



THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Wade Deacon Trust



ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Friday 13th September 2019 – Issue 1

Welcome from Mr Critchley ~ Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a pleasure to welcome back all our students last week, particularly those who started with us for the first time, in nursery, reception and Year 7. They looked incredibly smart and have set their standards high for an excellent year ahead. I would like to thank all parents and carers that have supported us by ensuring that uniform and equipment are bought; it is the very simple things that make such a huge difference. Last year we had an excellent year and outcomes improved in all phases. Year 2 and Year 6 did incredibly well in their SATs and there was a significant improvement in the progress of students in the secondary phase. Attendance improved across the school significantly; excellent attendance is crucial to success and that is why we have risen our expectations to 97% this year.

There have been many new appointments of staff for September and I am pleased to welcome the following colleagues; Ms Amy Day – Nursery Teacher, Mr Thomas Ray – Year 4 Teacher, Mr Alexander Relph – Year 3 Teacher, Ms Christine Mulligan – KS1 Resource Base Teacher; Miss Lottie Grace – Teacher of English, Mr Liam Crosbie – Teacher of Maths, Ms Carly Cullen - Teacher of Maths, Mr Tony Farrall – Teacher of Science, Miss Anna Lightfoot – Teacher of Science, Mr Ian Paine – Teacher of History, Miss Chloe McKnight – Teacher of Geography, Ms Rose Patiniotis – Teacher of Art and Mr Peter Allen – Head of PE.

Miss Kenneway also has a new title of Head of Primary Education and Mrs Thomson and Miss McPartland will continue as Associate Principals in the secondary phase. Miss Kenneway will continue to oversee and lead on all the elements of primary education and Mrs Thomson will continue to do this in the secondary phase. If you have any concerns then please contact your child's class teacher or progress tutor (secondary) in the first instance.

Please be reminded that our Open Evening will take place on Thursday 26th September starting at 5.00pm. This is for all prospective students starting Year 7 in September 2020. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2019. More information about applying for a school place will be sent nearer the time. Can I remind parents that there is no need to apply for a secondary place if your child already attends The Grange Academy Primary phase.

Once again thank you for all your support and I look forward to another great year.

Ian Critchley
Principal

A community that works together to create an exceptional learning journey for all.

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Primary Department

Welcome back everyone!

It has been lovely to see all of the children (and their families) back at school after the summer holidays. The children look very smart in their uniform – thank you so much everyone!

We are delighted to welcome three new and very talented staff members to the Primary Department this school year. Mr Alex Relph Y3, Mr Tom Ray Y4 and Miss Christine Mulligan in our Infant Resource Base. Please introduce yourself and say hello when you get the opportunity.

Remember our new times are start 8.40am and finish 2.50pm. We have had some slip ups this week with pupils arriving late but we expect everyone to be on time now as learning starts straight away and if your child is late they have to then catch up!

We have made some exciting changes to our curriculum this year with new topics, key concepts and real outcomes for each topic. Each class will experience a range of teachers for different subject specialities (including some of our talented and specialist secondary colleagues). Having spoken to some of the children they are already excited about their learning and the opportunities for new experiences.

After listening to your concerns about congestion in the mornings and after a successful trial, KS2 pupils now have the option to enter school through the front doors (from the Plaza) or through the playground doors. This means that the staff will split their forces to collect a whole year group. We still want you to have the opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher so staff will alternate front and back (see below).

Y3 Mrs Williams, Y4 Mr Ray, Y5 Mrs O'Connell and Mrs Ireland and Y6 Miss Graham – front Mon, Wed and Fri, back Tue and Thur

Y3 Mr Relph, Y4 Miss Hanrey, Y5 Miss Parkinson, Y6 Miss Maltz and Miss Kenneway – back Mon, Wed and Fri, front Tues and Thur

PE lessons begin this week. Pupils have 2 hours of PE every week so please ensure their PE kit is in school. Ideally pupils should bring kit in on a Monday and leave it in all week as occasionally we have to swap sessions or we have extra opportunities for PE or Healthy activities.

Uniform

Please remember the school policy is NO jewellery apart from a watch. Girls wear a skirt, not a pinafore and shoes must be plain black. We also do not allow make up, nail polish or chewing gum in school. Please support these rules and help your child have a positive experience in school.

Dates for your diary

Monday 9th and Monday 16th September Y5 Bikeability

Wednesday 18th September Y6 SATs meeting 6pm

Thursday 26th September School Open Day/Meet the teacher Primary and help your child at school session in Primary

Monday 14th –Wednesday 16th October Year 6 Colomendy Visit

Thursday 17th October Y5 Yorvik Museum Trip

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October Primary Parents Evening (appointments)

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School Nurse

My name is Dianne Dawson and I am the school nurse for The Grange Academy.

I am in school every Monday morning. Parents of primary pupils can arrange an appointment to see me about any health issues eg fussy eating, poor sleep, continence and behaviour by phoning me on 01928 593056.

I also run a drop-in clinic where high school pupils can access confidential health advice. This provides older pupils an opportunity to receive support for a range of issues eg healthy life style, managing stress/anxiety and healthy relationships.

National Read a Book Day ~ 6th September 2019

There are many fantastic reasons to read a book and here at The Grange Academy we took advantage of this great literary event. Our students came to the library to borrow and read books during their break time. During class time many of our students were reading along with teachers. It was a great day for reading.

Miss Williams during library time, reading The Gruffalo to Year 3 students. A couple of year 11 students join in the fun.



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Due to new GDPR guidelines, any requests for changes to phone numbers, addresses, legal names etc must now be made in writing from a parent, carer or legal guardian. This will need to be signed and dated by the person completing it and handed in at the front office before any amendments can be made. The written information required is as follows:

- Student full name and DOB
- Parent/carers/legal guardian full name
- Current phone number/address/name which will be changed
- New phone number/address/name to change to
- Signed and dated

We can no longer accept any amendments to details verbally over the phone.

Any legal change of surname must be supported by the relevant legal documents before information can be updated on our system.

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Trampolining Success Well Done Lolli Neston ~ Year 7

Lolli competed in the English Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline Championships, 7th and 8th September and was awarded the gold medal in both categories.

Lolli is now the Double English Champion. Well done Lolli!

This is an amazing achievement for Lolli who is not only starting her first year in high school but it was also a new age category for her event.



Well Done Lolli Nestor!



English TRAMPOLINE Championship Finals, ESS Sheffield - 7th & 8th Sept 2019
Lolli Nestor - 11-12 Girls - Silver Level - English Champion



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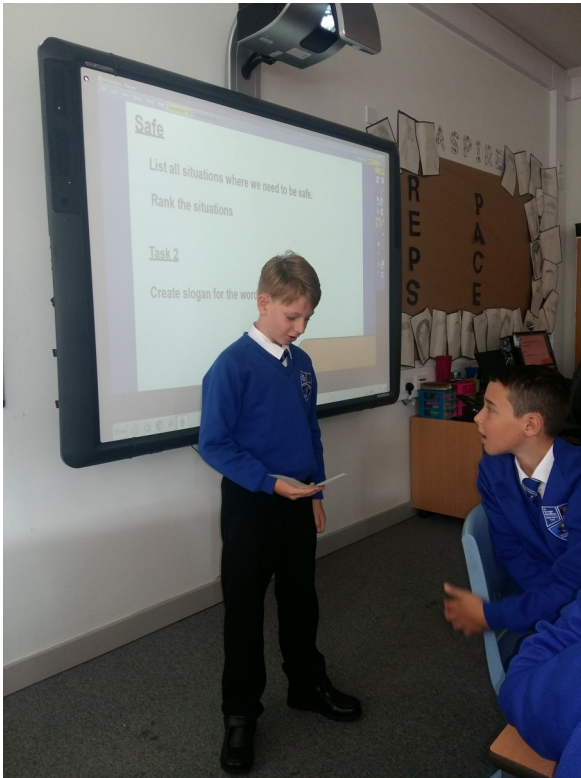


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Year 5



Year 5 have had a great start to the school year. They used their creativity to explore our school rules and expectations; REPS - Respectful, Excellence, Persevere and Safe. We created freeze-frames, postcards, performed raps, songs and poems.







Summer School

Over 50 of our new Year 7 students joined us for our annual summer school. We had a fantastic time getting to know more about what life is like in secondary school, taking part in team challenges and making new friends. Each day the 2 groups fought to earn points for their team, working together in lessons of Maths, Music, PE, French, DT & Drama. Students also took part in a nurture session which allowed them the opportunity to ask questions about what to expect as they start their Year 7 adventure. In the end it was Group 2 who took the victory after the final head to head photography challenge. Final scores: Group 1: 98 points, Group 2: 99 points. We loved our time at summer school and we are really proud of the way that our new Year 7 students have settled into life at The Grange. Well done and keep it up!



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MYEd is the free parent app that gives you a multitude of communication and information features to stay in touch with what is going on at school. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance, timetable, absence records, achievements, behaviour and much, much more. You will also see that we update and change the information in the app as the school year moves along.

We are able to send you messages directly to the **MYEd** app relating to important information about your child's education and to remind you of events that are taking place at school. You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages you send to us.

World Mental Health Day ~ 10th October 2019

Young people's mental health and wellbeing has never been so important. These statistics show just how big – and growing – the problem is for young people in the UK.

- 1 in 8 children have a diagnosable mental health disorder – that's roughly 3 children in every classroom.
- 1 in 6 young people aged 16-24 has symptoms of a common mental disorder such as depression or an anxiety disorder.
- Half of all mental health problems manifest by the age of 14, with 75% by age 24.

In 2017, suicide was the most common cause of death for both boys (16.2% of all deaths) and girls (13.3%) aged between 5 and 19.

Here at The Grange Academy, we recognise the importance of supporting all of our children and young people in order to ensure they have positive mental health. On 10th October we will be joining with millions of people nationwide in supporting World Mental Health Day.

To raise awareness of this important issue, all students will be given the opportunity to wear a yellow accessory during the day (head band, bow, hair clips, socks, tie, scarf, badge or wristband) and staff will also be dressing in yellow to show our support.

There will be various activities taking place in school for our young people to gain more awareness of how to support their own positive mental health, and we will be joined by expertly trained staff from outside agencies who can demonstrate what support is available in the local area if our young people need additional help.

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Thought of the Week

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

Dogs on School Premises

Unfortunately we can no longer allow dogs onto the school premises. This is for a number of reasons including allergies, fear of some pupils and the risk of incidents. We acknowledge that most dogs are delightful and adorable, however for some pupils they create anxiety which then affects their ability to learn.

Parking

Some of our children travel to and from school by taxis arranged by Transport Co-ordination at the Local Authority.

These taxis not only carry children who attend The Grange Academy but also other schools.

It is imperative that they are able to park up quickly and drop off or pick up the children quickly and safely.

Please can I ask that when parking in the small car park that you do not park in the taxi bays (even for a short period). The taxi bays must be available at all times for taxis only.

Primary News and Information

Please note, as last academic year, Primary letters will be sent out on a **Thursday**. Please ask your child each Thursday if they have any letters.

It is extremely important that you read and if applicable, return any reply slips etc to school as soon as possible.

Halton SEND Carers Forum

“Looking Forward Together, Asking the Right Questions, SEND and SEMH”

Information update event for parents and carers, taking place at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Parish Club, Mayfield Avenue, Widnes WA8 8PR on Thursday 19th September 12.00-2.30pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Primary Y6 SATs Information Evening	18th September	6.00pm
Y9 Girls 2nd dose HPV Vaccinations	18th or 19th September (tbc by NHS)	
Halton SEND Carers Forum at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Parish Club Widnes Primary School Photographs	Thursday 19th September 23rd to 27th September	12.00-2.30pm All day
Open Evening	26th September	5.00pm
European Day of Languages	26th September	
World Mental Health Day	10th October	

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