

GRANGE SCHOOL *The Headlines*



Welcome Back

A new year offers so much promise, a new beginning and a chance to start over again. With the right mind set and a positive outlook, this year could prove to be a better year than the last. This at least is what I hope everyone sets out to achieve. The students have made a good first impression, returning to school looking resplendent in their new uniform. I would like to thank parents and carers for ensuring that our students look so smart.



I have spoken to all our students through assembly and expressed my delight that the class of 2013 have set new records for examination results at the Grange. I have challenged each year group to continue this trend. The success of our students clearly reflects the quality of education we provide so the more success this school enjoys the more success each and every individual student achieves and the better chances they will have

You may have heard or read in the press recently that students who were in year 11 last year now have to stay on in education or workplace learning this year and further, that if they failed to achieve a grade C or better in English and Mathematics, then they would have to continue studying these subjects. This will continue to be a requirement for all students.

Success in examinations is important but school is about so much more. We aim to help youngsters build character, self-belief and confidence; to have acceptable standards of behaviour including good punctuality, honesty, integrity and good manners amongst many other qualities. Without your help and support however, we would not be able to enjoy the success we do and so it is very important that we work together for our mutual benefit and in the best interests of the young people.

I look forward with great hope and optimism to another successful year, reassured that over the past few years the reputation of this school has been enhanced significantly and knowing that I can rely upon the support of parents and carers.

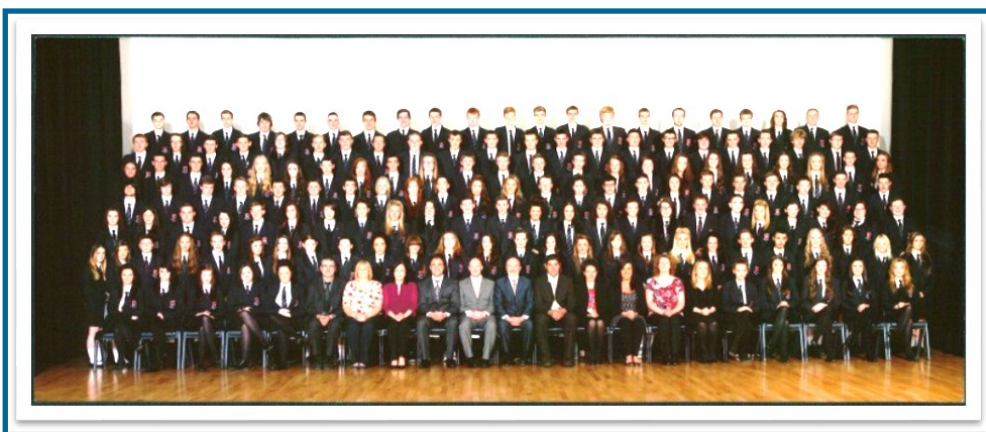
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Record Results

For the eighth consecutive year, our students have produced the best set of results ever achieved at the Grange. Despite the upheaval of the move into the new building at Easter, students and staff worked tirelessly and skilfully to ensure that disruption to learning was minimised and so enable yet another record breaking year. What makes this set of results so special is that for the very first time, results have risen to above the national average in the overall measure of 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above including English and Mathematics.

Congratulations to the class of 2013.



There were many individual successes as every single Grange student gained at least one qualification and almost half of all students gained at least one of the top grades of A*/A but perhaps the highlight was the 11 A* Grades achieved by Head Girl, Amy Pinkney. Other top performers included Emily Harrington (5A* & 6A), Chloe Funival (5A* & 4A), Luke McGarry (5A* & 4A), Anna-Louise Timms (4A* & 8A), Reece Moore (4A* & 6A), Jack McAdam (4A* & 8A), Sophie Blackmore (3A & 8A), Leanne Rigby (2A* & 8A) and Hannah Smith (10A).

Our headline figures are listed below.

- 61.4% 5A& - C English and Mathematics
- 59% 5A* - C English and Mathematics GCSE ONLY
- 65% A* - C English and Mathematics
- 43% A* - A Grades
- 96% 1 A* - C
- 42% 8 A* - C English and Mathematics

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Early Success

Congratulations to our current Y11 who, as Y10 completed their first set of option subjects in the summer. Already 127 of the 150 students in this year group have secured 5 or more GCSEs; 138 have at least 1 grade C or better and 47 have at least 5 grade Cs or better. There are 27 students who have performed at the highest level securing at least 1 A*/A grade, 6 who have at least 3 A*/A and 2 who have amassed a collection of at least 5A*/A.

All of these results are banked and with at least 4 more grades to come at the end of Y11 the potential for this year group is huge. I wish them every success in their endeavours.

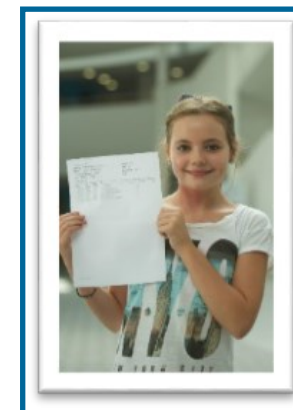


Leah Nelson, Keeley Warburton, Taylor Goodall,
Morgan Dowling, Abigail Anderson and Joshua Gates.

Even Earlier Success

Congratulations to Jasmin Worswick who, as a Year 7 student, achieved a Grade A in GCSE French. Jasmin is the youngest ever Grange student to gain a GCSE qualification and to do so at the highest level is a tremendous achievement.

Before joining the Grange, Jasmin and her family lived in France for three years and so we thought she would have a good chance of passing her GCSE at the ripe old age of 12 years; we were all delighted when it turned out that she had achieved a Grade A. Well done Jasmin, we are very proud of your achievement.



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Inter House Football Competition

Tense, nail biting, electric! Such was the atmosphere in the Sports Hall recently as the 5 a-side House Football teams assembled to compete for the honour of the Houses!

Each House team worked hard to score and take the upper hand first. Some excellent defending from Alex Edwards meant 'Mighty Milne Machines' were able to hold onto the lead and beat Bridgewater. Meanwhile, Priory defeated Brindley to make it through to the final. In the third place play off Brindley beat Bridgewater losing out to a more skilful team.

Meanwhile, Castle and Priory went head to head and after several goals to either side, Lewis Halpin scored the vital goal to secure victory for Priory.

Well done to all those who played and a big thank you to the excellent referees, Mr Downey and Mr Hutton.

1st Place - Priory House

2nd Place - Castle House

3rd Place - Brindley House

4th Place - Bridgewater House

Team Members were:

Bridgewater:

Connor Igoe, Jordan Jones
James McNamee, Liam Fry
and Matthew Brown.

Brindley:

Tyler Kneale, Liam Baines,
Kaylin Martin, Connor Lindsay,
John Brown and Stevie Andrucci.

Castle:

Alex Edwards, Kyle Wright,
Thomas Schofield, Jaydn Dunbebin,
Callum Francis, Owen Crothers and Joe Clayton.

Priory:

Daniel Griffiths, Tahsin Chowdhury,
Shane Bruffell, Lewis Halpin,
Ben Freeny and Declan Hodgson.



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New Staff

Each year we welcome a number of new staff to The Grange and this year I am delighted to introduce the following:



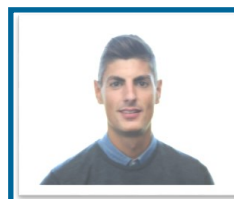
Mr Denton
(Deputy Head of School)



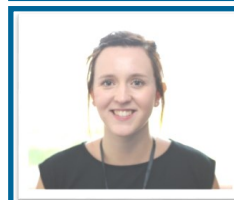
Mrs Mogg
(Assistant Curriculum Leader for Mathematics)



Mrs Courtier
(Modern Foreign Languages)



Mr Rodriguez
(Physical Education)



Miss Rowe
(Mathematics)



Miss Simms
(English)



Miss Way
(Modern Foreign Languages)

I wish them all success.

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Attendance

The financial incentives to take holidays in term time are often significant but the disruption to a child's education far outweighs any discount that might be gained. This is why I will always refuse any request for holidays in term time except for the rare case when there are exceptional circumstances.

At school, staff and students work very hard to make the most of the time available in order to maximise potential. Even then, it always seems like we need more time in order to get the best possible results for each student. Staff and students often create extra time by using school holidays to run and attend extra classes. During the summer break recently, some staff put on additional classes for their students. Most use half terms and the Easter break in the same way.

Given the importance of school, the qualifications that can be gained and the extra mile we go to benefit students, any absence is frustrating but it is very disappointing when parents and carers take students out for holidays during term time.

If parents and carers subsequently ignore the refusal of consent to take a holiday in term time, then a penalty fine will be issued by the Local Authority. This year the fine has increased to £60 per parent per child. This would mean for a family of 1 child a fine of £120; for a family of 2 children, a fine of £240 and so on. Further, if the fine is not paid within 28 days then it would double! Court proceedings are likely to follow if the increased fine is not paid within 42 days. (This is in line with other Halton schools and Government policy).

Please support your child's education by ensuring good attendance.

Notification of Student Absence

I would like to remind parents and carers about our policy with regard to contacting the school if your child is going to be absent.

Parents and carers are responsible for making contact with the school by 9:00am to inform about any student absence. If the absence is likely to be more than one day, I ask that you update us every two days about your child's illness and when you might expect them to return.

Please note, where a student is absent from school without a valid reason being provided, for five days or more over a term or academic year, with an overall attendance of 90% or less, a Penalty Fine will be issued by the Local Authority.

Please work with us to prevent this from happening.

From September 2013, any absence lasting for five days or more will require medical verification. This does not mean obtaining a 'doctors note' instead evidence could include a medical appointment card, medication packet including your child's name, etc. If unsure, please contact Mrs Talbot. If this isn't provided, the absence will be 'unauthorised'.

We look forward to another year of excellent school attendance for our students and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the attendance target for every pupil of 95% or above. Remember, many achieved an attendance of 100% last academic year.

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Augmented Reality

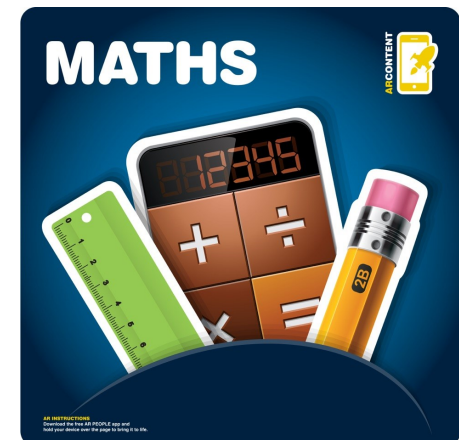
The Grange school is all about preparing our students for the 21st century and we're embracing the very latest 'Augmented Reality' technology to bring our school marketing to life.

What is Augmented Reality? Put simply, augmented reality or AR, enhances the real world with a layer of digital information.

This allows our prospectus, newsletter, banner or even our school logo to come to life using a FREE APP and the camera on your smartphone or pad with video, music and motion graphics.

Over the coming months you will see more examples of AR appearing around the school. In the meantime you can get a sneak preview right now in 3 easy steps:-

1. Download the FREE 'ar people' app (apple and android)
2. Hold your smart phone or tablet over the picture to the right
3. Watch it spring to life!
4. Once loaded, tap the screen and the clip should run on your device.



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The Grange Nursery

There has been some concern that a recent OFSTED report on a local Pre-School setting referred to our Nursery. This is not the case, our Nursery is thriving.

The Nursery continues to provide high quality care and education for our three and four year olds.

We have a few places remaining in Nursery this September, and if you know of anyone who is looking for Nursery provision, please encourage them to contact our Nursery team on 01928 562 660.



New Look Website

Same address, different look. I hope you find it more informative and easier to navigate.

www.thegrange.com

Facebook

We have recently created a Facebook account. You can find us by searching Facebook for The Grange School, Runcorn or by clicking on the Facebook icon in the top right hand side of our website.

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Term Dates

Finish	Return
Autumn Half Term	
Friday 18th October	Monday 28th October
Christmas 2013/2014	
Thursday 19th December	Monday 6th January
Spring Half Term	
Friday 14th February	Monday 24th February
Easter Holiday	
Friday 4th April	Tuesday 22nd April
May Day Bank Holiday	
Friday 2nd May	Tuesday 6th May
Summer Half-Term	
Friday 23rd May	Monday 2nd June
Summer	
Friday 18th July	Tuesday 2nd September
Inset Days Monday 21st July 2014 Tuesday 22nd July 2014 Wednesday 23rd July 2014	

Important Dates

Thursday 26th September <i>Year 11 Parent Progress Meetings</i>
Thursday 3rd October <i>Year 9 Parent Progress Meetings October</i>
Tuesday 8th October <i>Open Evening</i>
Thursday 10th October <i>Year 11 Post 16 Futures Event</i>
Thursday 17th October <i>Year 7 Settling in Parents Evening</i>

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Obituary

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Mr Gordon Hughes, Head Teacher at The Grange Comprehensive School from 1973 to his retirement in 1991. In retirement, Mr Hughes was a regular visitor to The Grange and in April 2012 he visited to have a look at the progress of our new building.

Representatives from The Grange attended the funeral service which was held on Tuesday 17th September at Walton Crematorium and the Salvation Army Hall in Warrington.

Our thoughts go out to his family.

 **THE GRANGE SCHOOL**

OPEN EVENING
8th OCTOBER 6-8pm
Come and visit a school on the move

Latham Avenue, Runcorn,
Cheshire, WA75DX
Tel: 01928562660
email: info@thegrange.com
www.thegrange.com

BEST EVER RESULTS!

61.4% of pupils achieved 5+A*-C
INCLUDING English and Maths

Record number of
A* / A grades