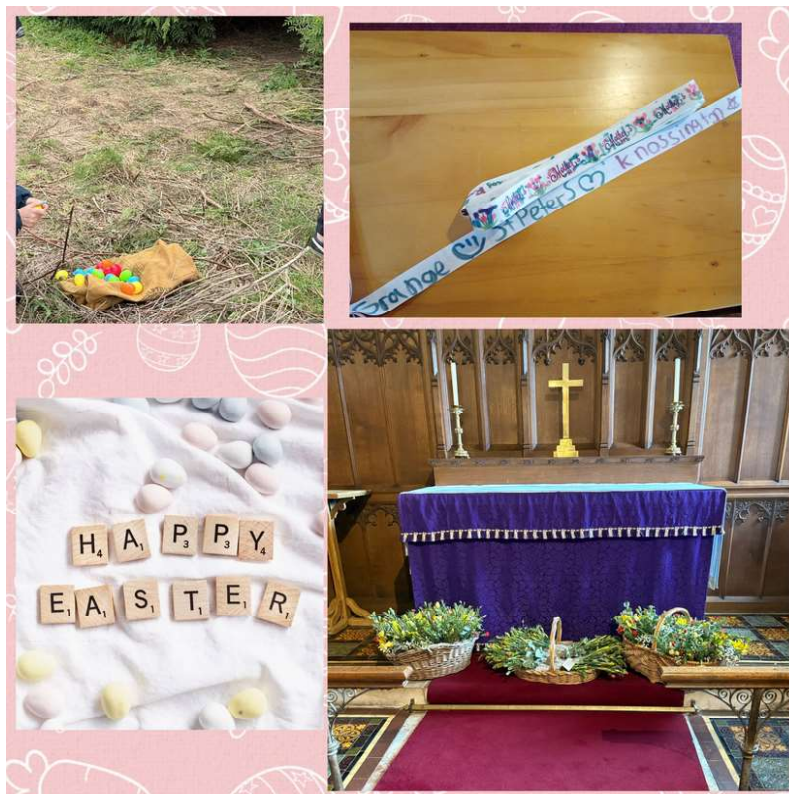
We are really pleased to share how our school continues to work closely with our local church and wider community. These partnerships make a real difference to our pupils' experiences and help to nurture the values we all care about.

As a joint event with St Peter's Church, this term our pupils contributed a beautiful ribbon to celebrate Mothering Sunday. The ribbon was decorated by our pupils for the pansies that were given to all the ladies in Knossington Village, with the children thinking about sharing love and gratitude as the pansies were delivered. Their thoughtful messages were also displayed in the church and served as a lovely reminder of how important our support networks are.

Over the Easter period, pupils worked together to help create an Easter Garden, exploring themes of hope and renewal through a hands-on, creative Easter message activity. These were proudly displayed for families and members of the community to enjoy.

The Easter Egg Hunt at the church was another highlight, bringing together pupils and the wider community in a warm and welcoming setting.

All these experiences show just how valuable strong school/community links are in supporting our pupils' personal development. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our church community and look forward to many more opportunities to work together.



THERAPY UPDATES

NEW NEURODIVERGENCE ADVOCACY GROUP, 'BEING ME'.

'BeingMe' is a clinically-led group aimed at supporting select students with understanding their neurodivergences from a communication, sensory and emotional/ well-being perspective. The group involves 12 sessions delivered by members of the clinical team.

Two groups have started this term, one for KS3 students and one for KS4. Students have been selected to attend based on their EHCP clinical need, and attend a weekly session in one of our designated therapy rooms.



So far, Ruth, our Speech and Language Therapist, has begun her block of sessions focusing on what neurodivergence is and the student's neurodivergent identity. This has included exploring communication and self-advocacy skills.

When we come back in the summer term, Laura, our Occupational Therapist, will begin her sessions. These will support students to understand their body signals and sensory environment, as well as the tools they need to support their regulation at school.

The students will then have 4 sessions with Tahli, our Psychotherapist, who will support them to explore their thoughts and feelings around neurodivergence. The students will also work with Tahli to develop strategies to support their wellbeing.

It has been wonderful to see the students starting to share their experiences of neurodivergence in a safe and supportive way.

NEW LUNCH TIME CLUB, RECHARGE

The clinical team have also put together a new lunch time club: Recharge.

This is a space for students to relax, connect and reset with peers and staff to support their wellbeing.

Our therapy assistants, Jess and Erin, have games, crafts and even a cuppa to support students in these spaces.

There are three Recharge sessions across the week for students to attend.

Monday Lunch Time - KS3, Main Site

Tuesday Lunch Time - KS4, Main Site

Thursday Lunch Time - The Gables Site

Lots of students have been accessing this space and we look forward to seeing more of them there next term.

RECHARGE
With Jess & Erin

CUPPA?

Come and join us for crafts, games and a chance to relax, connect and reset between lessons

KS3 Mondays 12:30-12:50 in the Library

KS4 Tuesdays 12:50-1:15 in the Library

GAMES

Jess Erin

All student welcome - you can join us weekly or when ever you need to recharge.

ARCHERY EXCELLENCE: STUDENTS EARN BRONZE AWARDS

We are delighted to share fantastic news from our school Archery Programme. Over the past term, students have demonstrated impressive dedication, focus, and resilience as they developed their skills, and we are proud to celebrate those who have achieved their Bronze Awards: Noah (Y8), Romeo (Y8), Harry (Y8), Loui (Y9), Theo (Y9), Connor W. (Y9), Evie (Y10), Kye (Y10), and Oliver T. (Y11).

Achieving a Bronze Award mark an important milestone. It reflects a strong grasp of essential techniques, a commitment to safety, and growing consistency in performance. Each student has shown determination and perseverance in reaching this standard, laying solid foundations for future progress in the sport.

Archery is about far more than accuracy; it requires patience, discipline, and sustained concentration. It has been wonderful to see students supporting one another, building confidence, and improving week by week. Their commitment during training sessions, often in challenging weather, has been particularly commendable.

We are proud of the positive atmosphere within the Archery Group and the way students encourage and celebrate each other's achievements. It has been inspiring to witness their progress, and we look forward to seeing many of them continue to develop their skills and aim for higher awards in the coming terms.

Our thanks go to David and his team for organising and leading the sessions, and to parents and carers for their ongoing support. We look forward to celebrating even more successes in the future.



TERM DATES 2026

Spring Term 2026

Term starts

INSET Training Day: Monday 5th January 2026

School Opens

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half term closure

Depart on Friday 13th February 2026

Return on Monday 23rd February 2026

End of term

Depart on Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts

Monday 13th April 2026

May Bank Holiday – school closed

Monday 4th May 2026 (one day only)

Half Term Closure

Depart on Friday 22nd May 2026

Return on Monday 1st June 2026

End of term

Friday 17th July 2026

For non urgent safeguarding matters and information sharing please email safeguardinggrange@knossington.rutland.sch.uk. For urgent matters please contact your Local Authority Children Services.

ONLINE SAFETY

Many children may be unwrapping new technology this Christmas and we want to make sure families feel confident and prepared. Attached to this email, you'll find two short guides to help you set up devices safely, choose appropriate privacy settings, and support your child in developing healthy digital habits.

We hope you find it helpful and reassuring as you navigate any new tech in your home this holiday season. If you have any questions or would like further support, please feel free to get in touch or have a look at the following websites.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>





The Grange Therapeutic School

Every local authority has its own Children's and Adult's Social Care website for urgent advice and Early Help support.

If you feel that your child is in immediate risk of attempted suicide or may have seriously harmed themselves

PLEASE SEEK URGENT MEDICAL HELP.

You can:

Call 999

Go straight to A&E

Get advice from 111 or ask for an urgent GP appointment if:

- you need urgent help for your mental health

[Get help from 111 online](#) or call [111](#) and select the mental health option.

Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or text "YM" if you're under 19

24/7 advice and support



Family Lives offer 24 hour helpline (0808 800 222) and an online chat facility www.familylives.org.uk

Lots of articles and support around a range of topics to support parents from family issues, dealing with aggressive behaviour at home and health and wellbeing.



**family
lives**

**WORRIED?
NEED TO TALK?**

Call Childline on
0800 1111



childline

SHOUT, SAY THE PHRASE, 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.

For concerns around drugs / alcohol:

FRANK

 **Text 82111**

Text a question and FRANK will text you back.

 **Call 0300 123 6600**

Call FRANK 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.