



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 06

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of 2021 it is always a time to look back and reflect on the past year. Again, it has been blighted by the pandemic but we have continued to support our students and families in the face of such challenging circumstances. I hope you feel we have communicated all the changes in guidance in a timely way and ensured that the welfare and education of your children is always the most important factor at The Grange Academy.

January 2022 Return

The primary phase will return as normal on Wednesday 5th January at the normal start time of 8.30am for Nursery and 8.40am for the Infants and Juniors.

In the secondary phase we have been asked to undertake lateral flow tests on all secondary students prior to their return. Therefore, all those students who we have consent for, will be tested as below.

Staff Goodbye's

We have a few farewells to long serving members of staff. Mrs Lynne Waller has worked at The Grange for over 20 years; she is retiring to spend more time with her grandchildren and family. Lynne has been the Office Manager during her time here and her attention to detail and friendly manner will be missed by all. I am sure you will join me in wishing Lynne well for the future. Mr Eddie McGovern also leaves the school after 16 years as a teacher of Geography and Mrs Clare Winstone leaves after 18 months as a teacher of Maths. We wish them well.

Standards and Expectations

Please can I remind parents and carers that students should attend school well equipped (black pen, blue pen, rubber, ruler, pencil and pencil case), with an appropriate school bag, school shoes as per the policy and with a positive attitude to learning. Secondary students are still required to wear a mask after the Christmas break and I would appreciate your support if they could bring their own washable face covering.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please can I remind parents and carers that secondary students should arrive at lines for 8.30am. A warning bell will sound at 8.25am. Primary children should arrive for a prompt 8.50am start. Primary can enter from 8.40am. Attendance is still a priority for all schools nationally and good school attendance will ensure that students catch up quickly, continue to make progress and also benefit from seeing their friends and developing the knowledge and skills for their next steps. If you have any concerns or need support in terms of attendance or punctuality please can you contact your child's class teacher or form tutor in the first instance.

Finally, thank you in advance for your support in the above matters and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes,

Mr Ian Critchley
Principal

Time of arrival for testing	Year Group	Plan for Wed 5th Jan 2022
8.30am	11	Students will be tested during form time and the start of lesson 1 and will then return to lessons as normal. Students will remain in school following their test.
9.30am	10	Students should arrive from 9:30am and will be tested. Once tested they will access lessons as normal. Students will remain in school following their test.
10.30am	9	Students should arrive at their allotted times for form groups (see page 2). They will then return home. Students should access their lessons through Microsoft Teams and return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022.
11.30am	8	Students should arrive at their allotted times for form groups (see page 2). They will then return home. Students should access their lessons through Microsoft Teams and return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022.
12.30pm	7	Students should arrive at their allotted times for form groups (see page 2). They will then return home. Students should access their lessons through Microsoft Teams and return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022.



SECONDARY LATERAL FLOW TESTING

Lateral Flow Testing Schedule for Wednesday 5th January 2022

Year 11

8.40am	11CRZ
8.50am	11PAI
9.00am	11COP
9.10am	11MCG
9.20am	11MCN

Year 10

9.40am	10MNY
9.50am	10FOS
10.00am	10OCA
10.10am	10CLN

Year 9

10.30am	9OGN
10.40am	9ALN
10.50am	9CLR
11.00am	9KNI
11.10am	9LIG

Year 8

11.30am	8ELT
11.40am	8GRC
11.50am	8DUN
12.00pm	8DYL

Year 7

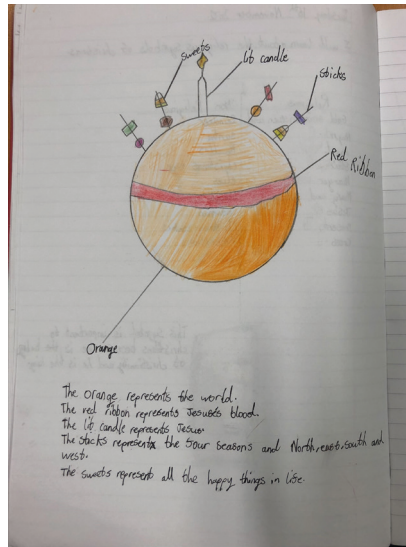
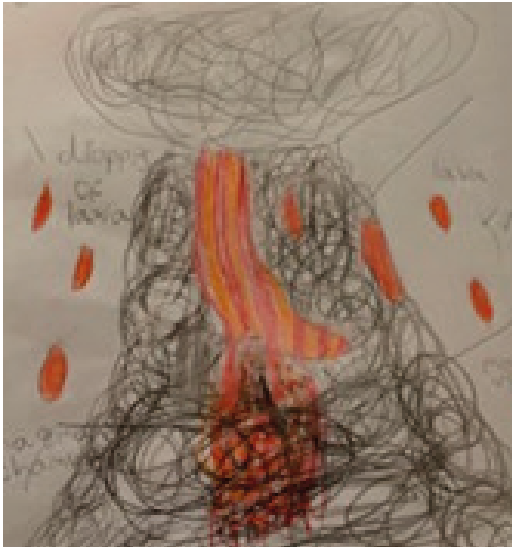
12.30pm	7SCH
12.40pm	7EVA
12.50pm	7MCU
13.00pm	7DAE
13.10pm	7GII
13.20pm	7FRL
13.30pm	7CMC

SUBJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT: HUMANITIES (PRIMARY)

In Geography, Year 3 students are working on the topic 'Extreme Earth' and have been looking at the three categories of volcanoes which are active, dormant and extinct.

Year 5 students have been busy studying the counties in the UK and will be using compasses to identify their location relevant to other areas.

Year 4 have been finding out about important symbols for Christians at Christmas. We learnt about Christingles and what each object symbolises before we made our own.



Children in Blue and Indigo class have been learning about old and new toys in History this term. They made their own cup and ball and looked at our very own 50 year old toy - The Rocking Horse in our Nursery!



SUBJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT: HUMANITIES (SECONDARY)

In Geography this term Year 9 students have been studying weather and climate, and in particular the causes and impacts of climate change. This has been very topical as it was planned to coincide with COP26. Students were given the opportunity to study what COP26 was, and why this year's meeting was particularly important for setting global climate targets.

Year 9 looked at the various impacts of climate change, along with future projections of global temperature, sea levels, and loss of biodiversity to name a few. Students also looked at strategies to mitigate climate change and how this could apply to their own lives, for example opting for sustainable transport.

This allowed for students to understand and engage in the conference that was a popular news topic, and created opportunity for debate, giving students the opportunity to practice their public speaking using SHAPE.

Miss McKnight said "I was really impressed with 9H1s COP26 presentations. Each student had a vital role in explaining the impacts and solutions of climate change to different communities around the world."



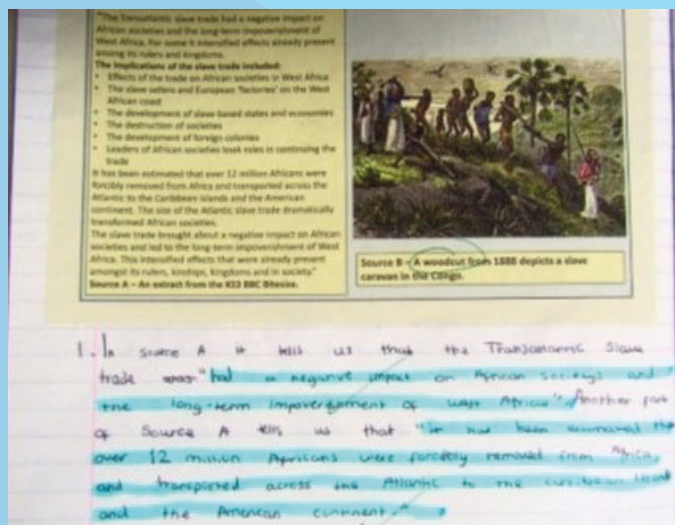
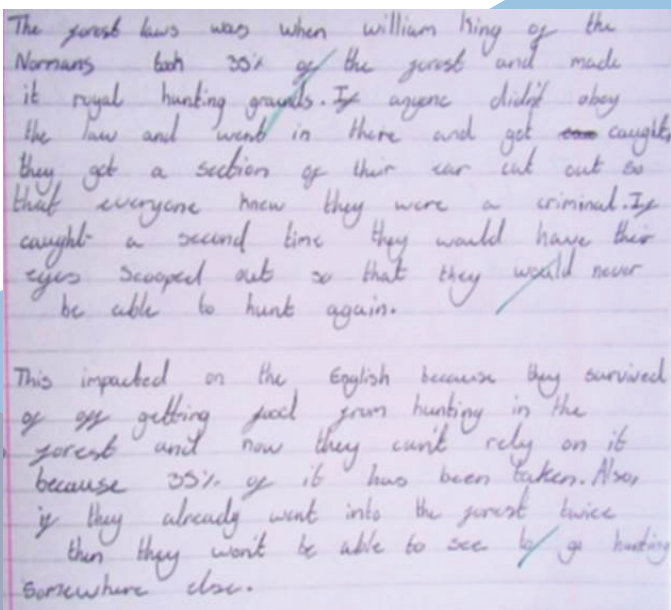
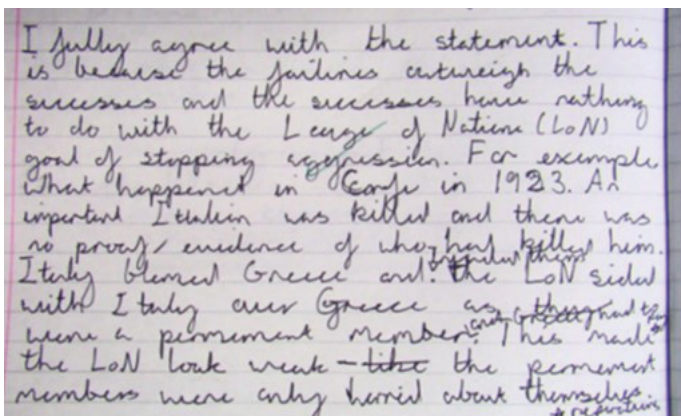
In Year 7, students have been making learning how William conquered England through the use of taxation and social hierarchy. They have linked cultural change in England with the migration of people from other parts of Europe.

In Year 8, students have been studying protest movements of the nineteenth century including the Luddites, the abolition of slavery movement and will be moving on to electoral reform in the nineteenth century.

In Year 9, students have been studying the increased tension through the Cold War and the Middle East as well as the creation of the United States of America through the idea of manifest destiny.

Year 10 have started their GCSE with Conflict and Tension between 1919 and 1939. So far, they have studied the impact of the Treaty of Versailles and the how League of Nations failed over time.

Year 11 are continuing to study for the end of their GCSE course.



PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

We have had a very busy term in Primary PE. The children have enjoyed improving their fitness with the daily mile and scooting. We have also had some fantastic enrichment opportunities.

The children enjoyed their sessions with coaches from Beth Tweddle Gymnastics Club and Jamie Carragher Soccer School.



QUIDDITCH EVENT

We have had a fantastic 2 days with Enrich Education learning how to play Quidditch. It was that good, even the Elves got involved. The sorting hat was used to decide the Hogwarts houses and the eventual winners were Hufflepuff.



PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

ORIENTEERING COURSES

We have recently had Enrich Education map 2 new Orienteering courses around school both for EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Our year 5's had a fantastic time exploring the course for the first time. They used their iPad's to answer questions from the QR codes at the control points.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE PLAZA

Our students have been busy practicing for the last couple of weeks to perform Christmas songs and carols on the plaza for parents and carers. We have had a brilliant turn out and so much support from our families so thank you for taking the time to come and watch.

Our all-through choir also performed on the plaza on Monday 20th December, with refreshments and homemade crafts available courtesy of our Art students to provide proceeds towards our summer production of Mary Poppins.

We have some fantastic talent across both phases and each student involved did the school and their families proud. Well done everyone!



WORD OF THE WEEK

Each week we look at a high frequency useful word (which may be difficult to interpret) and explore the definition, sounds, spelling, word-families, grammar and history surrounding it.

How you can help:

Encourage the use of the word in speaking and writing; model the use of the word when you talk.

PRIMARY

PROVE (VERB)

TO SHOW TO BE TRUE OR CORRECT

FESTIVE (ADJECTIVE)

RELATING TO A FESTIVAL, ESPECIALLY CHRISTMAS. CHEERFUL AND JOVIALY CELEBRATORY

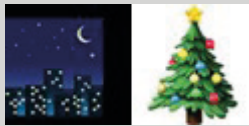
SECONDARY

ACHIEVEMENT

A THING DONE SUCCESSFULLY WITH EFFORT, SKILL OR COURAGE

EMOJI BOOKS

Can you guess the names of these well known children's books from these emojis?



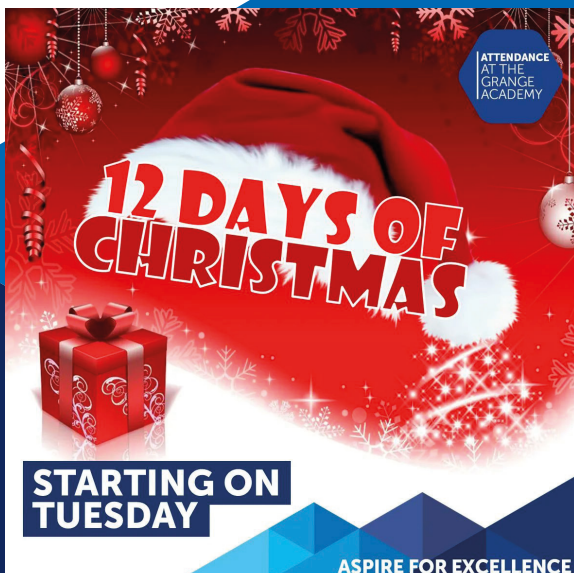
PRIMARY 2022 APPLICATIONS

A reminder to all prospective parents that the deadline for Primary 2022 applications is **15th January 2022.**

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Our secondary '12 days of Christmas' attendance rewards started this week. All students have to do to be in with a chance of winning is be in school!

There is a chance to win a selection box or a 'front of the queue pass break and lunch reward'.



YEAR 10 PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 17th November, a group of Year 10 students visited Cronton College as part of their Prestigious University Programme.

When we went to Cronton college, we didn't quite know what to expect. Many of us had never seen pictures of the place and didn't have any experience of places of further education. Despite this, we were welcomed with open arms when we arrived. We were led to a room where lots of other schools were ready and waiting. Soon after the last school arrived, we were given a presentation about how Cronton has helped many other students, who were in our shoes just a few years prior, to carry on their studies into top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge.

Following the presentations, all students engaged in a series of taster sessions to experience A-Level study in our chosen fields. One of the lessons was Science with an engineering pathway; in this lesson we calculated the gravitational field strength of the Earth using a pendulum, stop-watch and a computer.

Another lesson was Maths. In this lesson we used specific sequences of numbers to create a code. Using this code, we created messages for friends and the teachers. After our sessions, we were once again encouraged to aim for the skies and shown how much Cronton College will support us in achieving great things! To conclude, our time at Cronton College was spectacular, right from the facilities and equipment to the cheery faces and people around us. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore our options for our next steps after our time at The Grange.

Written by Lottie and Phoebe



CAREER OF THE WEEK

Career of the Week : CARE WORKER

Top Related Jobs:
Social Worker, Children's Nurse, Healthcare Assistant

Overview

Care workers offer support with everyday tasks to people who may be elderly, ill, have any disabilities, or any emotional or social problems.

What would I do?

- Helping people with personal care such as dressing, washing, using the toilet and feeding
- Doing a person's housework, laundry or shopping
- Helping people to face difficulties by providing motivation, power and resources
- Building a person's confidence and helping them to develop the skills needed to move their lives forward
- Taking people on outings or to appointments
- Supporting a person's family



Most people enter this line of work by doing some **volunteering** work. You could also enter this role through an **Apprenticeship** course. Those working in community, support or outreach roles may need at least **one year of experience** working in a social care setting. For certain roles, entrants need to be over 18 years of age, but it is possible to work in some areas of social work at the age of 16, if supervised.

JK Average Salary
£20,000

Starting Salary
£15,000

Key Skills Required:	
Decision Making	Kind
Caring and sensitive	Committed
Interpersonal	Communication
Managing Risk	

Top Tips!

There are things you can do to improve your chances of success when applying for this position.

- It may be an advantage to gain an emergency first aid qualification
- Try to get a relevant work experience placement, or gain experience of caring for an elderly or disabled relative
- Gain valuable experience and show a willingness to learn by volunteering

Qualifications...there are no set entry qualifications but you may be asked for GCSEs in English/Maths. Ideally you should study Health & Social Care at GCSE/A level

STAFF PROFILE

M WESTON (RECEPTION TEACHER)

Education

Blacklow Brow Primary School
Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning – GCSEs
Carmel College – A Levels
Edge Hill University – BA Hons Early Years Education with QTS

Jobs

Admin at a Drama School
McDonalds
Barmaid/Waitress
Teacher at other schools then Reception teacher at The Grange since September 2018.

Interests

Spending time with my family and friends.
Going on holiday and seeing new places.
Reading during half term when I have more time.

Proudest Moments

Passing my driving test.
Buying my first house.
Graduating as a teacher and getting my first teaching job.



SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

A MESSAGE FROM RUNCORN FOOD BANK

Thank you for your support over the last year to those who need food parcels from the Runcorn and District Foodbank. Without your work, we would not be able to identify all of those in need and provide them with food!

If you take a look at our website, you will see our opening hours over the Christmas and New Year breaks; but just to confirm our distribution centres will all be closed on the dates set out below.

Christmas

We will be closed from Saturday 25th December to Tuesday 28th December inclusive.

New Year

We will be closed from Saturday 1st January to Monday 3rd January inclusive.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all Seasonal Greetings!



ONLINE SAFETY GAMING SAFETY TIPS

Gaming is loved and enjoyed by children and adults across the world. It can be a way for children to be social, learn new skills, develop team work and relax. However, gaming also comes with risks for children. It can be difficult to keep up with the latest games and how they work.

Remember – If you are worried that a child is being groomed in a game, or on any other online platform you should seek support. You can contact your local police by calling 101. If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999. If you would like to talk to a professional about any other online concerns, you can call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

How can I make gaming safer for my child?

Talk with your child about gaming. Talk with your child to learn the games they like and the content and features of these. This will help you to understand more about how your child plays games and how appropriate different games are. You can use NSPCC's online safety hub to find out more information on safer gaming.

Learn together. You can use our resources to teach your child about safer gaming at all ages. For primary age children you can use our Jessie & Friends (ages 4-7) and Play, Like, Share (ages 8-10) resources. Secondary age children can access advice about gaming through the Thinkuknow website, as well as through on-going conversations with you.

Set boundaries and safety settings. Internet Matters make it easier to put safety settings in place, providing step-by-step guides for each console or device. Spend time setting these up with your child and make sure they know how to block and report on the games they are playing. You should also talk with your child to create an agreement for gaming; think about how much time they can spend, which games they can access, if you will allow in-app purchases and what spaces they can play in. For primary aged children it is advisable to have them play in shared spaces/ the same room as you.

WELLBEING QUOTE

CHRISTMAS IS FOREVER, NOT FOR JUST ONE DAY FOR LOVING, SHARING, GIVING, ARE NOT TO PUT AWAY.

SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY FUND

The Holiday Activity with Food programme is a Department for Education programme, aimed at supporting children who are eligible for benefits related free school meals over the Easter, Summer and Winter Holiday periods.

As part of this programme, Halton are excited to offer eligible young people a number a free events to attend, both including a meal. Eligibility could be checked upon booking so please only choose one of the options below.

Both options are on a first come first serve basis with limited places.



Once upon an Imagination



Let Once Upon an Imagination take you on a magical adventure to find Father Christmas. Join our woodland animal friends on an outdoor trail, enhanced my music, storytelling and there may even be some snow. All children will take part in some Christmas craft then enjoy a hot meal in one of our beautiful tepees.

We will be hosting 3 days of trails every half hour between 10am-5pm. 20th December will be at Spike Island, Widnes. 21st & 22nd December 2021 will be at Town Park Runcorn (near the ski slope)


How to book:

Please follow the links below to book your place,




<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/214368310387> 20th December Trail in Widnes
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/214399172697> 21st December Trail in Runcorn
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/214399834677> 22nd December Trail in Runcorn





Cinderella at The Brindley, Runcorn





The world's favourite pantomime Cinderella will arrive at the Brindley Theatre at the stroke of midnight on Wednesday 8 December and we're inviting you to the Ball!

Presented by New Pantomime Productions and starring the X Factor's Sam Callahan as Dandini, Brindley Panto favourites Rebecca Lake as Cinderella, Andrew Curyphay as Buttons and Charlie Griffiths as the Baroness. They will be joined by Harrison Scott-Smith as Prince Charming, Charlotte Dacia as the Fairy Godmother, Matt Dallen as Tess and Russ Evans as Claudia.

It's sure to have the usual spectacular scenery, dazzling costumes, hilarious jokes, singalong songs and fun for all the family. So don't delay, book today!

How to book:

To book your tickets please call the Brindley on 0151 907 8360 and quote the phrase **GLASS SLIPPER** to access your free tickets.

THE GRANGE ACADEMY VACANCIES

ASSISTANT PROGRESS LEADERS

We seek to appoint committed and dynamic Assistant Progress Leaders to join our dedicated team of support staff. The successful candidate will work under the direction of the Progress Leader and will contribute to ensuring the highest possible standards in pastoral support to our Secondary students.

Location

The Grange Academy

Salary

NJC Scale 5, points 12 - 17 (actual salary £19,537 - £21,371)

Employment type

Full time

Contract Type

Permanent and Temporary

Closing date for applications

Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 9am

Send applications to

hr@thegrangeacademy.co.uk

Interview Date

Week commencing 10th January 2022

Start Date

ASAP

Further information

We welcome informal visits from all applicants before they apply. If you wish to do so, please contact hr@thegrangeacademy.co.uk to arrange an appointment.

Full details of the post, including the job description and how to apply are available in the job pack on our website www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk

OFFICE MANAGER

We are seeking to appoint an energetic and enthusiastic Office Manager to join The Grange Academy. The successful candidate will have the opportunity of working within excellent facilities and with up to date resources.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the efficient running of the school office and to delegate tasks to designated staff as appropriate. You will also be responsible for the management of the human resource administration procedures, including complex administrative processes.

The role requires prioritising a demanding and varied workload in a very busy office environment. You will report to the Business Manager ensuring effective management of the school office administrative support functions and statutory processes.

Location

The Grange Academy

Salary

NJC Grade 5, actual salary £19,782 - £21,841

Employment type

Full time

Contract Type

Permanent

Closing date for applications

Friday 7th January 2022 at 9am

Send applications to

hr@thegrangeacademy.co.uk

Interview Date

W/c 10th January 2022

Start Date

ASAP

Further information

We welcome informal visits from all applicants before they apply. If you wish to do so, please contact hr@thegrangeacademy.co.uk to arrange an appointment.

OTHER VACANCIES:

- CASUAL MIDDAY ASSISTANTS
- CASUAL EXAM INVIGILATORS

For more information and to receive an application pack, please contact school on 01928 562660 or visit our website www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk

• TEMPORARY CLEANER

3pm - 5.30pm
12.5 hours per week

• PERMANENT CLEANER

3 hours per day
15 hours per week
3pm - 6pm

Please send your CV to elaine.southern@spie.com

HEALTHY SCHOOL NEWS



From the Healthy School Age Operational Group

Don't forget to sign up to our Healthy Schools offer and book your in your school sessions by emailing HIT@halton.gov.uk

Free winter holiday activities across Halton

We wanted to let you know about some of the FREE activities available to the children, young people and families in your school throughout the holidays. Thanks to funding from the Department of Education, there are a number of food and activity clubs this winter - at locations across Halton - which are completely free for eligible FSM children. For further information, please visit [HAF - Edsential](https://www.haf-edsential.co.uk) or email us directly via HAF@edsentia.co.uk



Recharge Halton

Recharge can support those young people who require someone to listen to them, provide a safe space to reconnect, offer opportunities for reflection, gain self-awareness, make time for self-care and develop mindfulness. The programme is delivered by youth workers who can get to know and understand the situation the young person is facing, and can support them to learn to cope with adversity while sustaining their mental wealth, help them to rebuild social connections, and focus on their happiness and confidence building. If you require any more information please contact carl.geraghty@vibeuk.org



REGISTER HERE

Community Matters at Christmas

Throughout Advent we will explore different communities from the Christmas story, see what they can teach us about community and how they can inspire us to make a difference this Christmas. Over four weeks, the resource celebrates how **community** can bring us **joy, acceptance, generosity and love**. The resource includes videos of pupils talking about their communities, bible links, reflections and practical challenges and can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Schools can sign up here: <https://www.abyyt.com/advent>

We have also recently released a new eBook. **Community Matters: Helping Young People Lead With Character in a Post-Covid World** is a series of reflections from experts in the education sector, focussing on the increasing need for the prioritisation of character education. Download the eBook for free: www.abyyt.com/projects/community-matters-ebook



HEALTHY SCHOOL NEWS



Fit 4 Life App Programme

Fit 4 Life has gone digital. We can support families to make healthy lifestyle changes via our 12-week app programme. Details on how to signpost or refer families can be found on the flyer.

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/start/fit4lifedigital.aspx>



Axess

On 1st December 2021, World AIDS Day gives an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people affected by HIV worldwide. There are resources available for schools on the National AIDS Trust website that can be used to deliver HIV awareness to young people. <https://www.nat.org.uk/teachers-resources>

The **axess** sexual health outreach team have also developed an online learning presentation for professionals, which aims to:

- Raise a basic awareness of HIV and AIDS
- Reduce stigma related to HIV
- Dispel some of the myths surrounding HIV
- Increase confidence when working with a HIV positive person
- Raise awareness of HIV prevention
- Increase knowledge of testing and availability in your area.

To complete this E-learning resource click [here](#) which will take you to the axess website



Axess - Transgender awareness



Axess sexual health outreach team are offering a Trans awareness briefing session for professionals working with young people, who would like to raise their awareness of trans identity and gender diversity.

This briefing will include a 1hr 15 minute TEAMS presentation, aiming to expand knowledge and highlight the barriers faced by Trans* people. Covering: Gender, Intersex, Terminology, Correct pronouns, Transition, Transphobia, Trans health and wellbeing, Trans rights and Working/interacting with trans people

Date	Time	Date	Time
Monday 17 th January	3.15pm	Tuesday 5 th April	1pm
Tuesday 1 st February	3.15pm	Monday 9 th May	3.15pm
Wednesday 9 th March	1pm	Monday 6 th June	3.15pm

If you/your team would like a different date please contact Kerry to arrange this.
Kerry.thomas@liverpoolft.nhs.uk

Axess sexual health have put together a survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8RSHCTF> This is to find out what young people would like from the young person's service such as clinic name, branding, how to access ensuring participation and the views of young people with regards to the axess website and accessing services. Please click the link above to complete.

HEALTHY SCHOOL NEWS

For Families

Free winter holiday activities across Halton

We wanted to let you know about some of the FREE activities available to the children, young people and families in your school throughout the holidays. Thanks to funding from the Department of Education, there are a number of food and activity clubs this winter - at locations across Halton - which are completely free for eligible FSM children. For further information, please visit [HAF - Edsential](#) or email us directly via HAF@edsential.co.uk



Free Smiling Minds resource in supporting your own mental health

As we move through this global health crisis together, many of us have been actively engaged in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people.

Parenting and teaching are all about assisting others. It is critically important that we create regular opportunities for self-care so that we can continue to support others and look after our own wellbeing at the same time.

On the Smiling Mind App you will find a wide range of mindfulness meditations and activities for adults which we encourage you to explore and try out for yourself.

<https://www.smilingmind.com.au/>



Bitesize Sessions

To book a place on online sessions email HIT@halton.gov.uk

Parent/Carer Bitesize Workshops (via Microsoft Teams)

New dates are now available for our popular bitesize workshops for 2022.

Sessions are free, delivered online, and last up to 1 hour. Sessions available include:

- Sleep & Screens
- Fussy Eating
- Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing



<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/public%20health/hit/fit4life/F4LParentBitesize.pdf>