



A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come towards the end of the first term and the end of 2020, I would like to thank you for your support in what has been an incredibly tough year. There have been many challenges, both in education and in all our lives, but I am hopeful that 2021 will be better and we will continue to see some 'light at the end of the tunnel.'

We know how difficult this period has been for some of our families and our students. I am pleased with how we have worked together to face these challenges. Beyond the Christmas break I would like your support to ensure that your children, our students, follow our behaviour commitments (REPS) and are Respectful, demonstrate Excellence, Persevere and are Safe. These commitments are the foundations of our high standards and expectations and it is these high standards and expectations that ensure your children will receive an outstanding education. We have worked tirelessly to provide remote learning, catch up sessions, tutoring and also pastoral support during this term. I want students to show they value the support they have had, by ensuring they are punctual, attend school regularly, they are smart, they have an excellent attitude to their learning and follow our behaviour commitments.

Furthermore, can I also ask for your support by ensuring secondary students attend school with a face mask everyday. The rising costs of managing this pandemic is a concern in education and one way you can support us is by ensuring we don't have to provide face masks. I would like to acknowledge the work of our staff; the teachers, support staff, cleaners and maintenance team, that have all worked hard to ensure learning is at the forefront of everything we do; but also the 'unseen' work ensuring the school is clean, safe and communication is timely – this has been a monumental undertaking.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy the time with your families and I look forward to working with you again in 2021.

Best wishes,

Mr Critchley





THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Wade Deacon Trust



Attendance

Attendance Week 12

HIGHEST ATTENDING YEAR GROUP:

PRIMARY		SECONDARY	
Year 03	99.3%	Year 8	94.5%
Woodlands	100	9WNG	98.0

ATTENDANCE COMPETITION
 The highest attending class in Primary and the highest attending form group in Secondary each week will receive a celebration breakfast.
 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET 97%

Attendance Week 12

September to Date

PRIMARY		SECONDARY	
Year 04	97.7%	Year 7	94.1%
Red	91	8LIG	97.1

HIGHEST ATTENDING YEAR & GROUP
 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET 97%

Attendance – Week 12

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION
 Days off school add up to lost learning
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS IN A YEAR
 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

190 DAYS FOR YOUR CHILDS EDUCATION EACH YEAR	6 days absence 184 DAYS OF EDUCATION	9.5 days absence 180.5 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	21 days absence 169 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	97%	95%	90%	89%	80%
GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress.		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Possible court action.	

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET 97%





Christmas Information



When does school close for the Christmas Holiday?

Friday 18th December

What time do students finish?

Primary

Primary siblings including Nursery - 12.10pm

Primary non-siblings including Nursery - 12.20pm

Secondary

Year 7 & 8 - 11.55am

Year 9 & 10 - 12.05pm

Year 11 - 12.15pm

What about lunch time?

School lunch will not be served but students entitled to Free School Meals can request a packed lunch to take home.

What if we want to send presents in for staff?

If you wish to send a present in for a member of staff, please do so by **Monday 14th December** so that they can be quarantined and staff can open them with the students on Friday 18th December.

When does school re-open?

Monday 4th January 2021 at the usual staggered times





THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Wade Deacon Trust



Staff Profile Associate Teacher - H Troilo



Education

Torquay Girls Grammar School – GCSEs
Churston Grammar 6th Form – A Levels
Manchester University – BSc/PhD Biochemistry

Jobs

Sainsburys/Morrisons/Post Office/Campsite
Medical Research (academia 8 years, pharmaceutical industry 3 years)

Interests:

Animals, plants and all things nature
Drawing and painting
Spending time with my family (husband, two lads and a retriever)

Proudest Moments

My kids have given me so many proud moments, I love being a mum!
Working with Guide Dogs, the Eden Project and Paignton Zoo



Career of the week



Civil Engineer

Civil engineers design and manage construction projects, from bridges and buildings to transport links and sports stadiums.

Entry requirements:

- You'll usually need an engineering degree (BEng) or a Master's degree (MEng) in civil engineering.
 - You could start as a technician and study part-time for an HND or foundation degree, leading to a degree in civil engineering.
 - You could get into this job through an apprenticeship.
- The Institution of Civil Engineers has information on courses.

Skills required:

You'll need:

- excellent maths, science, and IT skills
- the ability to explain design ideas clearly
- the ability to analyse large amounts of data
- project management skills

You could work in these areas of engineering:

- structural (dams, buildings, offshore platforms and pipelines)
- transportation (roads, railways, canals and airports)
- environmental (water supply networks, drainage and flood barriers)
- maritime (ports, harbours and sea defences)
- geotechnical (mining, earthworks and construction foundations)

You'll be:

planning with the client
analysing surveys, testing and mapping data using computer modelling software
creating blueprints using computer aided design (CAD)
judging if projects are worth doing by looking at costs, time and labour
checking risks and the effects on the environment
preparing bids for tenders, and reporting to clients and government agencies
managing and checking progress at each stage
making sure sites follow health and safety rules

What you'll earn:

Starter: £24,000 (graduates)
Experienced: £25,000 to £40,000
Highly Experienced: £50,000 to £80,000 (senior chartered engineers)

Career path and progression:

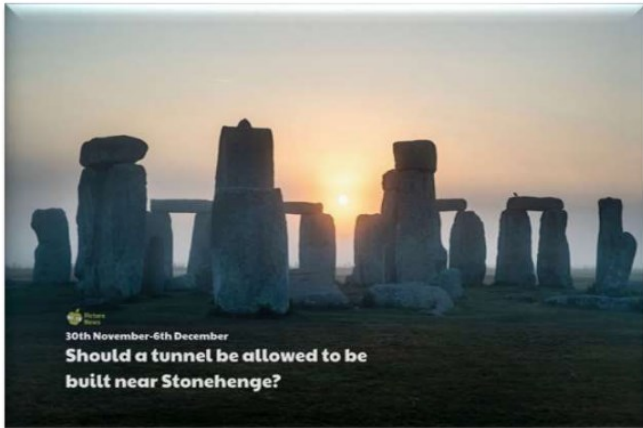
With incorporated or chartered engineer status, you could move into senior project management roles. You could also specialise in a particular engineering field, work in research or become a consultant. You could work overseas with British consulting firms, and for oil and mining companies. You could also work for international development and disaster relief agencies.

Telephone: 01928 562660
Email: info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk
Website: www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk

@thegrangeacademy
@Grange_School
@grangeacademy



What's going on this week?



Plans to dig a road tunnel, near the ancient monument site of Stonehenge in Salisbury, have been approved by the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps. A two-mile tunnel out of sight of the monument will be built even though it went against the recommendations of planning officials. It is estimated that the tunnel will cost £1.7 billion to create.

Things to talk about at home...

- 👉 Look at the poster showing Stonehenge. What do you think of the World Heritage Site? Would you like to visit? If you have been, what was it like?
- 👉 Do you think the underground tunnel to replace the road sounds like a good idea?
- 👉 Are there any ancient monuments near to where you live? Have you visited them before?

What's going on this week?



Boys' elite football academies for under-16s have been allowed to continue during England's four-week Lockdown but girls' equivalent regional training centres have been stopped. An online petition, started by 9-year-old female footballer Ellie Duffy, asked the Football Association (FA) to allow under 9s to under 16s girls' football academies to continue during Lockdown. Ellie's petition calls for the same opportunities for girls as boys during periods of Lockdown.

Things to talk about at home...

- 👉 Why do you think Ellie decided to start the petition?
- 👉 Do you think it was fair that boys' elite football was allowed to continue but not the girls'?
- 👉 Can you think of any times where things might not have been fair? Did you do anything to change it?

Reducing Waste

We are asking for your help in reducing food waste and the use of single-use plastic being used for packed lunches. Given the current climate and in view of recent observations, it is sad to see a significant number of children wasting their food. Children are putting half-eaten sandwiches, bags of crisps, yogurts, fruit etc. in the bin.

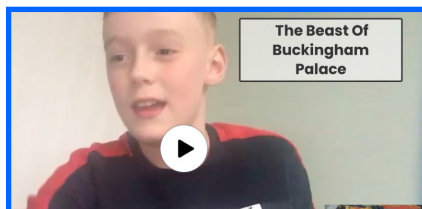
We all need to be proactive about this. So, after some discussion, from 4th January 2021, children will NOT be able to put any waste from their packed lunches in the bin. This will not only let you know what your child/ren have or haven't eaten, but will also stop food going to waste.

In addition, to help the environment, we would also like to discourage single use plastics in packed lunches. We hope you understand our mission to help the environment and thank you, once again for your continued support.

Miss Parkinson
Eco-Lead of The Grange Academy Primary

Reading for Pleasure

Primary students have been accessing virtual reading via the new platform, myON, which enables our children to have unlimited access to thousands of online books. To encourage our students to read for pleasure, we also took part in the #HaltonReads Festival, organised through Halton Libraries and the 'Half a Million Minutes' event where students logged how many minutes they spent reading. As a school, we got to 13610 minutes and Lime class came top of the leader board with a huge 4980 minutes. Well done everyone!



Celebrating Success

El Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead 'Surprise Me' Homework

Over the half term holiday, Year 7 and 9 students were set the task of a "Surprise Me" homework on the topic of El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The students had to research the Mexican festival and present their findings in a way that would surprise Miss O'Loughlin and Miss Wing. The students have been exceptionally creative in their homework. We have received posters, PowerPoints, artwork on canvas, cakes, skull sweets and embroidery. Please check out the MFL Instagram (the_grange_academy_mfl) and Twitter (@grange_mfl) pages for more examples of work. Well done to the students who have gone above and beyond in their homework!



The Brilliant Club 2020

Since September, a group of talented Year 9 students have been taking part in the Scholars Program – The Brilliant Club. Since September, the students have taken part in weekly tutorials (via Zoom) with their PhD tutor. The students' tutorials were based on a "super-curricular" course that explored the topic of Climate Change. In order to qualify for graduation of the Scholars Program each student had to write a 1000 word assignment on:

"Climate has always been changing, so humans can't possibly be responsible for the current climate change. Discuss"

Each student successfully completed their assignment and are eagerly awaiting their grades. Their essays will be graded in the same way that university essays are graded: 3rd, 2:2, 2:1. or a 1st grade. Well done to all students who have taken part. Miss Wing is extremely proud of your hard work, effort, and perseverance.

SCIENCE – Student of the month

Each month one student from each class is nominated by their teacher for having an excellent attitude to learning, and for making a positive contribution in lessons.
Below is a list of all students nominated by their teachers for **November**.

Nominated by their teacher				
YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Jasmine	Darcey	Annie	Jennifer	Lucy
Elysha	Spencer	Tyler	Lucy-Ann	Ellie
Koy	Lexi	Hannah	David	Sam
Ava	Curtis	Jaiden	Mickey	Jack
	Emily	Jamie	Brendon	Katie
				Demi
				James

5 ASPIRE POINTS

Nominated students will receive 5 ASPIRE points



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Hegarty Heroes

All homework in maths is now set weekly on hegartymaths.com. If you would like to know more please check the link on the school website.



Most video hours Year 7 - Lily-Mai Davies

Most video hours Year 8 - Dylan Jellicoe

Most video hours Year 9 - Cian Tummon

Most video hours Year 10 - Katie Cadman

Most video hours Year 11 - Samantha Main

Most questions answered Year 7 - Abbie Griffiths

Most questions answered Year 8 - Marshall Holding

Most questions answered Year 9 - Paige Burnett

Most questions answered Year 10 - Molly Burnett

Most questions answered Year 11 - Annie Vellino

Most learning hours - Year 7 - Lily-Mai Davies

Most learning hours - Year 8 - Maria Lie

Most learning hours - Year 9 - Thomas O'Brien

Most learning hours - Year 10 - Molly Burnett

Most learning hours - Year 11 - Bobby Lowrie

SMSC

30th November - 6th December

British Values - Democracy

People can have very different views about preserving ancient heritage sites. We can discuss the issue in a calm way and show respect for others even when we disagree with them.

UN Rights of a Child

Some people have set up groups to campaign against the tunnel near Stonehenge. Children have the right to set up or join groups as long as this does not harm other people.

Maths Puzzle

AREA

is

the total **surface** of a shape.

It is measured in

mm^2 cm^2 m^2 km^2

WoW - Word of the Week

Word of the Week (WoW) is our weekly investigation into vocabulary. 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.

(week beginning 7th December)

This week's word is

phrase (noun) -

a group of words which doesn't include a verb

(week beginning 14th December)

This week's word is

suggest (verb) -

to mention or imply as a possibility

How you can help:

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



Thought of the Week



**Respect for ourselves guides our morals,
respect for others guides our manners.**

Telephone: 01928 562660
Email: info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk
Website: www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk

@thegrangeacademy
@Grange_School
@grangeacademy



Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Persona Insight CIC

Persona Insight is a bespoke community peer support service aiming to provide a community based mental health awareness, peer mentoring community group. They offer peer-on-peer mentoring, support and advocacy for the Halton community, with the mission to create an inclusive, non-judgemental community support network.

The staff are not registered practitioners or medical experts, but ordinary people with vast amounts of lived experience. They commit to their five core values to support Loneliness, Social Isolation, Respect, Understanding and Empathy. To find out more about the wonderful service they can offer, please visit www.picic.co.uk or tel: 0300 102 0019

You can also attend the free weekly drop-in service at Castlefields Community Centre on Mondays from 2.15 – 4.15pm.

Prohibited Items: Primary & Secondary

MOBILE PHONES



If you need to bring a mobile phone to school, then it needs to be handed in to your form tutor at the start of the day.

If you are found to have your phone with you, then it will be confiscated, with escalated sanctions for each confiscation.

ITEMS NOT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

SECONDARY

JEWELLERY



No jewellery, of any kind, should be worn in school. This includes earrings, rings, necklaces and bracelets.

Students who are found to be persistently wearing jewellery will have it confiscated, and parents will need to collect.

SMART WATCHES

Smart watches, of any kind, are not permitted in school.

Students are allowed to wear a standard analogue or digital watch that does not have any smart features.



FIZZY/ENERGY DRINKS, LOLLIPOPS & CHEWING GUM



Fizzy/Energy drinks are not permitted and will be replaced with a bottle of water if students have them in school.

Lollipops and Chewing Gum also need to remain at home and should not be brought in.

E-Safety

In each issue of the Newsletter we will focus on a different aspect of e-Safety to ensure all members of the school community are kept safe and informed.

Early use of digital technology has been shown to improve language skills and promote children's social development and creativity. But it is not without risks for young children, who may come across inappropriate content or begin to copy what older children do online. See the below advice to understand what you can do to give young children the best experience of going online.

Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is when someone bullies others using electronic means, this might involve social media and messaging services on the internet, accessed on a mobile phone, tablet or gaming platform. The behaviour is usually repeated and at times can be as subtle as leaving someone out of a group chat or cropping them out of a picture.

Like any form of bullying, cyberbullying can be horrible for the children involved and hard for them to talk about. Cyberbullying can happen via text, email and on social networks and gaming platforms. It can consist of:

- Threats and intimidation
- Harassment and stalking
- Defamation
- Rejection and exclusion
- Identify theft, hacking into social media accounts and impersonation
- Publicly posting or sending on personal information about another person
- Manipulation

10 things you need to know about Cyberbullying

