

THE GRANGE THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Winter 2025

PRINCIPAL'S WINTER MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Carers,

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter, Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support during this Academic Year. It has been a fantastic term in terms of developments to the school site over the Summer break which included: A new catering room, redecoration for the whole site and we have plans to continue to develop the site further with more activities taking place on site so pupils do not have to make long journeys to external provision as many pupils already have long taxi journeys to us!

We are hoping to bring animals on to site in 2026, I will keep you updated!
A huge thank you to all who have been involved in the staggering amount of fund raising that has taken place for the school. This is much appreciated and funds raised will go to helping many amazing charities and people less fortunate.

This first term seems to have flown by as we have welcomed new pupils and families to school, along with some new staff. Learning has been focused on developing pupils self confidence in their own abilities and to prepare them for whatever they choose to do beyond The Grange.

As the New Year approaches I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing staff for their continued commitment to the school, a real strength of all that we do is positive working relationships staff have with our pupils and home.

May I take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

I will look forward to welcoming our pupils back into school on Tuesday
6th January 2026

Best Wishes,
Jonathan

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Oliver W. and George W. made everyone feel so very proud of them as they represented our school by laying the Remembrance wreaths at the church and engaging with our local community, asking very interesting questions, engaging with the talk, and speaking about their families involved in the war, etc. We are very proud of them indeed.



Our students paid their respects to those who have lost their lives through war and those who continue to fight for their countries by observing a minutes silence on Remembrance Day while listening to the poem "In Flanders Fields".

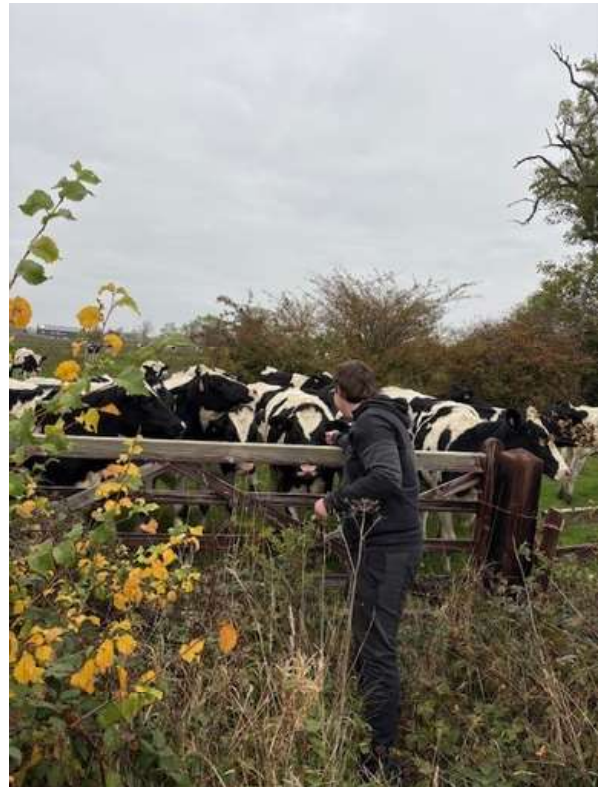
Korey A read a touching poem to the students and staff



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

This term a group of Duke of Edinburgh students have completed a number of tasks. Some of the following activities – High Ropes, Rutland Water walk, Air Rifle shooting, Fineshades Walk, Gladiator challenge, Bradgate Park Walk, Steelyard Gym and a 5k around Knossington

These activities are preparing the students for their Duke of Edinburgh award which will take place early next year. For the rest of this year we have numerous activities booked in at Leicester outdoor Pursuits which will help the students in their expedition.



ENGAGE

CBT TRAINING



Students get the chance to do CBT motorbike training as one of their activities. It's a great way for them to build confidence, learn something genuinely useful, and enjoy a bit of freedom in a safe, structured way. They love getting hands-on with the bikes, and it gives them a real sense of achievement seeing their skills progress session by session.



HORSE RIDING

Students really enjoy going horse riding and they have been getting more confident every week. It's become a big part of their routine and is helping them work towards their longer-term goal of going to college to study equine. The sessions give them purpose, build their skills, and keep them motivated about where they want to go next.



ORIENTEERING



Students have really taken to orienteering — they love getting outdoors, figuring out the routes, and working together to solve the challenges. It's a fun way for them to build teamwork and problem-solving skills without it feeling like “work,” and they always come back buzzing after a session.

NAIL BAR



Students really enjoy using the nail bar facilities in school — it's a relaxing, creative space where they can unwind, chat, and learn practical self-care skills. They love trying out different colours and designs, and it's become a fun, confidence-boosting part of their week that they genuinely look forward to.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION - FARM

Some of our students spend part of their school day doing work experience on a local farm, and they've really taken to it. They enjoy getting stuck into practical tasks, learning how things run day-to-day, and working with the animals. It gives them a real sense of responsibility and routine, and it's a great way for them to build confidence and develop real-world skills outside the classroom.



BUSHCRAFT



Students really enjoy bushcraft as part of their school day — it gets them outdoors, learning hands-on skills like fire-lighting, shelter building, and basic woodland safety. They love the sense of adventure and teamwork, and it's a great way for them to build confidence while having fun in a calm, natural setting.

BOXING

Students really enjoy taking part in boxing during their school day at the alternative provision. It gives them a positive outlet for their energy, helps them build fitness and discipline, and boosts their confidence as they learn new skills. The sessions are structured, supportive, and a great way for them to focus, progress, and feel good about themselves.

MOUNTAIN BIKING



Students absolutely love going mountain biking. It gets them outdoors, moving, and trying something exciting that pushes their confidence in a really positive way. They enjoy learning new skills on the trails, challenging themselves, and just having a proper fun break from the classroom. It's always a highlight of their week.

COOKING

Students really enjoy cooking as part of their life skills sessions. They like getting hands-on in the kitchen, trying out new recipes, and learning how to make meals they can use in everyday life. It's a fun, practical way for them to build confidence and independence, and they always leave the sessions proud of what they've made.



WORK EXPERIENCE



Students really enjoy going out on work experience. It gives them a taste of the real world, lets them try different roles, and helps them figure out what they might want to do in the future. They like the responsibility, the routine, and the chance to learn new skills outside the classroom — and they always come back feeling proud of themselves.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Students really enjoy getting involved in outdoor activities — whether it's walking, exploring, team challenges, or just getting fresh air in a different environment. Being outside lets them burn off energy, work together, and build confidence in a way that feels fun and relaxed. They always come back from these sessions brighter, more focused, and proud of what they've achieved.



GYM



Going to the gym offers a range of educational benefits that go beyond physical fitness. It helps learners build discipline, set goals, and develop consistent routines—skills that transfer directly into academic success. Exercise has also been shown to boost concentration, memory, and overall cognitive function, making it easier for students to stay focused and retain information. Additionally, learning how to use gym equipment safely and effectively promotes problem-solving and encourages an understanding of how the body works, supporting both personal development and lifelong healthy habits.

LIFESKILLS PASSPORT

What is Life Skills Passport all about?

On Monday 17th November we are launched an exciting new initiative called Life Skills Passport.

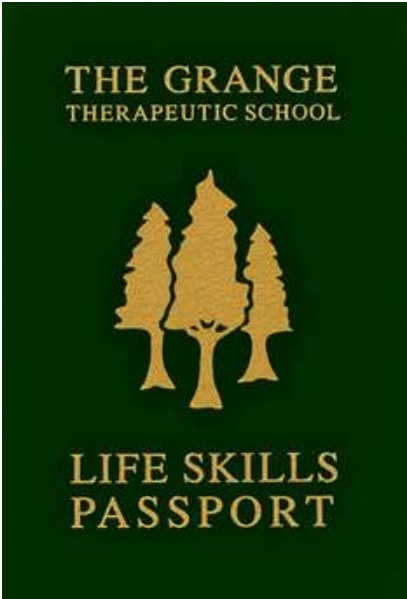
One of our values here at The Grange is "Prepare for Life" and we hope that this new initiative will do just that. We have identified over 60 life skills that we would like to equip our students with during their time here at The Grange. Many of these are taught in our everyday lessons.

To go along side this we are running 3 drop down days a year to tackle some of the more unusual life skills that wouldn't naturally be taught in school. The first Life Skills day was on Monday 17th November. We collapsed our normal timetable for the day and the entire school went around lots of different activities in their tutor group.

The day was a great success with lots of positive feedback from both students and staff and we look forward to 2 more Life skills days this academic year.

WHAT DID WE GET UP TO?

Key stage 2	Key stage 3	Key stage 4
Making a bed Wrapping presents Dusting, sweeping, mopping Put up a tent Photography	Clean a bathroom Tie a tie Make a meal Put up a tent Make a cup of tea Make a campfire	Book a holiday Hang a picture Change a car tyre Hoovering Check car levels Budgeting



FUNDRAISING

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Lucy M in year 11 designed this beautiful poster to advertise and promote Christmas jumper day to all of our staff and students .

The day was a huge success with a great range of jumpers on display from staff and students alike.

CHILDREN IN NEED



The staff and students enjoyed a cake sale, raffle and refreshments. It was a very successful event and the school raised £220 for a great cause

A MAGICAL TRIP TO THE PANTO

Students and staff from across the Gables site recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Nottingham Playhouse to watch the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* and what a memorable day it was!

Our students were completely captivated by the performance. From the moment the curtain rose, the theatre was filled with laughter, excitement and plenty of panto magic. Students (Staff) enthusiastically joined in with the singing, dancing and classic audience interaction, fully embracing the spirit of pantomime.

The vibrant costumes, catchy songs and humorous characters kept everyone engaged throughout the show. It was wonderful to see students confidently responding to the performers, cheering, clapping and laughing together, making the experience both inclusive and uplifting. Staff were incredibly proud of how well the students represented the Gables site, showing enthusiasm, positive engagement and excellent behaviour during the visit. The trip provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience live theatre, build social skills and create shared memories outside of the classroom.

A huge thank you to our staff team for making the visit possible. It was truly a magical day enjoyed by all!



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/>





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.



**WORRIED?
NEED TO TALK?**

Call Childline on
0800 1111



childline

BECAUSE, 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.

TREE DECORATING AT ST PETERS, KNOSSINGTON

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed adding their Christmas suncatchers, paper chains, and other decorations, all lovingly created by our students especially for St Peter's church, Knossington, while listening to carols. They were incredibly proud to see their work displayed, and the experience was both joyful and meaningful. Pupils also enjoyed gifting a key ring made by them, along with a Christmas card and their Christmas wishes. The morning was very nicely wrapped up by some lovely cuddles with the dogs of a kind parishioner, which our pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

We are very proud of the creativity, care, and enthusiasm they brought to the occasion, and of the way they represented our school so positively and with such community spirit. On behalf of both pupils and staff, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the church congregation at St Peter's for the kindness and warmth they have shown to our pupils and staff, for opening their doors to us, and for making us feel so welcome. The beautifully decorated tree brought warmth and cheer to the church and gave our pupils a wonderful sense of belonging and connection to the wider community.

We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and friendship. Wishing everyone a Christmas filled with a caring community, joy, and peace, and looking forward to many more shared, joyful, and fruitful community times and events in the New Year!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY AND THE GABLES SANTA VISIT

It's the Christmas season and the time has come for all of students and staff to enjoy a firm favourite – the Christmas Lunch. Here at The Grange, we love our Christmas Lunch day and the opportunity it presents for us to get our students and staff all together and engaged in their food.

Spirits were incredibly high at The Grange across all sites, the kitchen was hustling and bustling! The days menu consisted of turkey slices, crispy roast potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, sausages, and a mouthwatering dose of gravy, followed by yule log with cream for dessert.

Crackers and jokes were shared amongst the staff and students, the atmosphere was very festive with decorated tables and Christmas music playing in the background.

Overall it was a great success and a lovely day all round.



The Students at The Gables had a very exciting visit from Santa himself. Santa spoke to all of the students and gave them each a small gift.



CONSTRUCTION

Our construction students have been hard at work putting their skills to the test creating a garden and raised planter area at the school



We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 6th January 2026.