

Monthly Newsletter

May 2018

Summer Term

Your round-up of what's been happening in our school this month...

HeadTeacher's Update

Grafham has enjoyed another busy half term with lots of exciting developments taking place.

- The appointment of Janet Tremble as the new Grafham Grange Principal has secured a very promising future in terms of school leadership. My appointment as an interim was always on the understanding that OHCAT would seek to provide stability with a permanent appointment at the earliest opportunity. Janet brings to the school considerable experience and knowledge and will ensure a long term future for the school. I will be leaving at the end of term with some regrets as I am very grateful for your support and will have fond memories of working with the boys!
- News of plans to close the residential provision at Grafham and transfer boys to St Dominic's for residential care only, will provide opportunities beyond Grafham. St Dominic's residential provision is outstanding and the boys will have their own property under the supervision of staff. Important independent life skills will be developed preparing our pupils for the transition into adult life.
- Pupil numbers have steadily increased since my arrival in January and the anticipation is to have 40 students on roll in September. The considerable interest in admissions to Grafham is encouraging. Plans to develop curriculum provision that may include apprenticeships will offer opportunities post 16 and further initiatives to open Grafham to girls in September 2019 will require further investment/development of the site.
- Beejal Lakhani, new temporary English teacher will start at Grafham immediately after half term. She is highly qualified and experienced and will support staff development in terms of teaching skills. The intention is to recruit two new staff for September and ensure that PALs are supporting the learning in every classroom. Kate Henriques has already started part time at the school as an experienced Art therapist and trained professional Counsellor. Ben Royston has already started to support the boys with Music therapy and this will become a regular spot on the timetable every Thursday morning.
- The new rewards system was launched at the start of the Summer Term and has been very successful in engaging pupils in their learning. Each week, depending on points achieved the boys are able to select a particular Thursday afternoon activity. More information about the rewards system is available in this Newsletter.
- Year 8 pupils have been attending Elysian Farm each week in preparation for an Animal Husbandry accredited course in year 9. We also have some budding fictional writers for the future and I was particularly impressed with Jack's literary skill in writing a mystery thriller.
- Year 9 boys have been exploring college course options in preparation for Year 10 giving them an opportunity to develop vocational learning.
- Year 10 have just started a six-week peer mentoring course, with the expectation that when they progress into year 11 they will support the transition of new students particularly in years 6 & 7. Another example of current peer mentoring provision takes place during farm therapy sessions. These visits provide a very positive experience and have been enjoyed by all attending. There are plans for year 10 to visit the New Forest for a four day residential experience – more information to follow immediately after half term.
- Congratulations to Tyler S (Year 10) who recently competed at the World Banger Racing Finals in Norwich and achieved a final ranking of 8th. An incredible achievement for a 15 year old: Well done Tyler!

- Year 11 pupils are currently completing GCSE's and we wish them every success. Pupils are making use of all available resources and my thanks to teaching staff for going the extra mile to help with last minute revision. We wish the boys every success and look forward to results day on 23rd August. The last day for year 11 pupils will be Friday 22nd June and Kay has written to all year 11 parents inviting you to a celebration of your son's work.

Finally, I would like to wish all pupils and their families an enjoyable Whitsun holiday!

Teaching and Learning at Grafham Grange

Year 10...

Year 10 enjoyed some time away from school visiting Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Portsmouth. They were treated to some glorious sunshine and took part in various outdoor activities including tent pitching, tug of war and orienteering. They demonstrated their ability to work together as a team and make decisions as a collective.

The day was a precursor to a residential trip in June to the New Forest that the boys will participate in. The planned trip should involve activities such as rock climbing, high ropes, mountain biking, canoeing and sea kayaking.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the boys to really get to know one another and provide them with some positive experiences as well as challenging them and pushing them out of their comfort zones. Much of the work we will be doing will be focusing on teamwork and communication skills. More detailed information will be provided in due course.



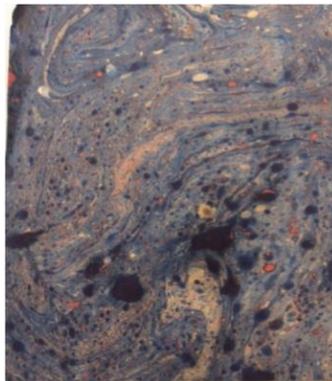
A message from the Art Department...

As the new Art teacher at Grafham Grange School, I am continuously inspired by the beautiful surroundings the school is set in. The setting provides ideas and motivates pupils to create inspirational artwork using first hand observation in a multitude of media and techniques. Thanks to the atmosphere and facilities, pupils can develop their own creative style, encouraging growth and confidence in their ability.

Patsy Fraser, Art Teacher



Some examples of our Pupils Artwork



A message from the Science department...



Congratulations to year 11 who have shown great maturity in their approach to the first set of exams, well done.

Year 9 have been working on their chemistry this term and will begin looking at Biology next term.

Years 7 and 8 have been working hard in Science learning all about forces in Physics.

Alternative Provision at Grafham Grange

This week we have sent off application forms for four of our pupils to access the school links programme at Brooklands College for September 2018.

Two pupils have visited and applied for the year 10 schools programme, being Ryan, who has chosen engineering and sport and Mark who has chosen catering and sport.

Leo and Daniel have applied for the year 11 schools programme. They have both opted for subjects in which they can gain an accredited qualification. Leo has chosen catering while Daniel has chosen sport and will be visiting the college after the half term break.

We wish them the best of luck in their applications and for their future studies.

Art Therapy at Grafham Grange

Art Therapy is again available to pupils at Grafham Grange School and we welcome back Kate Henriques. Art Therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses art media as its primary mode of communication. The overall aim is to effect change and growth on a personal level through the use of materials in a safe and facilitating environment.

The Art Therapist's role is to develop communication of thoughts and feelings through the use of art, it is not dependant on spoken language and can therefore be helpful to anyone who finds it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings verbally. Kate is also able to offer supportive sessions to those who wish just to talk. The therapy can improve behaviour, raise achievement, encourage attendance and help pupils participate more fully in school life.

GCSE Exams at Grafham Grange

Last week saw the beginning of the 2018 GCSE's. Year 11 have approached this very stressful time in an incredibly mature manner. They have shown great maturity in their revision sessions and during the exams. We have now completed the first two weeks of exams and they should be very proud of themselves so far. Well done year 11!

Exams Timetable for after Half Term:

Exam	Date	Time
English Language – Paper 1	Tuesday 5 th June	9.30am
Geography – Paper 2	Tuesday 5 th June	1.30pm
Mathematics - Paper 2	Thursday 7 th June	9.30am
English Language – Paper 2	Friday 8 th June	9.30am
Combined Science (Trilogy) – Biology – Paper 2	Monday 11 th June	9.30am
Geography – Paper 3	Monday 11 th June	1.30pm
Mathematics - Paper 3	Tuesday 12 th June	9.30am
Combined Science (Trilogy) – Chemistry – Paper 2	Wednesday 13 th June	9.30am
Combined Science (Trilogy) – Physics – Paper 2	Friday 15 th June	9.30am

Reward System at Grafham Grange

The Reward System at Grafham Grange School is linked closely with the Behaviour Policy and Attendance Policy. All pupils are given Points in the structured time during the school day this includes Assembly, Form time, Curriculum Lessons, Vocational Experiences and during Activities. The Points are recorded for each lesson by the pupils on a Daily Record Sheet and by the school on the electronic system School Pod. The Points scores will run from the Thursday Morning until Wednesday Afternoon.

The Points totalled up over the week enable the pupils to choose an Activity on Thursday Afternoon appropriate to the Points achieved. The staff at Grafham expect the pupils to achieve a certain standard and therefore anyone achieving less than 60% will be staying in school to get the opportunity to catch up on the work missed over the week.

If a pupil is absent they will score 3 Points for each lesson if their attendance is over 90%. They will receive 0 points for that day if their attendance is below 90%, unless it is an agreed meeting or appointment the school has agreed.

The Point Scale

5 = 5 Points	Working above and Beyond Expectation
4 = 4 Points	All Basic expectations met with some examples of working above
3 = 3 Points	All Basic expectations met
2 = 0 Points	Attended but bare minimum work achieved
1 = -2 Points	Non –Attendance of a lesson or Inappropriate Behaviour

Daily Points Available

Monday 8 Sessions	Total 40 Points	
Tuesday 10 Sessions	Total 50 Points	
Wednesday 10 Sessions	Total 50 Points	
Thursday 10 Sessions	Total 50 Points	
Friday 7 Sessions	Total 35 Points	Total 225 Points

Points and Percentages

50% = 112 Points School Based, Pupils given the opportunity to make up work
60% = 135 Points Choice of Green Activities
70% = 158 Points Choice of Blue Activities
80% = 181 Points First Choice of Any activities on offer
90% = 203 Points First Choice of Any activities on offer and a voucher for Costa and a Certificate home
100% = 225 Points First Choice of Any activities on offer and a voucher for Costa and a Certificate home



Menus

Menus for this term can be found on the school website: http://grafham-grange.co.uk/pupils/food_diet

Dates for your Diary

Year 11 Leavers Assembly will be held on Friday 22nd June.

Summer Holiday: Pupils break for Summer on Friday 20th July and return to school Tuesday 4th September.

2018-19 Term Dates are now published on the school website: http://grafham-grange.co.uk/news_and_events_diary

Notice Board

REMINDER

Parents/Carers of Year 11 Pupils please advise the School Office if you will be attending the Year 11 Assembly on Friday 22nd June at 11.15am. This will be followed by lunch with the Pupils.