

GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You



Issue 12
Summer Term 2025

Principal's Welcome

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Grateley House School Newsletter

Since September 2024, we have continued to grow and strengthen our Grateley community, warmly welcoming nine new students. We are delighted with how well they have settled into school life and the positive contributions each of them has made. It is a privilege to support every student on their unique journey with us.

In the final week of term, we experienced an unexpected but very welcome Ofsted Education Inspection. While I am not yet able to share the official outcome, I can say it was a truly positive and 'good' experience.

I'd like to share some of the feedback we received from the Inspector, which I believe perfectly captures the spirit of Grateley:

"The school values are at the core of the school and are lived out by everyone. There is a sense of belonging and this has not happened by chance."

"The curriculum is highly ambitious and staff are aspirational in supporting students to reach their full potential."

"Pupils feel valued and understood, and they have powerful, trusting relationships with staff."

Our students spoke with honesty and confidence during the inspection, and their comments were a genuine reflection of our inclusive and nurturing culture. Two quotes in particular stood out to me:

"Everyone makes mistakes, students and staff – no one is perfect, but what always stays the same is that we are all part of the Grateley family."

This simple but powerful message captures the heart of our ethos. We all make mistakes, but it's through reflection, learning, and growth that we become better people.

"Staff are not robots. They have personalities and they allow us to have our own personalities."

Principal's Welcome

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This brought a smile to my face and perfectly reflects our core value of "Be You." It is this mutual respect and authenticity that make Grateley such a special place to learn and grow.

However, this end of term is bittersweet. It marks the closure of our residential provision – a deeply significant chapter in Grateley's history. We say goodbye to a truly exceptional team of passionate and dedicated residential staff, some of whom have been with us for more than two decades. Their unwavering commitment and care have made an immeasurable difference to the lives of so many children.

To our residential team – thank you. You will always be part of the Grateley family, and we are deeply grateful for the memories and impact you leave behind.

Lastly, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the entire GHS staff team. Your tireless efforts, compassion, and dedication are what make the magic happen every day.

Wishing all our students, families, and staff a restful and joyful summer.

Warmest regards,

Eva Pereira



Grateley Stomp

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On the 4th of April, the last day of the Spring Term (and what a day to end on!), we held our annual Grateley Stomp — and it did not disappoint!

A keen and energetic group of students and staff were ready and willing to get their 'stomp on', with participants choosing to either walk or run distances ranging from 5km to 20km.

The energy, determination, and camaraderie on display were truly inspiring. Every single student and staff member pushed themselves toward their personal best, and the sense of achievement was clearly written on their faces as they crossed the finish line.

We were fortunate with the weather — the sun shone throughout the event, and we crossed the finish line just before the skies dramatically opened!

A huge thank you goes out to our marshals and to the students who helped with setting up and packing away. Your support was essential in keeping the event safe and smooth-running — a true reflection of the one team spirit at Grateley.

We're already looking forward to the Grateley Stomp 2026!



Monxton News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term has been a busy one as the students have been focusing on their future lives as they are all leaving us this summer.

Lucas is successfully working his way through his level 2 welding course at Sparsholt and they have already reserved him a place on the level 3 which is really positive. He has also passed his functional skills level 1 Maths at college in an adult evening class. He recently helped out on another steam gala at the Watercress line, organising the public around their booking times for the tours. Lucas has continued his work experience and recently was given the opportunity to board the Canadian Pacific, which he had been involved in restoring. He visited Swanage railway and met up with Lisa who organises volunteering and recruitment amongst other things. He has successfully secured himself one day a week at Norden Station in the workshops, with a future plan to volunteering in the engineering workshops. For another day. He has been looking into further courses to assist in his future plans and will be looking around Kingston Maurward College at possibly completing a welding and blacksmith course level 2 to begin with. Lucas is also looking into work experiences placements after he leaves with a local welding company.

Harper has been working hard on his future transition pathway, he applied to St Vincent's college in Gosport and after an excellent interview and transition visit's he has been offered a place, this will enable him to become more independent. Harper has also been honing his baking skills and is hoping to use them as part of the enterprise scheme where he will make and sell, caramel and chocolate tarts in the hope he will make a profit. Harper has also completed his Science AQA and functional skills English, he is hoping to pass so he can move on to bigger and brighter things. Harper has also enjoyed spending time with staff and having chats about his future life choices. Harper is also planning on visiting South Cerney where his peers will be taking part in the school's residential trip.

Carter has been busy completing his current college course at Andover college and is hoping to attend the Level 3 Esports course at Guildford college, he has also completed his functional skills in English and is eagerly awaiting his results. Carter will be visiting Wales not once but twice, firstly he will be visiting Dolgellau for the Snowdon experience where he will not only climb the mountain, he will also go gorge walking and visit Barmouth bay. The feedback from staff that went on the trip was that Carter was amazing and it was like having another member of staff on the trip. Secondly Carter will return to Pen y Fan so he can see the view from the top in daylight this time, as it was dark last year when he visited as part of the 2 peaks challenge. Carter has also been doing work experience with the Amesbury U9's football team where he assisted the coach plus, he will be taking part in the enterprise scheme at school where he will bake and sell delicious treats. Carter also took charge of building the greenhouse for the pastoral team, he even roped in staff and a peer and acted as foreman but led by example by doing a lot of the work himself.



Ampport News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Cournall uses the Art/Craft room almost daily. He enjoys painting his Warhammer models and during the run up to his GCSE's found drawing to be extremely therapeutic. He attends a monthly drop in at Salisbury Warhammer to paint with others and to replenish painting supplies.

Cournall continues to regularly run around the village and completes 5K runs each week. As well as continuing to improve his personal fitness around the village he also goes to the gym in Tidworth on a weekly basis.

Cournall has continued to make meals from scratch every Thursday and is working towards being able to fully cook a selection of dishes completely by himself. As well as eating meals that he enjoys, Cournall is also still trying new flavours and textures that he would previously have avoided.

Cournall has worked really hard all year and completed daily revision in preparation for his GCSE exams. He has accepted the support of staff during this process and it has culminated in him sitting all of his exams. Cournall feels positive about how he fared and we now wait with fingers crossed, hoping he gets the results that his hard work deserves.

After finishing his exams Cournall went on a 3-day residential experience to Wales where he took part in a ropework/ gorge scramble, visited Barmouth Bay and culminated in climbing Mt. Snowdon.

He also enjoyed 3 nights away at South Cerney Outdoor. This is a residential school activity centre offering a wide variety of outdoor pursuits, including both land-based and water-based activities.



Post-16 News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Post-16/Transition Group: A Term Full of Growth, Skills, and Opportunities

As the Summer term draws to a close, the Post-16/Transition group has successfully completed a dynamic and enriching programme focused on preparing for adulthood transitions. This term was packed with practical experiences and skills-building activities designed to equip students with the knowledge and confidence they need to thrive in their next steps at college, employment and in general life.



The transition period began with essential sessions on preparing for adulthood, emphasizing independence and financial literacy. The students explored key topics such as budgeting, saving, and managing everyday expenses. Their learning was further enhanced by an inspiring seminar with a Bank of England Ambassador, who shared expert insights on how to manage money effectively throughout life. These lessons have laid a strong foundation for responsible financial decision-making.

Building on these skills, the group attended employability workshops led by industry professionals from Sherwin-Williams, the largest paint manufacturer in the world. These sessions focused on workplace readiness, communication, and professional conduct. The highlight was the mock interviews, where students had the opportunity to practice real interview techniques, receive feedback, and boost their confidence for future job applications. This was where the students really thrived and showed just how much practical information they had derived from the day and the professionals who had given up their time to assist our young people.



Practical learning remained at the heart of the term's activities. The group took part in an enterprise project that encouraged creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial thinking. This experience was complemented by a work placement at the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop, where students contributed to creating craft supplies for young education groups. This unique opportunity not only developed their practical skills but also fostered a sense of contribution to the local community.

To broaden their horizons further, the students enjoyed a Taster Day at Andover College, where they explored potential courses and career paths available post-school. Back at base, they also enhanced their life skills through cooking sessions, gaining confidence in preparing nutritious meals — a crucial part of independent living.



The Summer 2 term has been a period of tremendous growth for the Post-16/Transition group. Through a blend of workshops, real-world experience, and practical learning, our students are well on their way to becoming confident, capable adults ready to take on future challenges. We look forward to seeing how they build on these achievements in the coming months!

Beach Volleyball

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On the 20th and 22nd of May, our KS4 and KS3 students headed to Sandbanks Beach in Poole for two unforgettable days of sun, sand, sportsmanship... and a surprise twist!

Competing in unfamiliar terrain brought its challenges, but our students rose to the occasion, demonstrating not only their athletic ability but also their teamwork, resilience, and the confidence gained from their school experiences. A special mention goes to our KS4 group, who discovered on arrival that the volleyball nets had vanished due to an unannounced lifeguard training session! Despite the unexpected setback, they adapted quickly — a true display of Grateley grit.

In the heat of the day, every student gave it their all. The sound of laughter, encouragement, and cheers from teammates and staff echoed across the beach, creating a fantastic atmosphere.

Special shout-out to both groups for their standout plays, and a heartfelt thank-you to the staff and chaperones whose support made the trip run smoothly.

This was more than just a sports trip — it was a day of bonding, learning, and soaking up the outdoors together. We're already counting down to next year's beach volleyball adventure!



GHS Fun Run

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The last academic day of the year was marked by our much-anticipated and always memorable Fun Run — a celebration that brought together the entire Grateley House School community in a wonderful mix of competition, laughter, and, of course, bold fashion choices!

The day kicked off with the 1km race, and it was clear from the start that the competitive spirit was alive and well. Students could be seen weighing up their tactics: go flat out from the beginning or conserve energy for a strong finish? It was fantastic to watch the different strategies in action — and equally brilliant to see staff members rise to the challenge too!

Final Results – 1km Race:

1st – Carter
2nd – Darcie
3rd – Georgia

Held on our beautiful parkland grounds on 4th July, the event couldn't have run smoothly without the amazing support of two of our Sixth Form students, Josh and Carter, whose organisation, dedication, and positive attitudes made all the difference.

In true Fun Run tradition, there was a dazzling variety of costumes on show — we've come to expect nothing less! Despite the summer heat, the level of aerobic fitness and determination on display was impressive, particularly in the top finishers of both the 1km and 2km races. With even greater participation in the 2km race, the atmosphere stayed electric as students and staff pushed themselves further with smiles still on their faces.

Final Results – 2km Race:

1st – Carter
2nd – Darcie
3rd – Elliott

To wrap up the day, we embraced the spirit of teamwork with our annual 50-meter relay. Five enthusiastic teams battled it out, displaying great sportsmanship and camaraderie — even if the desire to win was definitely in the air!

Final Results – 50m Relay Race:

1st – Darcie, Carter, Elliott, and Georgia
2nd – Alfie, Bella, Mallory, and Mr. Lopez
3rd – Lewis, Oscar, Dimitrios, and Mr. Amissah

A huge congratulations to all our winners and to everyone who took part — your energy, passion, and positivity (despite the heat!) made the event a true celebration of our school spirit.

We hope your training for Fun Run 2026 has already begun — we can't wait to do it all again!



Baxter Update

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Baxter has continued to grow in confidence and remains a popular member of our school community.

Our PAWS Assessor, Jackie, visited Baxter on 19th June to see how he was getting on and once again he received a glowing report.

Jackie said that Baxter was gentle and confident in his approach when meeting her for the first time. His body language was relaxed and friendly and it was clear that he feels safe and settled in the environment that has been created for him.

Jackie observed that Baxter was calm, sociable and enjoys both student and staff interactions.

It was noted that the handlers, Eva, Melissa and

Sophie are doing a great job of advocating for his welfare and ensuring his pace and needs are respected.

Over the last term Baxter has developed a VERY keen interest in the pigeons and squirrels he spots out on the front lawn. He gets extremely excited, desperate to get outside to pursue them in a high speed chase! – This was identified as an area of development for Baxter as we do not want this interest become unhealthy and disruptive.

At present Baxter does not have a formal timetable in place, whilst he is training and preparing for his PAWS Therapy Dog Assessment. He is continuing to build his confidence through meet-and-greets with students, staff and visitors.

We are looking forward to the new term and how Baxter progresses with his PAWS training.



Subject News - Humanities

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Humanities: A Term of Discovery, Debate, and Deep Thinking

This term in Humanities, our Key Stage 3 students have explored a rich and varied programme of study across History and Geography, delving into topics that span from medieval England to modern environmental crises. Through inquiry-led lessons, engaging group work, and independent research, our students have not only learned historical facts and geographical processes but have also developed their critical thinking, empathy, and understanding of the world—past and present.

Year 7 students have travelled nearly a thousand years back in time to investigate the dramatic events of 1066 and the Norman Conquest of England. Beginning with the death of Edward the Confessor and the ensuing scramble for the English throne, students have evaluated the claims of Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, and Harald Hardrada. Their learning culminated in a detailed study of the **Battle of Hastings**, with many lively debates about Harold's tactical errors and William's clever use of feigned retreats. Students then examined how William secured control through the introduction of the **Feudal System**, transforming the social structure of England and laying the foundations of the Norman legacy. A particular highlight was their exploration of the **Bayeux Tapestry**. Students reflected on how this embroidered chronicle not only depicts key moments of the conquest but also serves as a piece of Norman propaganda. Many classes created their own 'modern tapestries' to tell stories from school life or recreate historical events in comic-strip style—a creative and fun way to demonstrate their understanding.

8TI students turned their attention to **Germany during the inter-war years**, grappling with one of the most complex and sobering chapters in modern history. Beginning with the Treaty of Versailles and its impact on Germany's economy and national identity, students explored how political instability, hyperinflation, and unemployment created the conditions for radical change. 8TI then moved on to examine **the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party**. Through analysis of propaganda posters, extracts from speeches, and firsthand accounts, students have developed a nuanced understanding of how fear, frustration, and charismatic leadership can influence a nation's direction. Classroom discussions focused on the fragility of democracy, the power of persuasion, and the dangers of unchecked extremism—topics that continue to resonate in today's world.

While the rest of Year 8 have been immersed in the turbulent politics of inter-war Germany, **8AW** have taken a different historical path—back to the smoke-filled cities and revolutionary ideas of **the Industrial Revolution**. This term, 8AW have been exploring how Britain was transformed during the 18th and 19th centuries through **new inventions, materials, and ways of working**. From the spinning jenny and the steam engine to the construction of canals and railways, students have investigated how technological innovations reshaped every aspect of life—changing not only how people worked, but also where they lived and how they travelled.

A particular focus has been on the **new materials** that powered the age of industry: **coal, iron, and later steel**. Students examined how these raw materials fuelled factory production, helped build bridges and ships, and drove the rapid expansion of urban areas. Through hands-on activities and interactive case studies, they learned about the living and working conditions of factory workers, including children, and the social consequences of such rapid industrialisation.

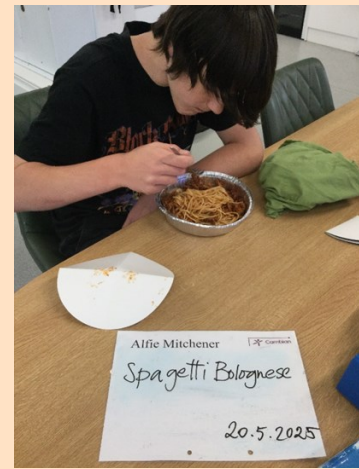
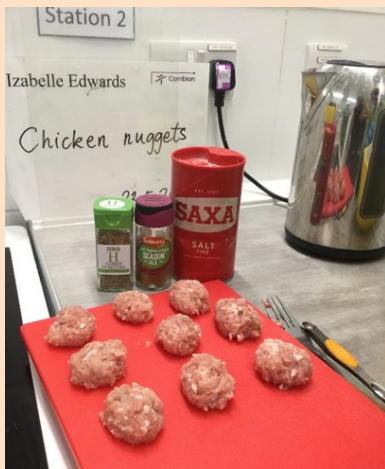
Year 9 have been focusing on the **Polar Regions**—not only as remote and mysterious landscapes, but also as frontline indicators of our changing climate. From the icy tundra of the Arctic to the windswept expanses of Antarctica, students have investigated how these environments function, who inhabits them, and why they are so important to the global ecosystem. A major theme this term has been **climate change** and its far-reaching impacts. Students studied the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and threats to biodiversity, as well as the geopolitical issues surrounding territorial claims and natural resource exploration in the Arctic. Using satellite imagery, climate data, and case studies, students engaged in debates about conservation versus exploitation and the ethical implications of our environmental choices.

To bring the topic closer to home, students considered how their own actions contribute to global emissions and what steps can be taken individually and collectively to reduce humanity's carbon footprint. Their passion for the environment and willingness to think critically about real-world issues has been inspiring.

Subject News - Food Tech

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Across the curriculum students have continued developing their food preparation skills, including making fresh pasta and learning how to make healthy, tasty chicken nuggets.



KS3 students picked elderflowers and made cordial, in readiness for celebration day.



Students have had opportunities to learn more about macronutrients and the importance of protein in a balanced diet.

Students work safely and hygienically when preparing food and cooking.



Basketball Tournament

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On the last Friday of Summer Term 1, our school community came together for an exciting basketball tournament featuring four teams from across Grateley House School. The day was filled with energetic games, buzzing side lines, and inspiring displays of skill and sportsmanship.

The tournament was ultimately dominated by the 9AL team, who impressed everyone with their control and high-level tactical decisions, truly leading their team to success.

Highlights included several nail-biting matches decided in the final seconds — especially the thrilling battle for second place. Beyond the competition, the tournament showcased valuable life skills: teamwork, fair play, and mutual encouragement echoed throughout every match.

Final Results:

1st Place – Alfie, Darcie, and Mr. Lopez

2nd Place – Josh, Mick, and Mrs. Kasperczuk

3rd Place – Connor, Ayden, and Tom

A big thank you goes to our staff and student helpers — without your support, this event wouldn't have been possible. We're excited to build on this momentum and look forward to hosting more thrilling tournaments in the coming terms!



Student Work - PSHCE

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

It's been all about the money this term in PSHCE. Students have been hearing about lottery winners who won big but lost it all due to poor choices. They've learned that it's not about how much money you have but more about how you manage your money.


They are now expert budgeters and understand all about debit and credit, income and expenditure. Some of them are even considering how to invest their imaginary fortunes that have been bestowed upon them.

Watch out Elon, GHS will give you a run for your money!

Arden 3.625

YEAR 8 SUMMER 2
VALUE FOR MONEY, RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES MAKING FINANCIAL DECISIONS
30 June 2025

Q: can I understand that having enough money is less to do with how much you earn but how money is managed?



Task 1

Imagine you've been given £500!
What would you spend it on and how much do you think each thing would cost?

I would save it & put it in a savings account.
I would use some to buy important stuff.

Task 2

Watch the clip: [10 Lottery Winners Who Lost It All](#)

Task 3

Look at these real-life examples of people you might recognise who didn't manage their money very well (some of whom have gone on to 'recover' e.g. Donald Trump).

Michael Jackson - Singer
Walt Disney - Founder of Disney
William Fox - Co-founder of 20th Century Fox
Rembrandt - Dutch painter
Mike Tyson - Boxer
Milton Hershey - Founder of Hershey's chocolate
Lynne Spears - Mother of Britney
John DeLorean - Car maker
Henry Ford - Automobile manufacturer
Henry John Heinz - Condiment manufacturer.
George Best - Football star
Donald Trump - Businessman
Chris Eubank - Boxer
Abraham Lincoln - American president

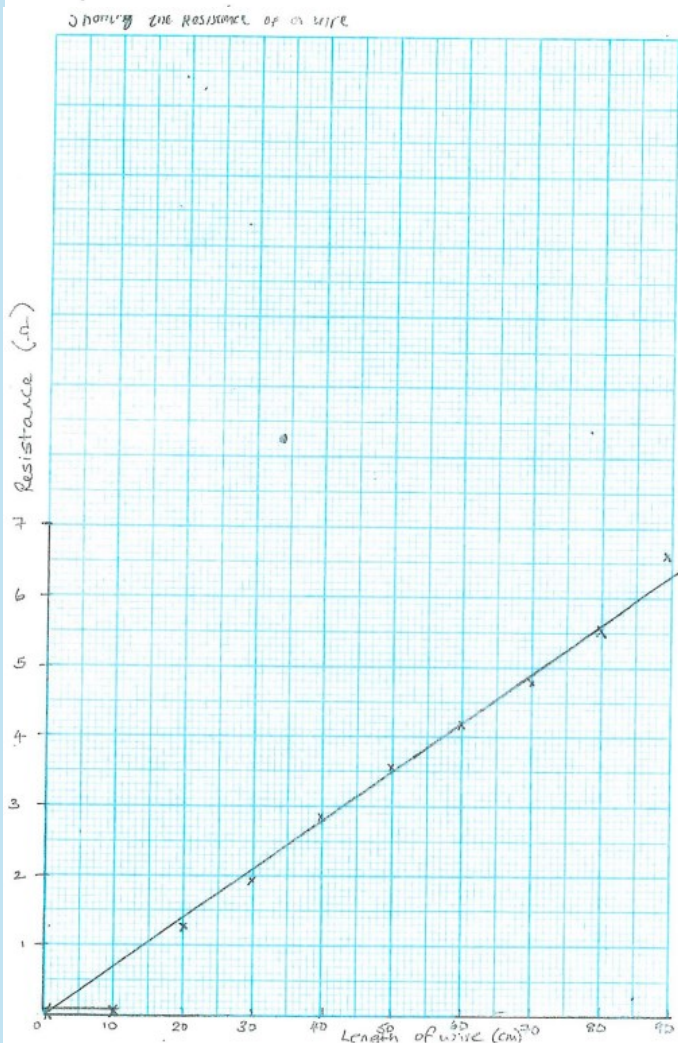
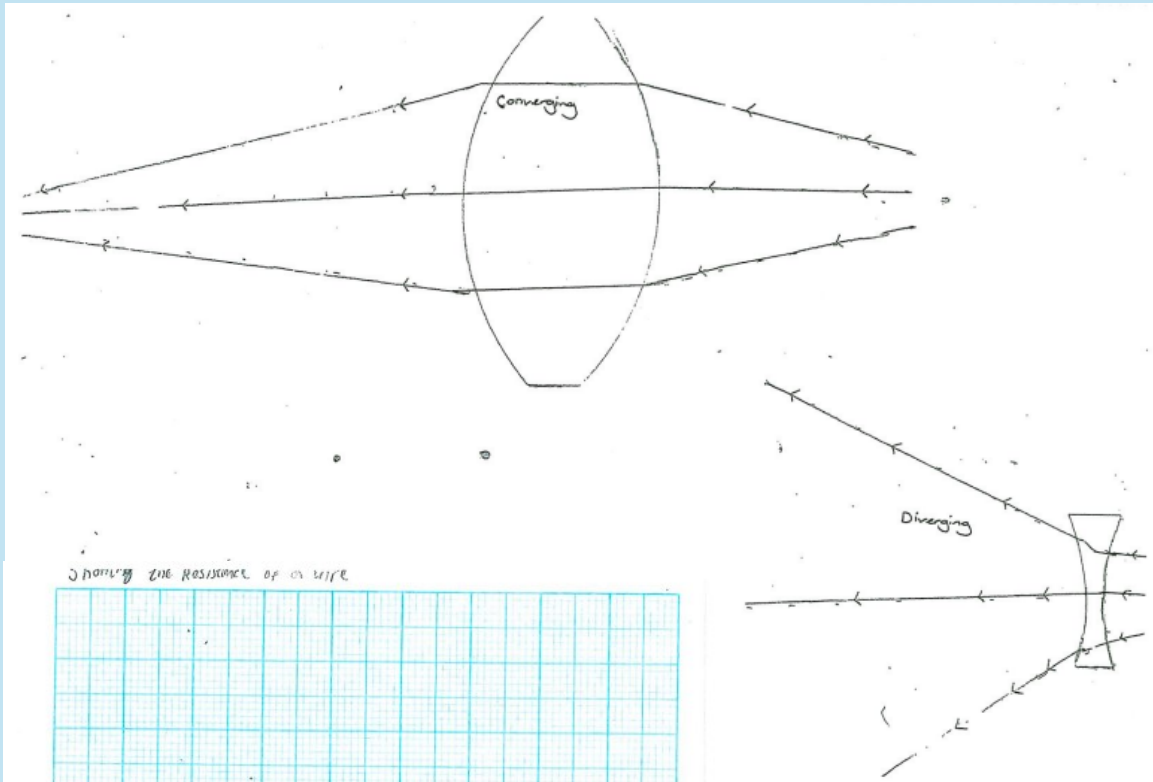
Research famous people / lottery winners / business people and list all the people that ended up with nothing.

Person:	How much was their fortune?	What did they spend it on	Risks and consequences	Where are they now?
	\$482 million	Cars, houses, theme park; loads!	Overspending; buying frivolous things and getting into debt	When he died he was over \$500 million in debt
	\$23.58 billion	creating a firm company	Running a company is expensive	He died of heart disease at 75.

Student Work - Science

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term the topic in Year 8 has been Waves. Students have plotted the path rays of light take from a ray box through various lenses.



In Year 10 Physics Lennon carried out a practical noting the current and voltage along a wire. From this he calculated the resistance at each length using the equation $V=IR$

Snowdon Experience

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Snowdon Experience ran between the 24-26th June and saw a small group of Grateley House School students and staff trek to North Wales for a series of activities, culminating in an ascent of Snowdon itself. At 1,085m, it is the highest peak in Wales, and offers a challenging but rewarding hike. Led by PE teacher Mr Lopez, the trip was a success despite the Welsh weather, with students all throwing themselves into the various activities and fostering a real sense of togetherness as a group.

Day 1

After setting off at the start of the school day, and with only one lunch stop en route, the group arrived in Snowdonia at their usual home time. The accommodation was a spacious bunkhouse, allowing for students and staff to have their own rooms or share with one other. Bags were unloaded, beds were made, and students settled into their rooms. Some students even got creative and accessorised their rooms with homemade sofas or making dens using spare bedsheets in the lower bunk beds. Thankfully the rain largely held off throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

The evening itself concluded with a barbecue, expertly supervised in the end by one of Grateley's post-16 students. Having eaten happily, we all took a short walk up and down a wooded valley to explore our surroundings, ducking between branches in a little temperate rainforest path whilst small waterfalls crashed away below us.

Upon our return, most of the group played a large game of Uno to conclude the evening. The Uno game was won by a very happy Yr9, and did not end so well for the author who had to crawl under a bench as the agreed punishment for losing. After bravely redirecting two very persistent small dogs from the camp until their owners eventually collected them, we settled into bed.

Day 2

We all awoke to the wonderful sound of a 6:30am alarm and a light drizzle, and were treated to extensively misty views of the adjacent valleys. After a continental-style breakfast, everyone got themselves ready for the hour-long drive to go gorge walking. The drive itself had an air of premonition, as we passed by the Pen-y-Pass car park and would have seen the peak of Snowdon itself were it not shrouded in thick fog. When we arrived, everyone got into wetsuits before another half hour's drive was undertaken and we could scramble up a gorge.

The gorge itself had been carved out of the hill by the 'Afon Ddu,' or the 'Black River.' As we got closer, the sound of the water meant we could only shout between ourselves and our group leader Jess. After scrambling up the first few rocks, we were treated to our first water slide, as everyone sat in the water before sliding and splashing into the pool below. Continuing up the gorge, we had our first proper swim, followed by an even more exhilarating water slide in which we all went down backwards!

The gorge was getting steeper and the water flowing more rapidly as we ascended, but this carved out even more fun features to play with. Many of us chose to stand underneath a waterfall, and we scrambled and crawled through a narrow gap whilst Jess aided us with a rope, followed by a little chute-like structure in a rock that we had to slide into before shooting out into the water below.

At the very top of our scramble, we reached a spectacular large waterfall. Aptly and poetically named "Large Waterfall," it cascaded down about 10m of rock, creating an impressively large pool that the whole group could swim in together. More importantly, we could all belly-flop during a group photo. After a short hike down through the adjacent woodland, we returned to the minibuses, got changed, and returned back to the bunkhouse.

Snowdon Experience

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

After a long rest and some Bolognese, the students regained enough energy to spend the sunset at nearby Barmouth Bay. Here, the group all played beach volleyball, where some impressive rallies were achieved. Some walked on the sand dunes, some raced each other, and we all departed after a short walk along the shore watching the sunset. Having spent so much energy, everyone was ready to rest and prepare themselves for the final day's big adventure.

Day 3

After another good night's sleep, everyone awoke early ready for a day's mountaineering. Whilst we could see more hilltops from the campsite, rain had rolled in and was gently falling. After another nutritious continental-style breakfast, the expedition crew was ready to go. Everyone packed their belongings into the minibuses to vacate the bunkhouse and complete the drive to Pen-y-Pass for the start of the climb.

Arriving at 9am, we were greeted to light rain being whipped against us in the strong winds. After some photos commemorating the start of the hike, the group set off along the Pyg track. We were quickly 2 staff down, with one ill and another injured after the gorge walking, but the students all persevered onwards. Within 10 minutes, those without waterproofs (and even some with!) were soaked through as the rain lashed against us, feeling more like hail. The only solace was occasional shelter behind a large rock, or the sun occasional shimmering through, resulting in brief but spectacular rainbows nestled within the valleys below.

Thankfully, after the initial half hour the rain eventually subsided. The wind still kept us cold, but with enough stops behind rocks we were able to stay warm. Eventually we walked enough of the Pyg track to be in the shelter of the neighbouring peak Crib Goch and out of the wind. The summit of Snowdon would have been in sight, but remained thoroughly covered under the earlier mist.

With recent rain water cascading down the slopes, it felt like a more expansive gorge walk at times, but after further walking and scrambling, we stopped for a scenic view of the lakes below and were finally able to witness the moment the fog lifted from the summit. The target was now firmly in sight.

Regular water and snack stops were needed, but, warmed by the sun and surrounded by extraordinary views of the surrounding hills, we eventually reached the top ridge. Layering up, we prepared for the strong winds (now well over 30mph) to blast us once more, but were able to complete the final

push up the ridge with ease, only occasionally stopping to admire views until we reached the summit itself.



After a pause for photos at the summit stone, we took shelter behind the rocks for celebratory lunch as we took in the extensive views and regained our energy for the hike back down. Having set off just after 9am, we had summited by half 12, and another long walk was ahead of us.

The descent, whilst leaving us with aching knees, saw a few steep scrambles as we approached the lakes on the Miner's track. Rated a difficult route on many hiking

guides, the students all navigated the jagged rocks and unclear paths with confidence and ease. After a break by the lake at the bottom, everyone commenced the now gentle and flat walk back to the car park, passing lakes and waterfalls. Naturally, there was a race to return first between the two longtime pack leaders of the hike, and the rest of the group trickled into the car park. After a brief rest to regain energy, we set off for our long journey home, happy to have summited Wales' highest

Money Raised 2024-25

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Date	£'s Raised	By whom?	How?	Which charity?
20/09/2024	£220	All	Non-school Uniform & Bake Sale	Jeans for Genes
27/09/2024	£152.55	All	Coffee Morning held at Village Hall for the community	Macmillan
15/11/2024	£28	All	Non-school Uniform	Children in Need
12/12/2024	£60.24	All	Christmas Jumper Day	Save the Children
28/03/2025	£475	All	<u>Swimathon</u>	Cancer Research UK



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



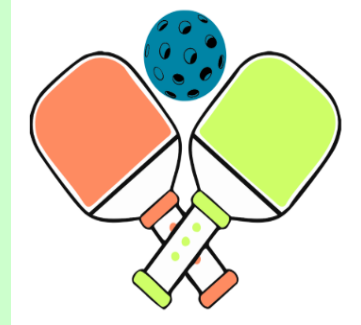
SWIMATHON



Pickleball Tournament

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday, 4th July, our school hosted its much-anticipated and popular Annual Pickleball Tournament on the MUGA. The event featured 12 mixed doubles teams drawn from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, competing in a bracket-style format.



Championship Results & Awards

Tournament Champions: Josh Turner & Tom Coldwell

Runners-Up (combined prize): Katy Greenfield & Mrs Allison and Lewis Finn & Mr. Amissah

Teams were seeded in the top 4 rankings based on last year's results and competed in an elimination bracket, ensuring fair playtime for all while considering the warm weather conditions. Matches were played to 11 points (whichever came first), using rally scoring to keep games moving smoothly.

The final featured a unique three-team showdown, showcasing the rising skill level and growing enthusiasm each year. It was truly inspiring to witness students' determination to compete and improve — a priceless sight for coaches and spectators alike.

A big thank you to the whole school community for attending and cheering on the players. Your support encourages our students to give their best and motivates us to expand tournaments like this across other sports.

We're already looking forward to the Pickleball Tournament 2026!

Pen y Fan

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Thursday, 3rd July, students from Post-16 Transition, GCSE PE, and staff embarked on a memorable ascent of Pen-y-Fan, the highest peak in South Wales at 886 meters, located in the stunning Brecon Beacons National Park. The group left school in the early hours for a three-hour drive, beginning their hike from the Storey Arms/ Summit Car Park at 10 am.

Despite the physical challenge, everyone enjoyed the breath-taking scenery and the strong camaraderie that developed along the way. It was inspiring to see how, regardless of differing levels of hiking and climbing experience, the group shared a common goal: to reach the summit and have fun.

By midday, the group proudly stood atop the highest peak in Southern Britain. After a well-deserved lunch, it was clear how proud the students were of their achievement, having pushed their limits with positivity and determination. The entire ascent and descent took approximately four hours — perfectly matching official trail estimates.

The 4-mile circular route included both Pen-y-Fan and the nearby Corn-Du, featuring well-constructed footpaths with occasional steep, step-like sections near the summits.

Students demonstrated resilience and teamwork, fuelled by scenic breaks and panoramic views stretching to the Bristol Channel and Cambrian Mountains on a clear day.

During lunch at the summit, participants were treated to a close sighting of several red kites soaring nearby.

Though the weather remained favourable, everyone was mindful of the mountain's unpredictable nature, prepared accordingly in line with best-practice mountain walking guidelines.

The most outstanding highlight was witnessing the immense pride students felt in conquering one of Britain's most iconic peaks — and their eagerness to seek new challenges in future adventures.

Here's to the next journey!



South Cerney Residential

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

From the 14th to the 16th of July 2025, a group of adventurous students from across all year groups at Grateley House School took part in an exciting three-day residential trip to the beautiful South Cerney in Gloucestershire.

It was a jam-packed few days full of adventure, laughter, and new experiences. Every young person embraced the challenges and opportunities on offer, making the most of every moment.

Day 1 – Raft Building and the great 'Fox Island' Raft Race

The first day kicked off with a classic team challenge: raft building! Split into two teams of eight, the students had to design, construct, and then *sail* their handmade rafts around the famously muddy 'Fox Island' and back to shore. The competition was fierce but friendly, filled with great teamwork, good sportsmanship, and plenty of laughter. Though one team emerged victorious, it's fair to say everyone was a winner – especially once we all ended up in the lake!



Day 2 – Paddle boarding and the unexpected Storm



We started Day 2 with another water-based activity – paddle boarding. For some students, this was a brand-new experience, and they were brilliantly supported by both staff and more experienced peers. It wasn't without its challenges though, especially with a few cheeky attempts to tip each other off the boards!



After lunch, the weather took a dramatic turn. Just as we were preparing to go sailing, a storm rolled in. Winds howled, rain poured, and water conditions became dangerous. Unfortunately, the sailing session had to be cancelled, but it was replaced with something just as thrilling: **the high ropes!** Conquering fears and cheering each other on, students took to the treetops and had an unforgettable afternoon.

South Cerney Residential

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Day 3 – Archery and Farewells

Our final day featured an archery session and a friendly competition. The standard was impressively high – perhaps fuelled by the competitive spirit carried over from earlier in the week!

By the end of Day 3, everyone was tired but happy, ready to return home with a heart full of memories.

Between the big activities, we also enjoyed fire pits, BBQs, singalongs, plenty of food and drink, and lots of laughs. New friendships were formed, existing ones were strengthened, and unforgettable memories were made.



Celebration Day 2025

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Celebration Day firmly remains a favourite and cherished highlight of the school year—an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the progress and achievements of each of our amazing students. It allows us to reflect on their successes while acknowledging the challenges they have each bravely faced and overcome along the way. Sharing this special day with families and stakeholders makes it even more memorable and meaningful.

The marquee was set on the front lawn, and we were fortunate to be blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Trophies and shields had been carefully polished to a fine shine, ready to be presented to their well-deserving recipients.

At 11am, the celebrations began with a rousing performance of “I’m a Believer”, sung enthusiastically by a group of keen staff “warblers,” accompanied by talented musicians—all members of our incredible staff team.



Following a heartfelt reflection on the year from the Principal, we began the awards presentation. Every student received recognition for their personal efforts and achievements.

Certificates were awarded for:

- Progress in each subject for KS3, KS4, and Sixth Form
- Student Council Award
- Participation in the Swimathon, Grateley Stomp, Snowdon Residential, and South Cerney Residential
- Star of the Year Award (Residential)

Celebration Day 2025

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The following trophies and shields were also presented:

Cambian Award

Rigg Award (Most Education Points)

Sam Wrigley Shield (All-Round Sportsperson)

The Isaac Davidson Cup (Progress in KS3)

KS3 Science Award (For Enthusiasm & Effort)

The Davies Cup (Progress in KS4)

The Alan Sumner Cup (For All-Round Progress)

The Fletcher Mallinson Trophy (All-Round Progress in Science)

Art Award

Music Award

The Work Experience Shield

Resilience Award

Sixth Form Trophy – Educational Achievement

Sixth Form Trophy – Personal Achievement

Sixth Form Trophy – Sports Person

Success at College Award



Celebration Day 2025

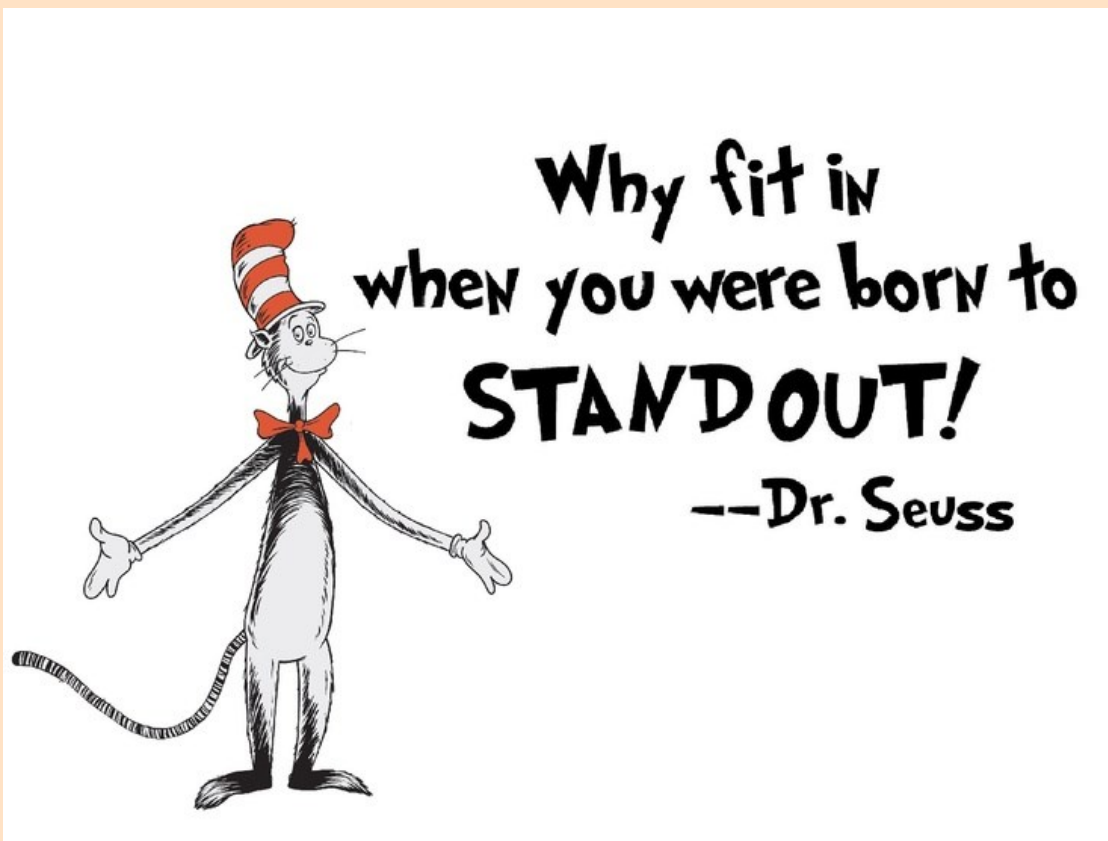
Be Kind Be Brave Be You

During the presentation, we were treated to a fantastic live performance by our 9AL student band (official name still pending), who played a powerful rendition of "Zombie" by The Cranberries. Their talent and stage presence were outstanding.

To close the event, the GHS School Band delivered an incredible final performance of "Sweet Child of Mine", which was met with great applause. We were genuinely impressed by the musical skill, confidence, and teamwork on display from all students involved. These performances were truly memorable.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Valentine, our passionate and talented Music Teacher, for bringing us all together through the power of music and helping our students shine during their performances.

At Grateley House School, we feel incredibly privileged and proud to support our students on their individual journeys. Celebration Day is a powerful reminder of their strength and determination.



Safeguarding Topic

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Staying Safe Around Village Roads and Train Lines

In order to best safeguard our young people at Grateley House School we want to remind all students and parents about the importance of staying safe when it comes to the nearby village roads and train station/train lines. Grateley House School is not a secure site school and it is thus imperative that students do not go offsite unless it is officially arranged and approved and they are accompanied by staff, or have approved offsite privileges. While it may be tempting for students to leave the school site when feeling dysregulated, the surrounding village roads can pose significant dangers. Students should instead make use of the parkland and woodland areas which are provided as safe areas for them regulate in.

Why Village Roads Are Risky

- **Busy Traffic:** Village roads often have narrow lanes without pavements, making it harder for drivers to see pedestrians.
- **Speeding Vehicles:** Some vehicles travel at speeds that reduce reaction times, increasing the risk of accidents.
- **Limited Visibility:** Bends, hedges, and parked cars can obscure views, making it difficult for both drivers and pedestrians to spot each other.
- **No Pedestrian Facilities:** Unlike urban areas, village roads may lack pedestrian crossings or footpaths, forcing students to walk close to moving traffic.

Why Train Stations and Train Lines Can Be Dangerous for Young People

Grateley House school has a good relationship with the British Transport Police who visit annually to discuss rail safety with the students. A reminder that train stations and train lines are busy places with lots of people, fast-moving trains, and complicated equipment. While they are important for travel, they can also be dangerous, especially for young people who might not always be aware of the risks. Here are some reasons why:

- **Fast Trains:** Trains travel at very high speeds and can't stop quickly. This means if someone is on or near the tracks, there's a serious risk of injury or worse. Some trains do not stop at Grately and will pass through at speed. Standing in front of the yellow line can result in being sucked in the consequences of which are fatal.
- **Electric Tracks:** Many train lines use electric rails or overhead wires that carry high voltage. Touching these can cause severe electric shocks. Tracks around Grateley are live twenty-four/seven.
- **Crowded Platforms:** Train stations often get crowded, and it can be easy to accidentally fall onto the tracks or get pushed near the edge.
- **Distraction:** Listening to music, texting, or using phones while near train tracks or platforms can make people less aware of their surroundings, increasing the chance of accidents.
- **Trespassing Risks:** Walking or playing on or near train tracks is illegal and extremely dangerous. Trains can come unexpectedly and quietly.

Safeguarding Topic

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Remember: Always stay behind the yellow safety line on platforms, never walk on train tracks, and pay

Risks of Leaving the School Site

Students who take themselves off-site and walk on these roads without adult supervision put themselves at risk of injury from passing vehicles. It also makes it harder for school staff to ensure their safety and wellbeing during the school day.

How We Can Keep Everyone Safe

- **Stay on School Grounds:** Students are reminded that they need to remain on the school premises during school hours and designated break times.
- **Be Visible and Vigilant:** For those residential students who have offsite privileges they are reminded that the wearing bright clothing and paying full attention to the road helps reduce risk. They should keep to safe paths as far as possible.

Parents and Guardians

Grateley House School has a Safeguarding Offsite Policy which is available on our website. We ask that you please support us by reinforcing these messages at home. Please ensure that your child understands the dangers and the importance of following school rules which help protect everyone. We have arranged for rollbars to be fitted to all access gates to prevent anyone climbing over these, however there are brief windows of time where the gates are open when vehicles are accessing or leaving the site where a student can take advantage and run offsite. We urge parents to work with us to make them aware both of the dangers of this and the importance of adhering to the requirements of the school policy.

Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of all our students. Together, we can help keep our community safe.

With thanks and best wishes for a safe and fun summer holiday.
The GHS Safeguarding team

HAPPY
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS