

2nd July 2025

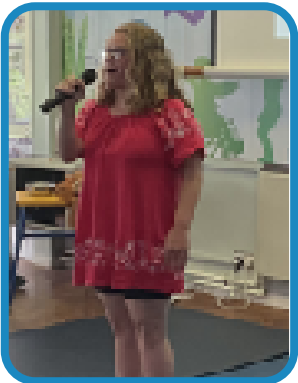


The Grange Times

Beech and Walnut



Kestrels staff and students have been working very hard this term to organise the first ever Grange Academy Talent Show and Coffee Afternoon. We auditioned students for the show in May. Since then they have been working hard to practice and rehearse every week.



On Monday we had the dress rehearsal. We had 100 students in the audience. They gave us some positive feedback and loved the show. On Wednesday 25th June the parents, guardians, and families of students in the show along with Kestrels families were invited to join us for the afternoon to watch the show and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake. Our friends from The Kempston Guild were also keen to join us.

Here are some of the comments from the audience and the performers.

Connie: I think everyone enjoyed the show.

Jeffrey: I liked the whole show. Everything was good.

Stefano: I liked how everyone supported each other.

Robert: I can't choose a favourite. They were all good

Ben: All the acts were very unique

Mr Seago: The show was fantastic. Everything was awesome. Amelias gymnastics was spectacular.

Bradley: Harrys performance on the drums was great. He got to show the younger children what he does.

Miss Cowan: I was blown away by Olivia's dancing. Getting the crowd going was fab!

Kai: Cameron's act was so funny. It made me laugh out loud!

Hannah: I liked the show. I sang beautifully even though I was nervous.

Jack: I had butterflies in my tummy, but I kept singing and I liked it

Miss Simms: I thought the show was really well organised. A nice range of performances from different nests. Everyone was included.

Miss Cherry and Mrs Didlick have absolutely loved organising and preparing the show. The performances have touched our hearts, we have been near to tears several times throughout rehearsals.

We are so proud of everyone involved. A big thanks and well done to our super team of technicians and host Sienna.

They have learnt the ropes very quickly and shown amazing professionalism and skill in their roles. I think we would love to do another talent show next year.



Maple

Maple Class have been enjoying some time up in the sensory garden whilst the weather has been nice, last year Maple painted the flowerbeds, so it was nice for them now to be able to see their hard work and enjoy some time relaxing there.

Maple Class are very thankful that the Rotary Club came during the Easter holidays to finish the painting off for us. Maple have been excited to use the sensory garden since. The sensory garden is called 'Ubuntu' which means 'humanity to others' we are excited for a new sign to be going up soon.

Alex: I like that it has wonderful colours everywhere.

Jeffrey: You get to see all the plants, they smell nice.

Riley: The flowers are pretty and have lots of colours.

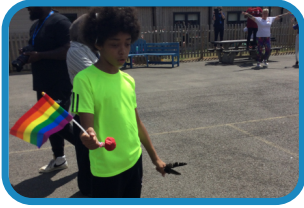
Stefano: It makes me feel safe, I can play there calmly, and it makes me relaxed.



Acer



Acer class have been very busy in the last few weeks. We have taken part in sports day. We completed lots of different activities and worked as part of a team. Some of us are very happy yellow team one!



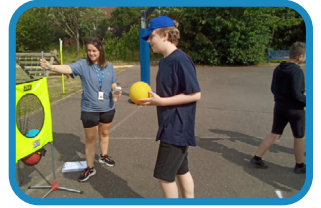
Harrison: I liked it. My Nan and my auntie came to watch. I was in red team.

Alex: It was amazing. I did all the activities. I liked racing my teammates and I won! It was funny when my friend bumped me on the head with a ball. It made my Mum laugh.

Carter: I followed the numbers. I did some running. We also took part in the Pride parade. We dressed in bright colours, waved flags, and had colourful streamers as we walked around the field. In class we have been learning about Pride month and why people around the world celebrate it.

Jack: It was pretty good. I liked runny with some streamers and flags. I put the streamers and flags in my hair.

Louis: I walked around the field with my friend Jack. I put lots of streamers around my neck.



Rowan



With all the wonderful events at Grange this term, Rowan class particularly enjoyed Sports Day on Tuesday 17th June. The children displayed great teamworking skills, perseverance, and sportsmanship, despite the blazing sun!

Asia: It was fun. We played lots of games and much more! I wore yellow, we won!

Max: It was really amazing because we saw our friends and our parents, and it was really nice.

Kayden: Sports Day was really fun and competitive. It's not about winning but about taking part and positive vibes.

Raf: It was a very good experience and very nice in the sun.

Piotr: It was really fun because my dad came over on Sports Day. I was really fast!

Lucy: It was amazing, but a little bit noisy!

Toby: I saw my dad and liked all the sports. I'm a fast boy!

Kajetan: I felt happy. I liked running.

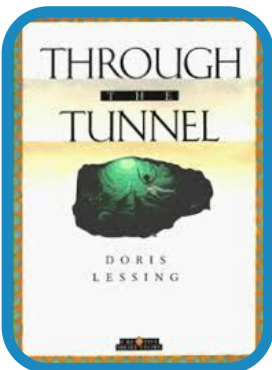
Kai: My favourite bit was the running because I got some exercise. I helped my teammates and shouted, "come on!"

Stephen: My favourite one was javelin. I got to 4 metres! I liked throwing it because of the sensation.

Freddy: Yellow team won! I feel so proud.



Pine



Pine class have been reading a story called 'Through the Tunnel' by Doris Lessing as their English reader this term; a story about a mother and son on holiday at the seashore; a young boy's endurance is tested to the limit when he tries to swim through an underwater tunnel.

Marcus: This story was about a boy who met some native boys who were diving under a rock and through a tunnel. He wanted to do it too. He wanted to show his bravery to himself. Jerry practised his breathing until he could stay under the water for 2 minutes and finally, he did it.

Connor: I have been applying the UNICEF Articles to different situations in the story. Jerry wanted his privacy because he wanted to go to a different beach from his mother. In the UNICEF Articles, article 16 it says, 'You have the right to privacy'. Jerry's mother should let him have privacy because he is growing up and wants to be more

independent.

Lucas: Through the Tunnel was about Jerry wanting to hold his breath and get through the tunnel. Jerry felt brave when he managed to swim all the way through the tunnel and still be alive.

Aaron: We need lots of things to dive safely. We need fins to help us swim faster, depth gauges to show how deep you are going and water goggles so you can see under water.

Emmanuel: Jerry had determination to go through all the under-water training, and he was very resilient and didn't want to give up. He was also very sneaky because he kept what he was doing away from his mum because he knew she wouldn't allow him to do it. He wanted to be seen as more than just a child.

Rowan: When Jerry was preparing to dive into the sea to try and find the tunnel he needed to do some safety checks; he needed to check for rocks so that he did not cut or injure himself. He needed to check for seaweed because he did not want to get caught up in it and become trapped in the tunnel. The most important thing Jerry needed to do was to practise his breathing.



Birch

On Tuesday 24th June Birch class took part in a Pride Parade. We joined the whole school on the field, and it was full of colour! We also coloured in our own rainbows and chose to caption it with either 'Love is Love, Be Respectful, Be You or Be Kind.'

James: Mr Kilcoyne had pink hair!

Sidney: I liked that we all got a medal!

Arya: I ran with a flag!

Dominik: I was walking with a flag!

Olo: There was a flag on top of my head!

Ayaan: Walking with flag and ribbon!

Gabriel: Blue ribbon!

Phoebe: Rainbow, red, yellow, green, blue and purple!

Henry: Flag!



Careers

Work Experience

This month we have had the pleasure of Mya in year 11 out to work experience at Cotton End Forest School.

Mya spent the week with them and enjoyed her time back at her old primary school. Mya spent time working with pupils in year 4.

Mya: I enjoyed my time returning to my Primary school as part of my work experience. The bit I enjoyed the most was when the children came to me for help and I was able to help them.

This term we have had students going out to on Internal work experience in the school. They have helped with Animal Care, Forest School, PE and Food Share.

This has given them all responsibility to follow instructions and get themselves into a routine. They have shown skill in working with younger pupils and as part of a team

when working alongside staff.

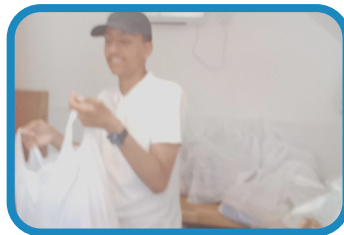
A big well done to all the pupils who have completed their Internal work experience.

Life Skills

This month we have been lucky enough to have Carol from Barclays Bank come into some of our Life skills lessons. Carol has supported us to register some of our year 10's and 11's onto the Barclays Life skills Learning Platform.

We will be using this platform next year to support our young people's life skills in developing their skills in thinking about what Career Path they may want to follow.

We will be in September with the DWP (Department for Working Pensions) in Careers and Life skills in sessions around Application Forms, CV's, Gender stereotypes and interview skills, plus many more areas of development for the future.



Pride Month

On Tuesday 24th June, Grange Academy celebrated Pride Month!

We all took part in a fantastic Pride Parade with streamers and flags and ran, walked, hopped or skipped around the field for 30 minutes.

All those who took part received a fabulous medal to celebrate their achievement.

Pride is supporting all our pupils to celebrate the equality, diversity and inclusion that Grange stands for.



Do Something Different



On Friday 20th June, we offered the students the opportunity to do (Something Different). We offered an array of activities for students to choose to do in the afternoon. These included: Boxing, Barbeque, DT, Dance, ICT, Soft Play, Mindfulness, Football, Sewing, Food tasting, Yoga, Music, Board Games.



Lucas: I liked doing the boxing and learning how to do jab cross, hook and upcut. And in art I did my favourite drawing of ice lollies and ice creams.

Connor: I had a nice barbequed hot dog with a great meaty flavour; I do love a good barbeque.

Marcus: I made a 'thingamagig' with K'Nex. It was a spider like creature.

Aaron: I had a go at boxing, and I boxed really well. I also did some dancing and stretching.



Eco News

Plastic Free July

July is Plastic Free month. Try to reduce how much plastic you buy during the month of July. Make a concerted effort to buy loose fruit and vegetables and plastic free versions of things you would normally buy.

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.

More information can be found at <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/resources/videos/>



Superkind Award



We are delighted to share that Grange Academy has earned the Superkind Social Impact Schools Award.

This is a testament to the wonderful social action work that our pupils have put in this year to make a positive impact on our local community and wider world.

We are thrilled to have earned this recognition and are looking forward to having even more social impact next year!

Parent Award

Well done everyone - we got an award, yet more evidence of the amazing team Grange. Look out for our new banner on the gate and logos on the letterhead.

This reflects the excellent feedback in the recent parent survey which upholds our values and ethos so well. This is life changing for families, many parents and carers say that they have never experienced such great support before.

Donation



At Grange Academy we wanted to say a massive thank you to Ryebridge Construction for donating our new PE kits and Football kits, they are amazing.

We are absolutely thrilled with them, this will make us look smart and professional, we have modelled the new kits on some pupils and have sent you a few

photos, when we have our next Football match I will send over a photo of the team in their new strip.

Marley-Rae: Wow these are cool, thank you to Ryebridge for supplying them.

Naomi: The new football shirts are amazing and look great.

Baron: I can't believe I won't get to play in the new kit they look fantastic.

Robin: I love the goalkeepers kit and will do my best in it.

Samuel: These are wicked.

Ben: These are ace, I definitely want to be the new football captain and wear them.

Arnab: These are cool.

These are just some off the quotes from our pupils, thank you once again you have made so many pupils happy with your generous donation.

Mr Kilcoyne PE teacher.





Grange Celebrates Equaliteach Award

Grange Academy Celebrates Silver Equalities Award for Commitment to Inclusion and Diversity

Grange Academy, part of the BILTT (Bedford Inclusive Learning and Training Trust) family of schools, is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious Silver Equalities Award by Equaliteach, in recognition of its outstanding commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The Equalities Award is a nationally recognised framework that supports schools in embedding inclusive practices across all aspects of school life. Achieving the Silver level reflects Grange Academy's deep-rooted dedication to creating a learning environment where every student feels valued, respected and empowered.

As one of the few Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) schools to contribute to and achieve this award, Grange Academy stands out as a beacon of inclusive education. The school's work demonstrates that SEND settings can lead the way in promoting equality and fostering a culture of belonging for all.

Headteacher, Rachel Timms, commented:

"This award is a testament to the hard work and passion of our entire school community. At Grange, we believe that every learner deserves to thrive in a space that celebrates who they are and enables them to be their authentic selves. We're incredibly proud to be recognised for our efforts in making that vision a reality."

The journey to Silver involved a rigorous self-assessment process, staff training, student engagement, and the development of inclusive policies and practices. Grange Academy's success highlights the power of collaboration and the importance of embedding equality into the fabric of school life.

For more information about the Equalities Award, visit Equaliteach's official website.



Mental Health Champions

Our fantastic Mental Health Champions have graduated today.

A school mental health champion is a trained student who promotes positive mental health and wellbeing within the school environment by raising awareness, reducing stigma, encouraging conversations, and signposting support when needed. They act as positive role models, offering a listening ear, providing reassurance, and encouraging peers to talk about their feelings.

Twenty two students graduated as Mental Health Champions after completing an educating and inspiring program.



One of the things the Mental Health Champions have put in place is a flag near the Buddy Bench on the playground that says 'I have time to listen. Mental Health Matters.' This means that any student that needs a listening ear and someone to talk too can sit near the flag and a Mental Health Champion will be there to help them.

All the Mental Health Champions have received a certificate, badge and lanyard that they can wear in school.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 16th July 2025 - Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Thursday 17th July 2025 - Year 10/11 Prom

Friday 18th July 2025 - Last Day of Term