

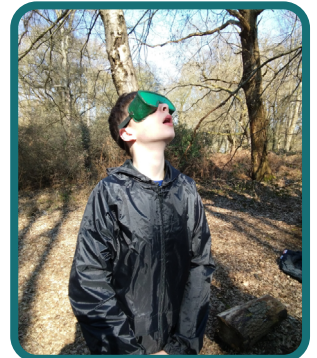
THE GRANGE TIMES

26th March 2026



Cuffley Residential

Our students enjoyed an unforgettable residential at Cuffley Active Learning Centre. Throughout the trip, they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, courage and a growing confidence that was wonderful to see. Students pushed themselves to new heights on the climbing wall and zipline. Archery and axe throwing bought huge smiles to the students.



One of the standout activities was the SOS challenge. Students were faced with a simulated plane-crash situation, they had to use their pre-taught first aid skills to problem solve and clearly communicate and support each other. In the evenings, we enjoyed toasted treats around the campfire with a relaxed atmosphere also Ambush which brought excitement and strategy into the night.

Throughout the residential, students all stepped outside of their comfort zones. They supported one another and celebrated each other's successes. They returned home tired, muddy and thrilled - a sign of a fantastic experience filled with memories that will stay for years to come.

Summer: We had an awesome time there. I was brave that I went to the top of the climbing wall. I liked Cuffley because I was with my friends and I will come again.

Riyaaz: My favourite activity was Archery. I hit the bullseye! The axe throwing was really fun and breakfast was delicious.

Nevaeha: I loved that there was rock climbing. I am proud of myself for doing this activity for the first time. I really enjoyed the zip wire it made me feel happy. I also enjoyed target practice which I have not done for a long time. I would love to go on another residential when one comes up. I just want to say thank you to the teachers who made this happen.

Arthur: I enjoyed socialising and the activities. My favourites were zip lining and rock climbing. Highlight of the trip was the rock climbing, I enjoyed showing I could do it even though I am petrified of heights.

Cameron: Cuffley was interesting. I had a lot of fun, I liked the Ambush activity, it was dark.

Samuel B: I had the best time in my pod with my friends, it was really fun and it was the best residential ever! I remembered my SOS training and saved Miss Williams from a plane crash!



Hazel



Monday 23rd March 2026, Kestrels nest including Walnut, Hazel and Beech we went on a trip to Shuttleworth. It took us just half an hour to get there by minibus.

When we got there, there was a lot of stuff waiting for us to see.

There were a lot of old aircrafts from WWI and WWII, and a team of guides that explained to us how old-fashioned technology helped to deal with dangers in the wars. We went on a plane that was a very old RAF model and from that plane they accidentally bombed a British submarine. The submarine was luckily not damaged and all the crew survived.

After that we went to the final hanger to learn about camouflage, and we did an activity to match the picture of a plane to the right environment it would fly in.

After lunch we went on an old-fashioned bus from the Edwardian period it was built in 1921. As a final activity we sketched pictures of aeroplanes to use in our art project.
Quotations from Hazel pupils and staff.

The guides are all volunteers giving up their free time to share their knowledge. Earnest was incredible he was 98 years old and used to be a pilot. He has completed over thousands of flights in his lifetime. The amazing thing about the collection is that every single aircraft can still fly and each are used annually in air shows at Shuttleworth and beyond.

Kai: I saw lots of Spitfires on our trip to Shuttleworth. We got taught information about planes from the war.

Marcus: My favourite bit of our trip was going on the old bus. It was over 100 years old.

Noah: I liked when we had to work together on the Anti Aircraft gun to aim for the green laser dot. I liked learning about the history of the planes.

Tyrese: I liked all the planes, and I liked riding on the old bus.

Samuel: I liked going into Hanger 6, we got to go into one of the planes. We were able to sit in it and take a picture.

Max: I liked being with my friends and sketching the planes. I drew a Hurricane.

Umar: I enjoyed the ride on the bus.

Ryan: I enjoyed learning about the planes history and learning how radar worked. I was really excited to use the anti aircraft gun – it was real!

Kairhys: I enjoyed using the simulator to try and time the release of the simulated target.

Jack: I liked sketching the planes and riding on the bus.



Birch Class had an enjoyable time taking part in an Easter egg hunt around the school field. The children worked brilliantly as a team, helping one another to spot the hidden eggs.

In class, we have been learning all about recount writing. This activity will provide a meaningful experience for the children to use in their final recount piece.

Lexi: I enjoyed it when we collected eggs and then we got an actual chocolate egg!

Orla: I found one behind the chair.

James: I found the egg near the chickens and bunnies.

Alexis: I found an egg in the tree.

Arya: I collected 6 eggs.

Shaan: I found it really fun.

Sidney: I enjoyed finding the eggs, I found one in the wooden house.

Amelia: My favourite bit has to be when we eat the chocolate eggs!

Ayaan: Looking for eggs in the Wood Nook.

Birch





Elm

Space "The Final Frontier"

This term Elm class have been researching space, this has been covered in their Geography, History, Art, DT and COJO lessons.

Elm has learnt about all the planets, their size, distance from the Sun, temperature and how long a year is on each planet.

Elm have found out facts about Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong, looked at the solar system, the space race, painted planets, design helmets and visited the National Space Centre. They have gone to "Infinity and beyond".

Owen: I am the fountain of all knowledge when it comes to space, I think there is something out there that we still haven't explored yet.

Marley: I enjoyed our trip to the space centre, also COJO has been fun.

Riyaaz: We are the 3rd planet in the solar system closest to the sun.

Robin: We have created some scrapbooks about each planet in our topic lessons.

Malakai: Neil Armstrong was the first made to step foot on the moon.

Luca: Do aliens really exist?, we looked at area 51 in a geography lesson.

Jeffery: I have enjoyed learning about space.

Robert: Saturn is my favourite planet.

Seth: It would be too hot to live on Mercury.



Cedar

Cedar class have been working really hard to prepare for their Entry Level 3 Speaking and Listening exams.

Students had to complete two tasks. In task one they had to produce a two-minute presentation on a topic of their choice and present this to a peer. For task two, students had to participate in 10-minute discussion about school life.

Everyone felt very nervous on the exam days as they were recorded using a video camera and tripod! All the adults were so proud of each and every student, well done!

Amna: The speaking and listening exam went well and I did well at answering the questions.

Megan: The speaking and listening exam was good. I liked having a partner to work with.

Skye: I really enjoyed the speaking and listening exam because it was fun and I liked getting to talk to the group.

Connie: I liked talking about animals in the speaking and listening exam.

Sienna: I enjoyed doing my speaking and listening exam with my partner as we both spoke about food tech.

Naomi: I enjoyed doing my speaking and listening and I was independently talking about my favourite topics.

Arron: I enjoyed the speaking and listening exam as I like getting the qualification.

Adam: The speaking and listening went well and I passed.

Prom News



We were lucky enough to be able to invite a few of our students to get free Prom dresses from a Charity "All Dressed Up".

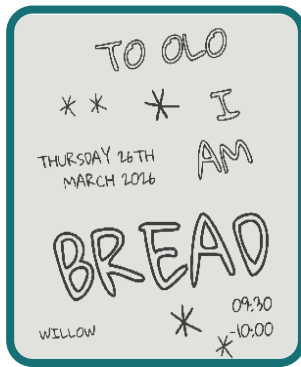
This was a pop-up shop that they had a in Luton.

The girls that attended had a lovely time looking through and trying on dresses and then being able to pick one. They also were lucky enough to pick a few freebies at the end, such as lip balm, lipsticks, hairspray and false eye lashes.

We would like to send out a big thank you to All Dressed Up for providing this service.

Thank you to Youthscape who allowed them to use the venue.

Willow



This term in Computing, we've been exploring the exciting world of desktop publishing using Canva and the children have loved every minute of it.

We began the unit by creating personal posters all about ourselves. The children searched for images that represented them, added words and quotes they liked, and included kind messages for people who are important to them.

They also learned how to edit and improve their work by changing fonts, colours, sizes, and styles to make their posters eye catching and unique.

After that, we moved on to creating our own newspaper articles. The children came up with a brilliant range of imaginative stories, including tales about monsters, superheroes, and even milkshakes. This gave them the chance to think carefully about layout, headlines, pictures, and how to organise information clearly for a reader.

To finish the unit, the children designed invitations for their friends. They had to make sure they included all the important information, such as where the event was, when it was happening, and what game they would be playing. We had some fantastic ideas, with invitations featuring games such as tag, Mario Kart, I Am Bread, and Colour Brain.

Overall, this unit has been a brilliant way for the children to develop their creativity while also learning important digital skills. They should be very proud of the work they have produced; it has been wonderful to see so much imagination, effort, and personality shine through in every project.

Jake: I enjoyed computing a little bit this term

Phoebe: I really like making my own invitation poster

Joshua: I enjoyed editing and learning new things about making posters. I can't wait to beat Mr Gentle-King at Mario kart. I also really like editing the colours.

Harrison: I liked making a poster for my friend



Red Nose Day

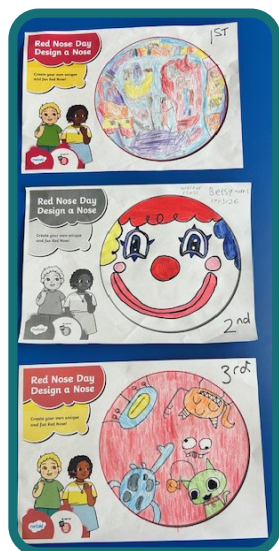
On **Friday 20th March 2026**, Grange Academy proudly supported this year's **Comic Relief Red Nose Day**. To help raise money for this fantastic charity, we invited all children and staff to come to school wearing **something red** or **their favourite colour**.

We raised £85, which will go directly towards Comic Relief and the important work they do to support children, families, and communities across the UK and beyond. It was lovely seeing the school filled with bright colours and big smiles as we came together for a great cause.

Well done to the winners of the 'Design a Red Nose for Comic Relief' Competition

In 3rd Place is **Noah** in Hazel Class
In 2nd Place is **Betsy** in Walnut Class

and the Winner is **James** in Birch Class



Easter Egg Donation

Many thanks to the re-track team from Kings House who donated easter eggs to some of our families.

The site team had great fun collecting all the eggs ready to be given out.



Palm



Palm Class have had a great term taking part in Forest School, where everybody has had the opportunity to cook a variety of foods over the campfire. Some

of our pupils have been attending regular 'schools of tomorrow' (SOTO) meetings where they have enjoyed sharing their points of view.

This term has flown by, and everyone is now looking forward to a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays.

Kyle: In forest school I have learned how to make s'mores and I have enjoyed digging a hole at the second forest school site.

Rowan: This term I have been doing forest school with Palm class. We have cooked many different foods such as cupcakes and s'mores. We have done sawing and nailing wood. We have played and relaxed. It was a fun term.

Calvin: So, this week I have now completed my work experience at the Kempston East Method Church, and I have really enjoyed helping and supporting the elderly people with dementia. I have been helping to set the tables and putting the chairs out. I have felt very confident about it all.

Alfie: During this term I have been working on making a big hole at forest school. We had to use shovels to make it as deep as your knee. It has been me, Matthew, Bradley, and Arnav, it took us so long, but I think we have done good work on it and hope someone can continue where we left off.



Scarlett: What I enjoyed about forest school is that I played on the swing and playing in the sand pit, which was fun! Also, I enjoyed making the campfire with my friends. I loved, the

marshmallows over the campfire that was my favourite thing to do ever.

Bradley: This half term I have been attending the school of tomorrow workshop where we talk about the environment. We discuss how to keep the school clean and help make the school a better place for the future.

Aarnav: I really enjoyed attending the SOTO meetings. We get to talk about how to make the school better and how to make the school expand. I love all the debates we get to have.

Matthew: Over this term we have been doing a lesson called forest school. In forest school I have been digging a hole filled with mud. Whilst I have been digging, we decided to put water in the hole to make it easier to dig when it was a hot day. It was fun and I really enjoyed it as I enjoy digging things. When digging the hole there was 3 of us and we all enjoyed it and we all had a laugh whilst digging. I like doing forest school as it helps me with my social and communication skills and getting to know about other people. Whilst doing forest school we also did campfires and we cooked cakes and s'mores and had hot chocolate.

Ryan: I enjoyed playing Jenga with the big wooden blocks at Forest School. I was good at it as I'm really skilled and can tell when it's about to fall. I also got to try out the slack line, which was really fun too!

Holly: Yesterday in English I had to make a travel leaflet. I did a practice one first and I finished it. In another English lesson I will do a proper leaflet about the north pole with my class this week and I am excited to do the leaflet.

Alex: I have been doing work experience once a week outside of school with my Grandad. My Grandad is a painter and decorator, and I helped him to sand down a door so that it would be ready to paint.



Sequoia

Sequoia pupils visited a local charity shop this week as part of their RE learning this half-term. They proudly handed over their donations and discovered how acts of giving and kindness are especially important during Ramadan. The children were delighted to explore the shop and enjoyed looking through the toys and games that caught their interest.

Phoebe: Here is my donation!

Lilly-Jo: Here is my dinosaur toy!

Keyaan: Here is my book donation.



Farm News

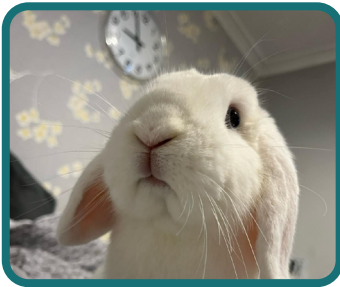
The Grange Community Farm has welcomed some new arrivals.

Two rabbits called Buddy and Prim. Buddy is a Netherland Dwarf and Prim is a Lop. They have been rehomed with us as their owner can no longer care for them.

We have also got Bob the tortoise. He is a Horsefield tortoise aged 20. Again he is rehomed with us due to a change of circumstances.

We have a new hen arriving Thursday 26th March 2026. More info to follow and a name.

In the next few weeks we are also going to be adding to our pig family. There will be three micro pigs arriving at the end of April. Their names are Presley, Priscilla and Pixie.



Careers

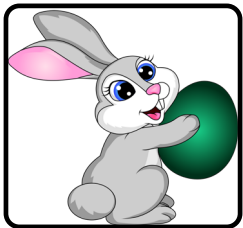
It has been a busy half term with organising 3 students going out to work experience at Co-Op in Marston and preparing them for their experience. They start on Wednesday 25th March for 3 days. They will be part of the grand opening of the store on Friday 27th March 2026.

We have also had the invite to send more of our student out next half term to the Co-Op in Kempston. This is wonderful news which will give more of our students to experience the world of work.

We have also been invited to send some of our students down to the local Charity Shop. We are expanding our Partnerships in the local community.

Parents of our year 10's and 11 pupils, please do not forget to complete your permission slips so that your child can get an opportunity to be able to be considered for this experience.

If anyone has any other contact for Work Experience, please do not hesitate to contact me: Sandra.williams@biftt.org.



We hope all families have a good Easter break and look forward to seeing pupils back on Wednesday 15th April 2026.



Diary Dates

Friday 27th March 2026 - Last Day of Term

Monday 30th March to Tuesday 14th April 2026 - Easter Holidays

Wednesday 15th April 2026 - Pupils Return to School

Our Farm

 **Grange Academy**
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FARM OPEN DAYS EASTER DATES



Tuesday 31st March
Thursday 2nd April
Saturday 4th April
Tuesday 7th April
Thursday 9th April
10am - 12 noon
£5 per person
Under 3s go free
Cash only payment on arrival

Treasure Hunt & Ice cream van on site



Visit www.grange.beds.sch.uk to book places

 **Grange Academy**
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Farm Open Days Summer 2026



Monday July 27th
Friday July 31st
Monday August 3rd
Saturday August 8th
Monday August 10th
Friday August 14th
Monday August 17th
Friday August 21st

Opening times - 10am - 12 noon
£5 per person - paid in cash on the day
Under 3's go free
To book, visit www.grange.beds.sch.uk

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FARM OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 10AM - 1PM



MEET THE ANIMALS AT GRANGE ACADEMY COMMUNITY FARM
HALSEY ROAD, KEMPSTON
£3 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON - UNDER 3S GO FREE



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BE A FARMER Experience

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 10 - 16

10am - 12 noon
4 sessions
Wednesdays
July 29th and August 5th, 12th and 19th
£15 per session per person
Limited Spaces
Feed, clean and pet the farm animals
A hands-on farm day
Real Farm! Real Learning! Real Fun!



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK, CONTACT:
andrea.foster@biltt.org