

End of Summer 1 half term Newsletter 2026

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, we would like to thank all pupils, staff and families for their continued hard work and support. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils challenging themselves, developing new skills and enjoying a wide range of exciting learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Please check out our Instagram account @lseatbramleygrange for regular updates of the pupils doing some amazing learning and activities.

Class updates

Year 7



This term, our Year 7 students have continued to make excellent progress across the curriculum. In History, students explored the world of the Romans before beginning their journey into the fascinating era of Ancient Greece. In Maths, students developed their understanding of angles and have now moved on to calculating space. English lessons focused on the remarkable life and work of Sir David Attenborough, inspiring students to think carefully about conservation and protecting the natural world.

In PE, students embraced athletics enthusiastically, taking part in javelin, shot put, long jump and sprinting activities — with only a few discovering muscles they didn't know existed! Geography lessons saw students designing and creating their own weather measuring devices, combining creativity with scientific thinking. Meanwhile, in Citizenship, students developed ideas to positively contribute to school life. Suggestions included introducing mountain biking into the Alternative Provision curriculum and launching a lunchtime dodgeball club, although staff are still undecided about volunteering as targets! Overall, it has been a fantastic term — well done Year 7.



Year 8

Year 8 have had another successful half term and were pleased to welcome Ms Spear as an additional class teacher, who has quickly become a valued member of the team. In Mathematics, pupils have been learning about perimeter and area through practical outdoor activities where they measured real objects to apply their learning in real-life situations.

The class also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Brooklands Museum. Pupils took part in a workshop where they designed and built propeller cars before racing them. They also had the opportunity to sit inside aircraft and experience an interactive Formula 1 racing simulator, which was greatly enjoyed by all.



Year 9

Year 9 had a superb time during their Duke of Edinburgh experience. Those who camped overnight may have been cold, but they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and showed excellent resilience throughout. Although there were some very tired faces the following day, the group impressively finished their route one hour ahead of schedule. A particular highlight this term



was Perry catching an incredible 23lb 15oz carp — a fantastic achievement.



Year 10

Year 10 Rowan class have made a fantastic effort completing the practice walks for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They successfully completed both a 9km walk and a 12km walk with excellent humour and teamwork, constantly encouraging one another throughout the hikes. In PSHE lessons, pupils have been developing their map-reading and compass skills to support their navigation work. These expeditions have also inspired their English lessons, where pupils have been writing letters and articles in preparation for their Pearson Entry Level Writing exams later this term.



Without a doubt, the highlight of the half term for Year 10 Maple has been the Duke of Edinburgh award walk and camp over. Watching pupils step outside of their comfort zones and challenge their perceptions of what they could achieve was inspiring for both staff and students alike. Academically, many pupils have shown improvements in attitude and engagement across a range of subjects, with teachers reporting encouraging progress in learning. We look forward to a positive and productive final half term with 10 Maple.



Year 11

Year 11 students have demonstrated excellent focus and determination throughout this term as they have completed a range of practice and formal examinations. They have approached this period with maturity and resilience, working hard to apply their knowledge under exam conditions and develop their confidence. Alongside their written exams, students have also shown great dedication during their Food Technology practical assessments, producing some fantastic work and demonstrating valuable practical skills. It has been particularly pleasing to see students engaging positively with feedback, striving to improve, and supporting one another through what can be a challenging time. Their commitment and effort have not gone unnoticed, and staff are very proud of the progress being made across the year group.

These assessments have provided valuable opportunities to practise exam technique and build confidence. After half term, students will continue their GCSE examinations, and we wish them every success as they approach this important milestone.

Keep going, Year 11 – you are nearly there!

Fishing

With the improved weather, fishing has continued to improve. We have seen an increase in the number of bream being caught and were lucky enough to land one or two of the lake's carp. It has been especially pleasing to see pupils becoming more independent in their fishing and showing less reliance on adult support. Socially, several pupils have begun helping those with less experience, developing both communication and teamwork skills alongside their angling abilities.

PE

This half term, PE lessons have focused on athletics events. Pupils have experienced javelin, shot put, long jump and triple jump activities. Younger pupils enjoyed trying these events for the first time, while older pupils extended their understanding by practising more advanced techniques and increasing their throwing and jumping distances. Several pupils have shown great potential and we look forward to seeing their continued progress.

Supporting Your Child's Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

As we return from half term, our focus across Bramley Grange Academy is on continuing to support every child's Social, Emotional and Mental Health development. This is a key part of helping pupils feel safe, confident and ready to learn.

Each pupil will be set two personalised SEMH targets by their class lead. These targets are carefully chosen to support individual needs and development and may focus on areas such as managing emotions, building positive relationships, developing resilience and confidence, or improving communication and self-regulation. Alongside each target, strategies will be put in place to help pupils succeed, including visual reminders, check-in times, calm spaces and structured staff support.

Progress towards these targets will be closely monitored and reviewed at October half term. This allows us to celebrate successes, reflect on progress and set new goals where appropriate.

We are also excited to celebrate pupils' efforts and achievements through weekly SEMH Target Awards and end-of-term recognition awards. SEMH achievement will also contribute towards eligibility for our half-termly rewards trips, ensuring that personal development is valued alongside academic success.

Strong SEMH skills are essential for pupils' overall development. They help children feel secure and supported in school, build positive relationships with peers and adults, manage emotions and challenges effectively, improve focus and engagement in learning, and develop confidence and independence. By focusing on SEMH, we are helping children develop lifelong skills that will support them both in school and beyond.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following students who achieved 100% attendance this half term: Josh G., Jenson, Harry W., Miguel, Aymen, Frankie, Arthur, Alfie and Ben. Excellent attendance supports learning, confidence and positive routines — well done to all of you.

With end-of-year exams approaching and students preparing for transitions into new year groups or leaving school, some pupils may experience increased anxiety. Simple strategies can help during the school day, including using positive self-talk such as “I can manage this” and “It’s okay to make mistakes.” Pupils are also encouraged to talk to someone they trust, whether that is a friend, teacher or support staff member. Staying hydrated and eating regularly can also help, as low energy levels can make anxiety feel worse.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Success

This half term, pupils undertook an incredible challenge as part of their Duke of Edinburgh expedition — and what a success it was. We successfully took 19 pupils on a walking expedition from Ewhurst to Bramley Grange Academy, where they camped overnight on the school field. Despite temperatures dropping to 4°C and periods of rain, the group showed fantastic determination and positivity throughout.



Pupils cooked their own meals, worked collaboratively and kept themselves

entertained during the evening, demonstrating



maturity and independence. The following morning, everyone was up bright and early by 7am, preparing breakfast, packing away tents and getting ready for the final stage of the expedition.

All groups successfully navigated their routes, with one Year 9 team reaching Chilworth Station and two groups reaching Blackheath Car Park. This was a huge achievement for everyone involved. Pupils demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork and confidence, and we are extremely proud of them. A special thank you goes to our dedicated staff, whose planning, encouragement and support made the experience possible.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning sessions have continued to thrive this half term. Pupils have made excellent use of our woodland space, taking part in a variety of practical and engaging activities including fire lighting and fire management, reinforcing trench walls, preparing firewood, developing safe tool-use skills and participating in group games and team-building activities.

With the arrival of warmer weather, it has been fantastic to spend more time outdoors. The improved conditions have also supported our campfire cooking sessions, allowing pupils to experiment with new foods and techniques. Although the warmer season has brought a few extra bugs into the woods, it certainly hasn't reduced the enthusiasm of pupils or staff.

Alternative Provision (AP)

This half term has brought a mixture of challenges and successes within Alternative Provision, but there is still plenty to celebrate. Pupils have worked on a range of practical projects including building fencing for the new Woodhenge area, creating bird boxes, producing props for prom games and developing woodworking skills. Alongside these projects, staff have continued supporting pupils through discussion and reflection. Regular conversations have encouraged pupils to reflect on their week, recognise challenges and identify positive ways to move forward.

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful half term

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and the progress they have made this term. Sadly we are saying goodbye to 2 fantastic learning mentors. We would like to wish Fleur and Josh good luck in their next adventures at university. Finally, thank you to families and carers for your ongoing support throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable half term break. 🌞

Louise Needham

Dates for Your Diary

June 2026

- **11th June** – Last Day for Year 11
- **11th June** – Year 7 & 8 Summer Camp
- **18th June** – Year 8 Trip – Guildford Museum & Castle
- **19th June** – INSET Day

July 2026

- **1st July** – Imperial War Museum Trip – Year 7
- **2nd July** – Beach Trip – All Year Groups
- **6th July** – Parents Coffee Morning
- **10th July** – Academic Review Day Yr 7-10 Parents Invited In
- **13th July** – Staff vs Pupils Sports Match
- **15th July** – Festival of Sport
- **15th July** – Thorpe Park Rewards Trip
- **17th July** – Last Day of Term – 1pm Finish