



THE  
GRANGE  
ACADEMY

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE 02



## Attendance

Students with higher attendance achieve higher qualifications

Be smart be in school



Too many absences can keep students from succeeding in school and in life

School attendance target 97%



ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. Since our last edition, only two weeks ago, we have had extra-curricular sporting activities against local schools, held our Open Evening, continued to work with the local authority and police to keep the roads outside school safe and provided our premises to the NHS school immunisations team so the Covid-19 immunisations for 12-15 year olds could take place. It has been a busy two weeks.

I continue to be impressed by how our students have returned, in both phases, and how quickly they have settled back into a normal school year. I emphasise normal as Covid-19 is still firmly in our minds, as are our plans should we need to implement some additional measures, such as face masks, bubbles etc. Our students have shown great resilience in the most testing times and I am grateful for your support in guiding them through this period.

Our Open Evening on Tuesday 28th was a great success and enjoyed by over 180 families. We have also produced videos to support families that were not able to attend on Tuesday or one of our Saturday tours. This link: <https://www.onlineopenevening.co.uk/grangeacademy/> will take you to our dedicated Open Evening page so you can see what we have to offer in the secondary phase.

You may also remember we had Challenge Partners to review our school in the final few weeks.

Their report is available here <https://bit.ly/3A16X9d>.

I am sure you will agree it is very positive and affirms what we already know. This quote is taken from the review, 'All groups of students, including those with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and young carers, are very well known to staff and receive high quality pastoral and academic support in this highly inclusive school where students' needs come first. This starts in the Early Years Foundation Stage where every child's uniqueness is valued and strong provision for the acquisition of basic skills sets a firm foundation for future learning.'

Finally, thank you to many parents and carers for supporting us in using our car park to 'drop off' and 'pick up' and not using Latham Avenue and local side roads. At the top of the car park there are approximately 40 spaces that can be used each morning and afternoon. Please continue to keep our children safe by not parking on the main road. Please consider leaving earlier to allow time to park in an appropriate space. Can I also remind parents and carers that the taxi bays and disabled areas, closest to the plaza, should be reserved for this use only.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Critchley



MEMBER OF THE  
WADE DEACON TRUST

## OPEN EVENING SUCCESS

On Tuesday 28th September, we held our Open Evening for all prospective families of Nursery, Reception and Year 7 students. In total we had over 180 families looking at the school on the evening. The feedback was extremely positive with parents/carers making comments about how much they'd enjoyed the evening and their positive view of the school.

Our staff and students made us proud on the evening, showing community spirit, commitment, approachability as well as passion and enthusiasm for the school.

Our Virtual Open Evening can be seen using the link below and allows you to experience The Grange Academy from the comfort of your own home:

<https://www.onlineopenevening.co.uk/grangeacademy/>



## HOME TESTING KITS



Parents, carers and students are welcome to help themselves to Lateral Flow home testing kits in our main foyer at school. Secondary phase students should be completing home tests twice weekly and recording their results in the following ways:

- Notify school by completing a simple form online:  
<https://bit.ly/TGAtestresult>
- Notify the Government website using this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

## APPOINTMENTS

All appointments e.g. medical, dental, optical, should if possible be made out of school hours. However, in the event that this is not possible e.g. hospital appointments, please can school be informed prior to the appointment and medical evidence provided. Secondary phase students must be made aware of their appointment times before hand and come to the front office at the relevant time to sign out and be collected by a named adult.

## MEDICATION

If any student requires medication during school hours, it must be prescribed from a doctor or pharmacist and signed in with the relevant forms by an adult. These forms can be found on our website or completed at Reception. Where possible, medication should be administered at home, but in certain circumstances e.g 4 doses per day, our trained staff are happy to administer this medicine in school. Primary phase children should be brought to the office by an adult within school at the time the medication is required, however, secondary phase children should remember to come to the office at the relevant time.

Students should not be bringing any medication to school in their bags. This is a safeguarding concern.

# WORD OF THE WEEK

Each week, we look at a high-frequency, useful word (which may be difficult to interpret) and explore the definition, sounds, spelling, word-families, grammar and history surrounding it.

### How you can help:

Encourage the use of the word in speaking and writing; model the use of the word when you talk.

## PRIMARY

### Parliament (noun)

where Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the House of Lords (Baronesses and Lords) work to make new laws and discuss important topics

### Tense (noun)

time of a verb's action or its state of being

## SECONDARY

### Objective

A thing aimed at or sought; a goal.

Synonyms:

Aim/ intention/ purpose/ goal/ target

## DATA COLLECTION PACKS

From week beginning Monday 4th October, all students (apart from Nursery, Reception and Year 7) will be bringing home a Data Collection pack.

Can you please ensure this is completed and returned to your child's Form Tutor by Friday 15th October.

It is imperative we hold correct emergency contact and medical details for our students.



## STUDENT BIKES

If your child is in secondary phase and comes to school on their bike, please ensure they lock it up securely once on school premises, preferably in the bike shed.

## CAR PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY

This week we have been working closely with Halton Borough Council Road Safety Team, as well as the Police, to ensure Latham Avenue and the surrounding roads are kept clear at our peak drop off and pick up times. Please can we remind all parents/carers to continue not to park on the double yellow lines or obstruct the flow of traffic in order to keep all of our school community safe. There are plenty of parking spaces at the top of the car park to drop students off and walk down to the school building with them if need be.



**Don't create a problem... Be part of the solution!**

The school run can sometimes be a stressful and chaotic journey.

**Show you care Park elsewhere**

What you can do to help keep everyone safe around the school gates

**Road Safety Team**  
 Halton Borough Council  
 Municipal Building  
 Kingsway  
 Widnes WA9 7QP  
 ☎ 0303 333 4300  
 ✉ michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk  
 www.halton.gov.uk

**How can you do your bit to make it safer outside school?**

**You can help by...**

- ✓ Keeping your speed low
- ✓ always letting your child out of your vehicle on to the pavement – never on to the road
- ✓ checking for pedestrians and cyclists before you or your child opens the door
- ✓ always stopping for the school crossing patrol
- ✓ setting a good example to your child parking further away from the school to reduce the congestion

**Please don't...**

- ✗ block the road – emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- ✗ park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- ✗ park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or resident's driveways
- ✗ park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- ✗ park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- ✗ leave your vehicle with the engine still running stop in the middle of the road to drop your children off, even for a few seconds

**Have you thought about...**

- 🚶 the health benefits of walking or cycling one (or more) days a week?
- 🚌 setting up a walking bus with other parents and the school?
- 🚗 car sharing?
- 🚶 using public transport?
- 🚶 parking nearby then walking the rest of the way?

These changes make a real difference to the congestion around schools, making the school run less stressful and far safer for everyone. Not only that but they will help your child's education. Research has shown that children who walk or cycle to school are more receptive to learning at the start of the school day than those who travel to school by car.

All the above can result in a penalty charge notice being issued.

# SAFEGUARDING, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

## SAFEGUARDING IN THE CURRICULUM

As part of the curriculum, students will be learning about safeguarding and keeping themselves safe inside and outside of school.

Our whole school RSHE Parent Guide is now available to read here: <https://bit.ly/3o5Su9H>. The guide includes information on how we deliver the RSHE curriculum, guidance on sexual violence and sexual harassment and useful links and support for parents/carers.

## ONLINE SAFETY



Last year, **Internet Matters** worked with TikTok to create the family pairing feature. This setup allowed family members to link their personal TikTok accounts with their children's profiles to manage some key privacy settings and parental controls. Family pairing allows children and young people to experience the app, whilst also providing certain restrictions towards how they search for content and how they interact with others.

**Internet Matters** have worked with TikTok, as well as young people, to include new educational resources for parents in the app. It was found that although children and young people were using apps with parental controls setup, there was very little awareness from parents around how they should appropriately involve themselves in their digital lives.

This new guidance gives information on how teenagers use TikTok as well as suggestions for how parents should support and involve themselves in their social media lives.

## RSHE GUIDE FOR PARENTS/ CARERS

Including guidance on Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment

2021 - 22



WELLBEING AT THE GRANGE ACADEMY

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### Digital Parenting Advice

If a parent has setup the Family Pairing feature, they will now receive supporting resources around digital parenting. These are presented as tips which parents are notified about when using the app. They include a list of suggestions that open up conversations around safer internet use whilst highlighting important factors such as trust and respect towards their children's privacy.

They also present how young people want to fully understand the rules around their social media use as well as feel they can approach a parent if something goes wrong. As part of this, it highlights the importance of parents not panicking when issues arise and always being available to talk.

As parents become more informed around what their children want from them, it can open up valuable discussions around how family members can support and respect each other around social media use.

## OPTIMISTIC OCTOBER

**Optimistic October 2021**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	2 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	3 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	4 Look for the good in people around you today	5 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	6 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	7 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you
8 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	9 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	10 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	11 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation	12 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	13 Share an important goal with someone you trust	14 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished this week
15 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the week ahead	16 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	17 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	18 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you	19 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	20 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	21 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society
22 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities this week?	23 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	24 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	25 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?	26 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	27 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	28 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently
ACTION FOR HAPPINESS Happier · Kinder · Together						