



GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You

Issue 7
Autumn Term 2023

Message from the Principal

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Welcome to the seventh edition of the school newsletter.

The Autumn term has been really exciting which has welcomed fourteen new students to the school adding to our growing population. The improving numbers have made a really positive difference to the school community, with each new young person adjusting to school life in their own way.

Our students have continued to uphold the school values: Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You and their efforts have been recognised in the weekly Celebration Assembly. In particular their kindness and acceptance of prospective students visiting the school for assessment needs to be acknowledged.

This term has been filled with great learning and enrichment opportunities which the students have fully embraced. I'm certain you will enjoy reading details in this newsletter. A personal highlight has been the wonderful poetry written by the students to acknowledge Remembrance Day and Diwali and read out in school assemblies.

More recently the school actively participated in National Tree Planting Week. This encouraged the students to 'be at one with nature', helping to plant 60 trees on the parkland area leaving a legacy that will provide a mini wooded area in years to come. All those involved thoroughly enjoyed being part of this activity.

The Student Council has been instrumental in ensuring the student voice is heard on a number of important school matters. These have included suggestions to improve the school, charitable fund raising and promoting Grateley House School to others. The Student Council confidently met with the School Governors on the 7th December to share their views and this was really appreciated. All our school councillors are very proud to be part of the Student Council and their badges acknowledging their role and they do their utmost to uphold and model the school values.

We recently asked the students for their thoughts on - *How has Grateley House School made a difference to your life?*

Some of the responses received are:

"It has made me so happy to be in a safe environment with lots of extra-curricular activities"

"It has helped me get to where I am now"

"I have friends and I get exercise"

This feedback is a strong indicator that our students are happy and feel accepted as part of the Grateley House School community. Their holistic development is our paramount focus and we will continue to work in partnership with you to support them to achieve their personal best.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks for those of you who completed the Parent Survey. Your feedback is really valuable and will be used to inform the continued development of the school.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Eva Pereira

Principal



Jeans for Genes Day

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday 22nd September 2023, Grateley held its annual Jeans for Genes Day in which we raise awareness of this charity whose funds support children affected by genetic disorders.

The day started with a short Assembly explaining the importance of the charity and their work raising funds to support the children and their families, followed by a quick reminder of cell structure and the DNA to be found in the nucleus of cells and the fact this carries all the 'instructions' for making each and every one of us unique, despite the fact we are 99.9% the same as every other human being!

Students enjoyed comparing with each other in terms of dimples, freckles, tongue rolling and whether they have a straight or 'hitchhikers' thumb!

Students donated 50p towards this non-uniform day and staff donated £1.00 for the chance to wear jeans to school, but by far and away the most lucrative and popular part of the day was the bake sale held at breaktime and again at the end of the day. The excellent spread had been made by



students during their food technology lessons, supplemented with additional items baked and brought in by supportive staff. Despite an excellent array of very reasonably priced goodies from which to choose, all disappeared by the end of the day, as many students were keen to take offerings home to share with their family.

And the result of the fund raising?

A fantastic sum of £150 was raised! Well done to everyone.



Monxton Activities / News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

As we draw closer to the Christmas break, we reflect upon the achievements of the year to date.

Monxton has been a quiet, yet busy home since the return of the students, often filled with the delicious aromas of baked treats or seared steak.

There have been many activities and topical discussions, centred around Halloween, Remembrance Day and also 'AI', and how to keep oneself safe with this new technology.

Both Carter and Harper have visited potential colleges and career fairs in order to explore fields of interest and courses which would support them for their future careers and further education. Together they have enjoyed some time gaming on the Xbox and in the kitchen making concoctions.



Harper has enjoyed several fishing trips, where he and Josh attempt to outdo each other in reeling in the BIGGEST catch!

On the darker, longer evenings, Carter has introduced the team to the 'Tally-Ho Project' featured on You Tube, where we have all come to respect the boat-building skills which still exist in the modern world.

Amport bravely challenged Monxton to creating the spookiest Halloween themed, 'Haunted Hallway'. This led to many talents being put to good use in this fierce competition.

Josh assembled a panel of objective judges, and, after arduous deliberation, announced Monxton as the rightful winner.

Swiftly following Halloween, we had Remembrance Day discussions as to the meaning of the poppy and why we are grateful to those who lost their lives for the sake of peace. A display of poppies and various bunting then replaced the 'ghouls' as hallway décor.

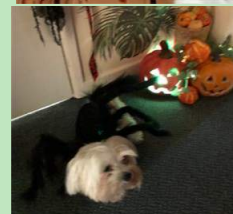


In the evenings Carter has taken on the task of cleaning the school vehicles, and is racking up his earnings by doing a thorough job on the evenings he is able. He is very enthusiastic about doing the job well and achieves a high standard.

This activity is often followed by an evening of gaming, watching old 'Grand Designs' programmes, table tennis (rest my weary body!) or pool.



Both of the young people in Monxton have grown in their independent life skills, such as cooking and doing their own laundry, and are facing challenges with increasing awareness and maturity.



Amport Activities / News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This school year started with a lot of changes to Amport, both in terms of people and the environment.

Firstly, we welcomed Courtnall who has moved across from Kimpton.

Along with Courtnall, Jo Donald (his Key Worker) and Sue Woods (ATM) also made the jump from Kimpton to Amport.

Joining Courtnall this year is Francesca, who had to wait a while but has now finally started her Grateley journey.

We were also pleased to be joined by Caroline from Monxton house, who is Fran's Key Worker for this year.

We were lucky enough to walk into a freshly decorated Amport in September and the team have worked hard to make it homely for the new students with their input. We were also really pleased to be able to provide them with more spaces to enjoy. We now have a dedicated room for gaming and playing board games and next-door we have a quieter room for those who like to draw or read.

In terms of activities, this year we challenged our friends in Monxton house to create a spooky hallway.



Both halls were judged with the winner receiving a prize.

After some rather dodgy scoring by Mr Hand (VAR we cried!) Monxton were unfortunately declared the winners. Even so, we were all proud of our efforts and next year we will be back, bigger and better.

Courtnall has continued with his activities in the community this year. He attends Sea Cadets each Tuesday evening and we were all very proud to hear that he was again going to the Remembrance Parade in Winchester, along with his family.

Courtnall has also been attending a local football team on a Thursday evening for some time now. They play each week at a local secondary school but this season they are now playing in competitive matches against other teams as well. It is great to hear how he got on after his weekend home and we and his family are really pleased he is getting out there and being involved.

Fran is getting to know the local community this term and has visited local towns, she especially likes going out clothes shopping and increasing her already overflowing wardrobe! Fran is also very creative and artistic and enjoys drawing or baking all sorts of goodies which she really enjoys sharing with the Grateley community, both staff and students. She has also baked for both our charity bake sales, MacMillan Coffee Morning and for Children in Need. Mrs Pereira is well known for being a cake sampler and is often conveniently around after Fran has baked.



Staff Updates

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

"My name is Mrs Beacon and I am a new teaching assistant. I moved to Hampshire after graduating from Kingston University. I have always wanted to work in education as I am committed to making a positive impact on students and help them enjoy learning. I am fun, bubbly and creative. I enjoy working with the students at GHS, especially in design technology lessons as I can teach them some of the creative skills I learnt at university. I love working in education and I am excited to see what the future here at Grateley House School holds!"



"My name is Hollie, I am a Consultant Occupational Therapist for Cambian Schools and Colleges in the South [supporting provisions from Taunton to Grateley]. I supervise and support the Occupational Therapists and/or Therapy Assistants that work on site.

My hobbies include paddle boarding [in the summer], meeting the every need of my appropriately named Staffordshire Bull Terrier 'Duke' and more recently as I've gotten my motorbike licence go out on my little Honda CBR.

As an OT I am all for occupational balance so I do tend to enjoy resting as much as being active!!"

"Hi, my name is Miss Greenwood and I am a new teaching assistant here at Grateley House School. I have really enjoyed my first week and it has been great getting to know everyone. My favourite things include spending time with my family and two dogs and I love to read. Thank you for making me feel so welcome."



"I'm Mr Howell, the new Assistant Head of Education. I previously worked at Grateley House School in education and care for almost 5 years and left in 2018 to work at Wiltshire College as their GCSE maths lead. I'm very excited to be returning; I have fond memories of when I was here previously, and look forward to playing my part in helping everyone to achieve their best. Other than having my educational interests in maths and IT, I also enjoy video games, sports and travelling."

Staff Updates

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

"Hi, my name is Mrs Longson, I recently joined GHS as a teaching assistant. I decided to come here for two reasons. The first reason is that I miss teaching. I taught English as a second language in China back in 2019, however due to COVID I had to return home. I missed it a lot so I decided to go into teaching again but this time here in England. The second reason I decided to come work here is because my youngest nephew has just been diagnosed with autism. I wanted to be able to learn about autism and how to help out so I took this job to help educate myself as well as help my family with my new knowledge. I have a step-son in year 5, as a family we love to go for bike rides and enjoying our time outdoors. I like alone time reading, watching tv and doing crafts when I can. So far, I am really enjoying my time here, meeting new people and helping where I can."



"Hi! My name is Melissa Morton and I have joined the team as Behaviour Support Lead. I previously worked as a Support worker in a supported living setting where I worked for over 3 years alongside my education. I enjoy spending time with my family, friends and my two dogs! I am really looking forward to working at Grateley House School and hope to make a positive difference."

"Hello, my name is Mrs Quirk and I'm one of the newest members of staff joining the Science Department this term and so far I'm really enjoying being here as everyone has made me feel so welcome. I've always worked in science either in industry or schools. Outside school I enjoy crafts such as dressmaking and lacemaking. If not that you'll find me walking in the New Forest with various members of the family."



"Hi, my names Hannah and I'm the new occupational therapist at Grateley House School. Some of my favourite things include my dog (Eddy), my cat (Kevin), and my pet tortoise (Timmy). Some of my least favourite things are celery and milk. I am enjoying getting to know you all so far – thank you for making me feel so welcome!"

Staff Updates

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



"Hi, I'm Miss Warfvinge, and I started at Grateley House School as a TA after October half term. It is my first time working in a school, but I spent a lot of time volunteering at my children's primary school, running art and sewing clubs and the school library. In the last couple of years, I have been managing holiday homes and renovating my house. I have 2 crazy dogs, Maggie and Olive Oyl, who I love taking for long walks, regardless of the weather. I am looking forward to Christmas and the days getting longer."

"Hi, my name is Luke. I've been the new Site Manager here at GHS since July which I'm enjoying very much, as every day is different.

When I'm not at work I'm usually playing 'Dad's Taxi' to my 4 children. My interests include metal detecting, history and rugby."



"My name is Mrs White and I am the new Art teacher. I have been working in GHS over the past 6 years in various roles. During the last two years I have been working part time as a teaching assistant whilst finishing my Creative Art Practice Degree at Bath Spa University. I enjoy being creative as it allows me to connect with the world, nature and people around me through making. I am very pleased to be back in GHS and to share my passion for art with the students and support their creative development as emerging artists with lifelong practice ahead."

Stratford Lodge News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



We were lucky enough to get tickets to go to the opening night of an event at Thorpe Park on, Fright Night. We were all really excited and dressed accordingly, there were skeleton t-shirts, bat wings and fake scars. There was an amazing atmosphere with spooky characters wandering around and jumping out at us. We all really enjoyed seeing the attraction all lit up when it got dark and loved the scary mazes. On one of the water rides, Storm Surge, we did get stuck for about 10 minutes due to someone being silly, not us I hasten, to add but the young people were calm and patient.

We also embraced Halloween and Stratford Lodge was decorated, we even had a visit from a Boo although the students weren't too impressed!



This half term we will be offering chocolate making, the intention is to make some sweet treats to then be able to give as gifts to family and friends although I am certain there will be a lot of quality control.

The students were offered a face to face First aid training session from a volunteer from The British Red Cross, this is because we think it is really important that everyone has some knowledge of what to do if someone is hurt or needs CPR.

We are also planning the Stratford Christmas, this will include secret Santa and a festive meal out, as well as decking the halls! There were many discussions about where to go for a meal and it was a student who found the perfect venue in Southampton that catered for everyone's needs and preferences.



The students have all been working on their fitness and attending the local gym regularly and focusing on their studies with the intention of moving into the field of work once they leave. There has also been a huge focus on the students love of Warhammer, you will often find numerous figures dotted about in various stages of decorations and we now have a table for Warhammer in the games room.



Rupert was lucky enough to attend a knife making class at a blacksmiths, he went through every stage from hammering to shaping the knife. This is something Rupert wanted to do for a while and thanks to the support from staff and his Mother, he spent the whole day there with minimal support from care staff

and came away with an amazing knife, that is safely stored away!

The Stratford Lodge Basketball team took part in the GHS tournament but unfortunately didn't win, although Rupert was poached by the winning team and was the unofficial Man of the Match!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Macmillan provide services for people living with cancer at every stage of their cancer experience. They provide emotional, practical, physical, and financial support.

The charity is 98% funded by voluntary donations, so fundraising is essential to make sure they can deliver the vital support people living with cancer need.

On Friday 29th September **Grateley House School** held a Bake Sale to raise money for Macmillan. Holding the Bake Sale was the perfect opportunity to enjoy something delicious for a great cause.

The students were very keen to support this charity and spent time during the week baking a selection of tasty culinary delights that would be sold to raise money for this well deserving cause.

Two of our Year 7 students helped to set up the tables and display the baked goodies on the day of the sale. They helped to label the different cakes and savoury options available, so the eager purchasers could make their choices with ease. Along with a Year 11 student, they both helped staff to manage the growing queue of customers, ensuring they entered the sale in an orderly manner. They also served everyone politely and with a smile.

Everyone was impressed with the fine spread of cakes and savoury options on offer.

We are very proud that we were able to raise £130!

One in two of us will face cancer, and the money we raised at the Grateley House School Bake Sale will support Macmillan to help everyone with cancer to live life as fully as they can.



Remembrance Day

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Remembrance Day was celebrated with an assembly in which poems of remembrance written by the students in their English lesson, were read out. The poems were excellent and showed both a depth of feeling and an understanding of the importance of the occasion.

At 11am, a two minutes silence was held heralded in by the Last Post and ended with the Reveille. Students showed respect for the reverence of the day and are to be commended on their behaviour.

"The sun was setting,
Every second we're all regretting,
joining the war,
to make a difference,
but now I know,
there is no fight,
the only thing for us is to wait,
for when the whistle sounds,
it is all too late,



We go down together,
this here moment,
may it last forever,
we stand united,
maybe this could all be at a stop,
before everyone goes over top"

Year 9 student

"Sounds ring in my thoughtless mind,
A swift graceful tune of a bugle
Wind rushing like ghosts across my sour face
Tears falling to the ground
Poppies thriving in the moisture
All but silence,
Lest we forget"

Year 8 student





Post-16 News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Post-16 cohort is smaller than in previous years, but already this year we have seen some great achievements with six students studying at local colleges (Andover & Wiltshire). Subjects being studied at college or at school cover levels 1 to 3, and include diverse courses: Vehicle Maintenance, Music, Visual Media Arts, Uniformed Public Service, Applied Human Biology, Fine Art, Psychology, Creative Crafts, Food & Cookery and Fine Art to name but a few. This is in addition to those continuing to study English and maths to develop their core skills.

Work Experience or Work-Related Learning remains a real focus for the cohort, but for students at college, this is often the remit of college tutors to facilitate and support. Currently two students are following school-directed work experience programmes. One student continues to work at Enham Trust as a Guest DJ on the Radio Enham desk. This is both enjoyable and functional as they wish to follow an employment path into music production. Other opportunities are being investigated into for other members of the cohort. The other student is working in regular lessons as a guest teaching assistant within the school ICT and PE departments developing their skills whilst also increasing their confidence as part of a wider Preparing for Adulthood programme.

For those reading this article, if you think your workplace could offer work of experience to one of our young people either telephone the school or email adam.clark@cambianguroup.com, to discuss this further.

Students continue to make expected [or better] progress against both their academic targets as well as the progress we would expect to see in terms of Preparing for Adulthood in readiness for when they leave Grateley. We continue to assist our young people develop a range of skills for adulthood as well as those needed to study at a higher level.

English Department Celebrates Diwali

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On 17th November students enjoyed a lesson where they learned about the Hindu festival of Diwali. Students read the story of the Hindu god, Lord Rama. According to the legend, he had a beautiful wife called Sita and she was captured by the demon king Ravana. Lord Rama fought the demon king and rescued his wife. In Diwali, Hindus celebrate Rama's return with his wife. It signifies that good triumphs over evil. People light their lamps to celebrate the god Rama's victory.

After that, students read an autobiographical account of a schoolgirl called Ersha and her family celebrations in Leicester which gave lots of information about the importance of Diwali to the Hindu community.

Students also wrote poems to celebrate Diwali and decorated them with images of light and colour.

Students spoke about what they have learned from the lesson:

"Diwali is like an Indian Christmas"

"It was interesting. I learned that the biggest Hindu city in England is Leicester."

"It was nice to learn about different cultures and places."

"I like the Diwali story. It's romantic!"



Dancing, dazzling Diwali lights
Incredible sand patterns
Wonderful sweet foods
Amazing atmosphere all around
Leicester, the city of Diwali in the U.K
Indian festival of light!



DIWALI

Colourful saris, Children dancing, firecrackers in the air,
Diwali is celebrated in November every year,
Sparklers shining in the cold night sky,
Sweet delicious treats keep the magic alive

May the joy & merriment of this festival
surround you forever.

May this happiness, that this season
brings,

Brighten your life

And hope the year brings you good fortune

And fulfil your dreams

Children in Need

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On Friday the 17th November, we had a day full of fundraising for Children in Need, involving our annual Ping-Pong-A-Thon, non-uniform day and a bake sale.



The aim for the Ping-Pong-A-Thon was that from 9:30 until 13:45 there would always be staff/students playing. However, the students decided to go beyond this and kept playing until the end of the school day at 15:30.

The response from all the participants was brilliant and their commitment to keep going to support children and young people across the UK to rebuild their lives, was simply outstanding!

The bake sale was also a great success, with staff from all areas of the school gathering to buy yummy treats made by both staff and students.

We managed to raise an amazing total of £112.10!



Subject News - Science

Be Kind · Be Brave · Be You

It has been a busy term in Science concentrating on Biology in the first half term then Chemistry this half term. Dissections of hearts and fish heads a-plenty!

Year 7 have looked at cells in both plants and animals, using microscopes and creating their own stained onion slides before moving onto the skeleton.

They have been studying Particle Theory this term and enjoyed making slime in a recent practical.

Year 8 studied Respiration last term moving onto the Periodic Table and Chemical Changes.

Year 9 have been looking at various methods of separating mixtures either by paper chromatography, filtration and distillation.

Some beautiful copper sulfate crystals were made! Years 9 and 11b really looked the part of chemists during their distillation practical.

Year 10 have studied the Circulatory System and this term have embraced balancing equations.

Year 11a have been working hard in preparation for GCSEs.



Subject News - Humanities

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Since September, Year 7 group have been studying 'What Geography is' and 'The United Kingdom'. Students have been looking at the differences and similarities of Human, Physical and Environmental Geography. They have been able to consider the differences of these three areas and analyse what they mean, who they impact and how this impact is shown throughout the world. The students have been really engaged with Geographical forms and have shown some good competencies within the subject. With reference to studying the United Kingdom, we have been looking at where the countries are, what their features are, mountains and rivers, monarchs and leaders, major towns and cities as well as the weather and climate of the UK. Much of the content of this unit has been an eye opener for some of the students, developing their abilities in terms of both knowledge and improving their map and atlas skills.

Adam
What are the three types of Geography?

Geography is the science that studies the lands, the features, the inhabitants, and the phenomena of the Earth. It is commonly divided into three branches:

- I. Physical geography:** nature and the effects it has on people and/or the environment
- II. Human geography:** concerned with people
- III. Environmental geography:** how people can harm or protect the environment

RIVERS	POVERTY	WEATHER	RECYCLING
TOURISM	COASTS	MOUNTAINS	TRANSPORT
RAINFORESTS	DESERTS	CLIMATE CHANGE	TOWNS & CITIES
POPULATION	MAPS	EARTHQUAKES	CRIME
MIGRATION	TORNADOES	VOLCANOES	LITTER
HEALTH	SOILS	GLACIERS	TOURISM

Student tasks

- Decide if the geographical topics in the table above are:
 - human geography topics (H)
 - physical geography topics (P) or
 - environmental geography topics (E)
 ...however, they may need to be included in two categories.
- Which topics do you think could be linked? Explain your answers e.g. deserts and rainforests are both types of landscapes known as ecosystems.

what went well: This is a creative work. Adam can do this.

Adam Cohen, Y7 Humanities

The Year 8 group have been learning about at Ecosystems and Biomes, as well as Fossil Fuels and Renewable Energy. Students have been able to identify what an ecosystem is, how it works, the species living there and how they manage to survive as part of the wider habitat. The students are currently studying Energy as a broad subject and specifically the differences, advantages and disadvantages of both fossil fuels and renewable energies focusing their attention on opinions, impressions and thoughts about usage, consumption and the future of these energy sources. Students have worked hard with both topics and continue to engage well.

The Year 9 group have studied two different topics: Rainforests [specifically the Amazon, as well as Development & Sustainability. In the Rainforests unit, students learned about the structure of the Rainforests, the species, animals and humans living there, how living things adapt to the conditions, as well as learning about the politics and management of the area, covering aspects such as sustainability, conservation projects and future issues. Additionally, students are learning about the development of countries and the distinction between HIC's and LIC's, the development gap, case studies on Malawi as well as looking at Slum Tourism in Kenya. Students have shown some good knowledge and have interpreted the information well.

Best environmental writing
Are fossil fuels all bad?
Answer this question using the information table and add your own thoughts.

Pros/Advantages: On the one hand fossil fuels are good because...
Cons/Disadvantages: On the other hand fossil fuels are bad because...
Second Pros/Advantages: Another reason why fossil fuels are bad is...
Third Pros/Advantages: A further reason reason why fossil fuels are good is...
Disadvantages: Overall, I think that fossil fuels are...

Picture Book
Look back at the image.
Reflecting on the image, I think that...
What are your views?

fossil fuels are bad because they release toxic gas into the atmosphere which can cause smog, global warming and give people asthma.

fossil fuels are good because they are a cheap and relatively widely available which is good for lower income countries.

Another reason fossil fuels are bad is that they will run out, they won't last forever and are unrecyclable in the future.

Fossil fuels are also good as they support families and underpins to power homes and schools. Billions of people rely on fossil fuels.

what went well: Excellent range of reasons.

not worth it means other options to use

Subject News - Art

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

We have had a busy, productive and especially creative term in art. Sadly, just one page in the newsletter can only show a few examples of students work, nevertheless, the overall passion for art that is captured shows how diverse and inspirational the work in GHS is.

Year 7 have been working on Colour Knowledge and Skills. They mixed colours, used colour through a variety of mediums and learned about colour application. This example of



the sea scene, by Dimitrios, that combines calm blues but yet has a dramatic sense of movement, was achieved through colour applications.

Year 8 have been exploring the Aesthetic movement in modern art and researching relevant artists of the Pop art era.

Year 9 have been working with the theme of a Mythical creatures, developing ideas inspired by myths, legends and fantasy. Drawings were transformed into 3D sculptures using variety of building techniques and materials. The sculpture on the right is by Elliott. (Air drying clay on wire)



This acrylic painting of a city scene by Courtnall, Year 10, illustrates



small part of study from an ongoing GCSE project - Natural v Artificial.

Students are encouraged to question and apply critical understanding of what the artwork communicates to a viewer.

The mixed media sculpture below, study of a shark, by Ryan, year 11, is just one of many fantastic works created by this talented student. His

multidisciplinary skills include drawing, painting, sculpture, textile and digital art.



Felix is a post 16 student with many years' experience with clay, ceramic sculptures and glaze application. As well as being talented his work incorporates a great sense of

humour. He has entered this sculpture for the Cambian 2023 Art and Craft competition.



Basketball Tournament

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday 24th November, 8 teams of 3 players took part in our second 3v3 Basketball tournament here at Grateley House School. This tournament has been postponed from the end of the previous half-term due to bad weather.

However, this enabled the students to develop their physical competence and confidence by his extra time doing Basketball within Physical Education lessons.

The tournament consisted of two group stages, with only 2 teams from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. There was really good energy and an increase in the physical demands in some games, but with a remarkable level of sportsmanship.

We look forward to 2024 so we can see a new level of competitiveness in basketball from both our staff and students!

The results were:

1st place: Josh, Rupert and Mr Lopez.

2nd place: Elliott, Katy and Mrs Kasperczuk.

3rd place: Francesca, Mrs Pereira and Mr Hand.



Green Careers Week 2023

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The second Green Careers Week was held between 6th and 11th November 2023 and Grateley House students were able to take part for the first time ever. This new



initiative, as a direct relation to the National Careers Week that is adhered to in all school in the Spring every year, was geared towards encouraging students to consider working in fields such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Sustainability. Supported by some fantastic



partners including STEM Learning, UK Space Agency, National Careers Service, the DfE and the CEC and others who want to help teachers and young people get to grips with emerging technologies and careers that will change the world for the better.

Students were given a range of resources to research during tutor time, as well as being able to take part and view webinars, assemblies and other professional development meetings to assist them into making potential career choices for the future.

Around 60% of young people are 'worried' or 'extremely worried' about climate change, (according to a global survey conducted by Bath University in 2021) so we wanted to be one of the schools looking to highlight the amazing career pathways students can follow to improve the future climate.



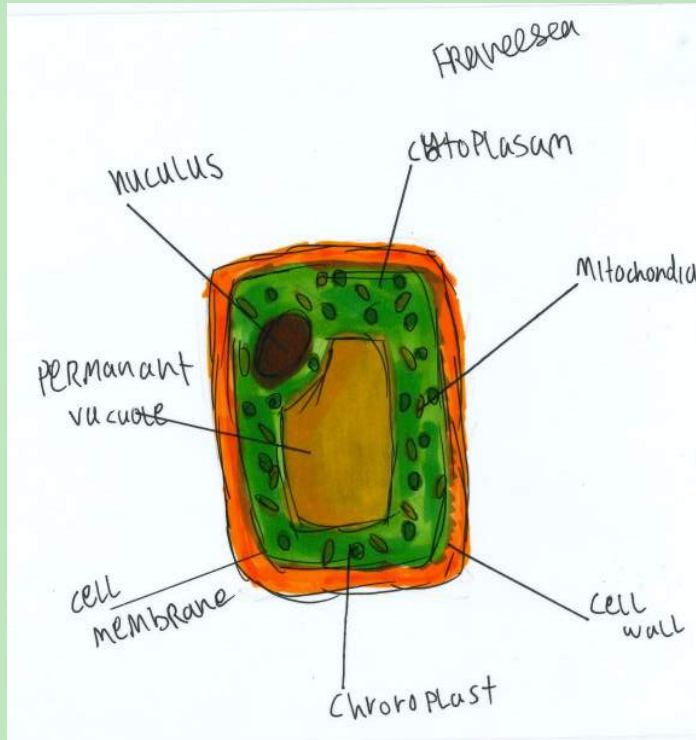
Staff also played their part by completing pledge plaques for their doors stating how they follow green and sustainable practices as part of allowing our young people to consider that green is a good colour when it comes to employment opportunities given its inexorable growth as an industry over the next 5-10 years.

Student Work – Science

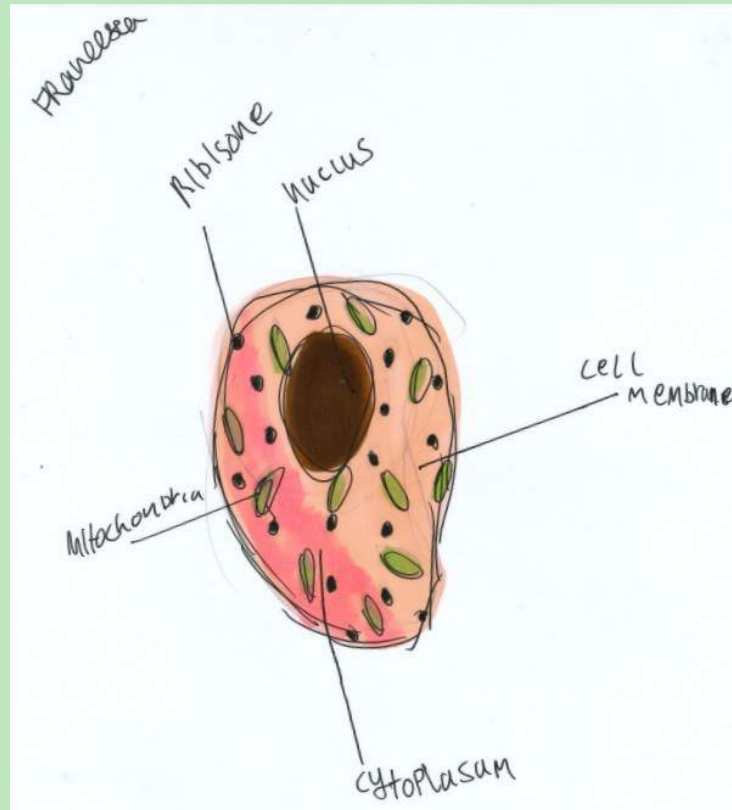
Be Kind · Be Brave · Be You

Science drawings by Francesca, Year 7

Plant Cell



Animal Cell



Anti-Bullying Week

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



In November, the whole school took part in National Anti-Bullying Week 2023. The main theme for this year was to identify and effectively act upon what is banter and what is bullying with the similarities and differences discussed and debated by everyone at the school.

Students were able to complete tasks and activities in tutor groups as well as engaging with the official Anti-Bullying Week assembly as one large group.

Additionally, many of the staff and students wore Odd Socks on Monday 13th November as part of official Odd Sock Day (a movement to celebrate difference and individuality under the banner of Anti-Bullying Week), some of which the students had designed themselves before wearing them for the rest of the day. The school held a competition for the three best sock designs and offered a voucher-based prize for these.

An enjoyable weekly theme with a strong message that the students engaged extremely well with and learned values to take forward for the rest of the academic year and beyond.



Safeguarding Topic

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The CORE classification of online Risk

Our young people are growing up in a world rife with online risk. This risk is highlighted in the current Keeping Children Safe in Education publication which places an expectation on schools to safeguard students and monitor their online use whilst at school.

Grateley House School is equipped with an extensive filtering and monitoring system which records all online activity via the school's ICT equipment. However, we all know that it is very easy for our young people to access material offsite via their own phones or laptops. In this light we do ask that parents carefully monitor their child's online use at home.

Our young people are at risk from online harm such as sexual abuse and exploitation, grooming, sexting, sending or receiving sexual photos, sextortion and pornography. It can be said that what you feed your mind with is what you will become and it is thus vital for us to protect our young people from accessing the dark world of pornography and sexual harm.

A common theme of online harm involves a young person being asked, or coerced, into undertaking sexually inappropriate actions. Images may be produced and shared leaving the young person with anxiety about where these images are and who is seeing them.

Modern society has unfortunately allowed moral boundaries to become blurred and for many young people the behaviour of taking sexual images of themselves and sharing them is seen as normal. It is thus our responsibility to educate them that this is neither normal nor is it legal. It is essential that we protect them from the emotional and mental harm that this type of practice can cause.

It is important to remember too that online predators are skilled manipulators. It is easy for them to operate secretly and lie about their age or identity.

They will groom a child to prevent them from talking and often request compromising images to prevent disclosure. It is possible that a child will not disclose about online abuse because of fear or shame, and it is thus vital that we keep channels of communication open both at school and home.



Safeguarding Topic

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HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE?

Have ongoing conversations: Talk about the apps, games, sites they like to use and what they like and don't like about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind them that they can speak to you, a member of staff, or a trusted adult and that we are all here to help. If you become aware of a concern please report it to the school or go directly to one of the external agencies outlined below.

EXTERNAL AGENCIES

There are a number of external agencies where you, or your child, can find help and advice about online safety issues. Thinkuknow is a programme set up by the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command (NCA -CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from online sexual abuse. If the school learns of online sexual abuse it is their duty to pass on the details to CEOP.



childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

We hope this information will prove useful to you in keeping your child safe online and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

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This is the Second year that GHS students have helped out at the House of Opportunity, Christmas Box Appeal who are sending Christmas presents to children and adults in Bulgaria. We are so proud of the work that they have done and how helpful and enthusiastic they all were, when helping people less fortunate than themselves. We had the opportunity to support and have three allocated sessions at the House of Opportunity and each time student sign up was immediate and really popular. We really do have a school where students like to do charitable work, so much so two of our students wanted to go back for a second time and help out some more. Some of our students said that they would like to do this outside of school and volunteer for other charities.

Well done to all those who took part!

Here's to next year and doing our part again.



Ben Dolman - Student Leaver

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

It is always a bitter sweet moment when we have to say goodbye to students who have come to the end of their time at Grateley House School. This is particularly the case when they have outgrown the school, having developed their skills to a level where they are ready to be independent of the school and enjoy further education. It is bitter because it *is* goodbye, but it is oh so sweet, because Ben Dolman is one of many recent success stories we can share with our school community and beyond.



Ben joined Grateley in September 2016, with a complex sensory profile pertaining to food (smells), predictability and social anxiety. Ben would often be seen wearing his headphones, not always able to access classes and eating in private away from others. Ben avoided assemblies and other larger gatherings so as to not expose himself to noise or clapping.

Ben slowly settled into GHS and with a small peer group, this helped him to develop. Ben was part of those year groups that were assessed for GCSE's through coursework and previous school results as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ben had a particular interest in cars and happily participated in the Wheels Workshop when they were in school as well as working hard on his core subjects and his favourite subject ICT, or more latterly iMedia.



Ben has gained a range of qualifications including GCSE Maths, Art & Science, as well as Functional Skills Level 2 English with additional certificates gained in NCFE Occupational Studies, Creative Crafts and OCR iMedia. However, it has been at college in the last 15 months that Ben really began to excel and thrive. He was able to cope with a whole new environment at Wiltshire College in the 2022-23 academic year. Not only did he navigate the college, he excelled on the course gaining an overall Distinction in a Level 2 National Certificate in ICT. Such was his level of confidence, he was able to successfully present to the whole school an assembly about Autism Acceptance, with a particular focus on how those with Autism can be taught in an education setting. This was a fantastic moment given

Ben's reticence to attending assemblies during his schooling at Grateley and a moment that staff found quite emotional to see such development. Since September 2023 Ben has been attending Andover College studying Arts, Media & Graphics courses, which blend his skills in ICT with his love of art. Additionally, Ben has taken part in extra curricular activities, the most impressive having been part of a group of students and staff who climbed Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons last Summer. This was something Ben was immensely proud of and rightly so. Those who attended the trip often refer to Ben requesting some time on his own at the top of the mountain so that he could process just what he had achieved on that day.



Climbing a mountain, thus serves as a very poignant analogy for what Ben has achieved in the last 7 years. He has come from an anxious young boy to a young man who is a delight to be around, with a wicked sense of humour but with an empathetic side, he is highly skilled in what he does at college and will undoubtedly go on to achieve many successful things across the scope of his adult life. As sad as it is to see Ben leave us, it is certainly more sweet than bitter when you consider of achievements in his time at Grateley. Good luck Ben, don't be a stranger and be everything you can be.

Friday 15th December 2023

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On the final day of the Autumn Term, staff, students and families have the opportunity to gather at the local church for the Grateley House School Carol Service, followed by a Christmas Craft Fayre at the school accompanied with hot chocolate and mince pies. Students will depart from school at 1pm to start the Christmas holidays.

We would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

From all at Grateley House School.

