

Grafham Grange soon to be Bramley Grange Academy – Summer 1 Newsletter 🌻

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Welcome back to the final half term of this academic year. It is hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by! We are pleased to see a continued improvement in school attendance, and it's been wonderful to see our pupils regularly engaging in their learning and school life.

🏠 A New Chapter Begins

We are excited to announce that we have now begun the process of transferring from OHCAT to **LSEAT (London Southeast Academies Trust)**. As part of this transition, our school will be adopting a new name: **Bramley Grange Academy**.

Following the half-term break, we will begin collaborating with pupils and staff on the new school uniform. We are proud to share that the new logo is as follows:



📚 Curriculum & Pupil Progress

Our teaching team have been working hard behind the scenes continuing to enhance and refine their curriculum plans. These efforts are paying off, with pupils continuing to make steady progress across subjects.

🎓 Exam Updates

Year 11 pupils are now on study leave. We're incredibly proud to report that they have already passed their Functional Skills exams in English and Maths. Some pupils have also completed their NCFE Food Technology qualification and some GCSEs. We only have a few exams to sit. Class leads have communicated the plans for the final days at Grafham and I want to take this opportunity to wish them well in their future destinations.

This June, we will be asking both Year 9 and Yr 10 to sit their first Functional Skills Entry Level and Level 1 exams in English and Maths. This is an opportunity for them to gain their first formal qualification and enable us to see what path they will follow next. If the pupils have any concerns about this, please talk to your class leads. Further information is to follow shortly regarding access arrangements and timings of these exams.

The School Behaviour Policy

Since the introduction of our new behaviour policy in February, we've seen a significant and positive shift in pupil conduct across the school. While adjusting to new routines, structures, and expectations hasn't been easy for everyone, our pupils are responding well to the fair and consistent approach taken by staff. This consistency is helping to create a calmer, safer, and more focused learning environment for all.

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We're also pleased to share that our Inclusion Support Team has grown this term. We warmly welcome Annabelle Rowsell as our new Inclusion Hub Manager and Charlie Boyce as a valued new team member. Both play a key role in supporting our pupils—helping them manage their emotions, take responsibility for their actions, and understand the expectations outlined in our behaviour policy.

Across the board, staff have worked incredibly hard to embed these changes, and their efforts are having a noticeable impact. Grafham Grange feels like a different place compared to just a few months ago. Pupils are more engaged in lessons, building positive relationships, and truly embracing their learning.

This progress is a testament to the resilience and growth of our pupils, and we hope this momentum carries us strongly through the final part of what has been a challenging year.

Trips & Summer Camp

Next half term is packed with exciting opportunities and events to enrich learning, including:

- **Class Trips to:**
 - Henley Fort
 - The D-Day Story Museum
 - Weald & Downland Living Museum
- **Summer Camp for Years 7–10** – a fantastic chance for pupils to build confidence, enjoy the outdoors, and make memories.

The staff teams are working hard to ensure that all pupils can successfully attend these trips in a safe manner, as such there will be clear guidance given to the pupils around behaviour and language. Should any pupil not follow this guidance they will be brought back to school. Please do ask any questions if you are worried or need to make us aware of anything.

Food Technology at KS4

Year 11

Year 11 pupils have been working exceptionally hard as they prepare for their final assessments. Their practical exams highlighted a fantastic range of international dishes, including:

- Authentic Italian pizza
- Traditional Spanish paella
- A British favourite – banoffee pie

Teachers were incredibly impressed by the standard of dishes produced—especially considering the limited two-hour period. The freshness, presentation, and complexity of the meals were a real testament to their skills.

Year 10

Year 10 have also been busy exploring:

- Seasonality and its impact on food availability and pricing – many were surprised at just how much more expensive ingredients become when out of season!
- Detailed dietary research, analysing how nutritional needs change across different age groups and life stages.
- Early research and planning for their final dishes next year

Their enthusiasm and attention to detail are already setting them up for success in Year 11.

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Both year groups have shown an excellent attitude to learning and a genuine interest in food and nutrition. We're excited to see what Year 10 go on to produce next year, and we wish Year 11 the very best as they complete the final steps of their course.

Food Technology at KS3

All 3 Year Groups are doing well to their Food Tech lessons, with high engagement in the lessons. The pupils have enjoyed cooking a several different dishes, including Nettle Soup in which they collected fresh nettles. They have also made different pasta dishes for taste testing and other favourites such as Festival Food, here they chose their own dish planned how to cook it and tested this the following week very successfully. Their washing up, drying up and clearing away skills are developing well too, with most starting to get the hang of things.

English at KS4

In Yr 10 English, the group have been working on presentational features in texts – both being able to identify and to use them. They have written their own original texts in specific genres, making what they write appropriate to task and audience. In addition to this, pupils have assessed their own work using Functional Skills exam mark schemes.

In Year 9 the boys have chosen to study Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' this term. They have considered the background and context of the story and have quickly come to appreciate that the use and meanings associated with language change over time. Pupils have found similarities and differences between the two main characters and have begun to assess how an author uses language to set the scene and to bias the reader for or against specific characters. There is also a focus on reading for pleasure and enjoyment.

Whereas the girls began the term by investigating presentational features of non-fiction texts, culminating in creating their own texts based on hair and beauty products. They then chose to study Walliams' 'Gangsta Granny' and have begun to explore how an author uses language to set the scene and to bias the reader for or against specific characters. Pupils are beginning to get to grips with different language techniques including similes, repetition, and alliteration. There is also a focus on reading for pleasure and enjoyment.

PE

This half term in Physical Education lessons we have been focusing on striking and fielding games. The young people have experienced batting and fielding skills in sports including, Rounders, Softball and Cricket. I have been Impressed with the ability of the young people to adapt and change body position to change the direction of the strike to avoid the fielders. In a similar vein, the fielding skills have quickly improved with the decision making of where to return the ball to becoming much quicker and putting the batsman under pressure.

Next half term we will be visiting Athletics looking at the competitive runs, throws and jumps but focusing more on the correct technique rather than distance or times achieved.

SEND

This term we have been delighted to welcome our new SENCO Cath Nicholls who comes with a wealth of experience.

Cath was pleased to host our first Coffee and Cake Morning at Grafham this term—it was a lovely opportunity to connect with parents and carers on site. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

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If you missed it, don't worry—our next session will be held online via Microsoft Teams on Monday 30th June at 1:00 PM. We hope to see many of you there for another chance to chat, share, and support one another. It's never too early to start exploring your post-16 options! Activate Learning is hosting open events at Guildford, Farnham, and Merrist Wood starting in October 2025 — make sure to add them to your diary today!

Now to the classes...



7 Holmwood have been putting lots of energy into getting the most out their activities this half term. With the marvellous weather, we have had walks to the lake and around the grounds looking for shapes (Art) as well as spending time identifying maths around us and in everyday life. Forest School remains a firm favourite with some of the pupils in 7H accessing alternative activities such as ROAR and fishing. Fishing has been a particular success for our

boys in 7H as they have become pros at catching bream in the lake! While there have not been any external trips this half-term, looking ahead we are exciting to be planning a trip to Wisley RHS Garden to support our learning about plants and not to forget the Overnight Camp-out in June! Enjoy the half-term everyone and see you after the break. Jack was also the first person in the school to receive the headteacher certificate for his hard work in his learning. Best wishes, Mrs Sayed and Mr Colbourne.

In **7 Wingate** we have been learning about digestion, teeth, and diets in science. We have described the functions of the four different types of adult human teeth using key vocabulary such as Molars, Incisors, Canines, and Pre-Molars.

Our learning included an experiment using brushing techniques, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We timed ourselves brushing the dirty teeth with different strengths. By working scientifically, we learnt that good dental care involves brushing our teeth twice a day with toothpaste and a medium toothbrush.

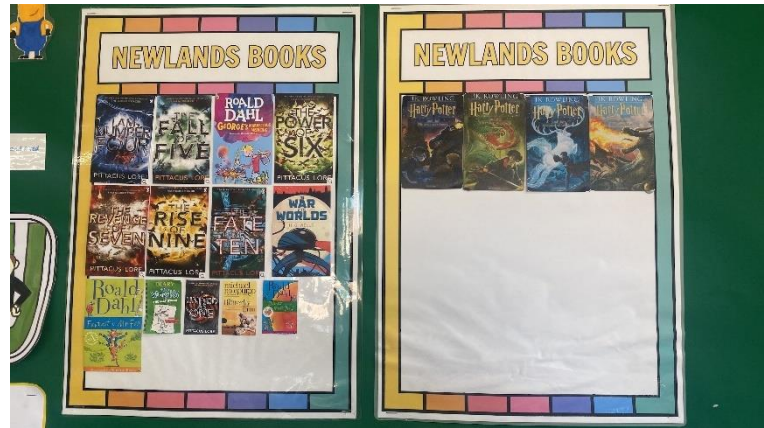


This term **8 Grayswood** have shown incredible resilience in all subjects, demonstrating great work. In humanities the pupils have been focusing on the amazon rainforest, where the pupils have gained great knowledge. They have been able to identify what animals live in the amazon rainforest and what they would need to survive. The pupils have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm when learning about the Amazon Rainforest, recognizing its importance to global biodiversity and climate. Many are eager to explore ways to protect it, demonstrating a strong sense of environmental responsibility and interest in conservation. They have also been the recipient of many awards certificates for both reading and resilience in learning, with Sonnie receiving the headteacher certificate.

The pupils have also been independently reading every morning, choosing books which follow their interests. Some big fishing fans in the class have read some fishing books getting tips and tricks to perfect their fishing skills!

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This term, **Y8 Newlands** have delved deeply into class reading, with a strong focus on the fantasy genre through the exciting world of Harry Potter. We've explored key themes, characters, and magical elements that make fantasy so engaging. Alongside our reading, we've also put our thinking skills to the test by solving a variety of cases, encouraging teamwork, discussion, and critical thinking. It's been a fun and imaginative term full of reading adventures and creative exploration!



This term, our **Year 9 Box** class has explored important topics in both PSHE and Science. In PSHE, we learned about CPR, cardiac arrests, and how to use a defibrillator. We also had the valuable opportunity to practise these life-saving skills using CPR mannequins and a training defibrillator (AED). In Science, we focused on the human digestive system, learning about how the body processes food and absorbs nutrients. It's been a hands-on and informative term with practical skills and key biological knowledge.

This half of term **Yr 10 Pitch** have been working hard developing their Maths and English skills. Cezar and Gracie have also been doing some great participation in History, where we have been learning about the Elizabethan period and how the queen recruited Privateers (government-paid pirates) to attack and rob trade ships from other countries (such as Spain). In Forest School, the pupils have been learning Fire Cooking skills, Sheath Knife Safety and how to safely put up a hammock! The pupils have really enjoyed making S'Mores and other simple campfire foods these past few weeks!



Year 10 Hascombe have been very busy these last 5 weeks. In Maths this half term we have been working on conversions, using scales, and working with bearings. We are currently recapping multiplication, division, rounding and estimation. Next term we will be preparing pupils for various Entry Level and Level 1 functional skills examinations.

In English, the group have been working on presentational features in texts – both being able to identify and to use them. They have written their own original texts in specific genres, making what they write appropriate to task and audience. In addition to this, pupils have assessed their own work using Functional Skills exam mark schemes.

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In History they have started to look at the Elizabeth era and how they lived in different times, exploring privateers and the role of Sir Francis Drake in Elizabeth I's council. They also studied Elizabeth's rocky rise to power including the tumultuous reign of her half-sister Mary I and the many wives of Henry VIII.

In our BTEC lessons they have continued to work on their individualised work looking at how children develop under the ages of 5, business they have been exploring how businesses work. Sport have been looking some coaching younger pupils with their football and other sports.

This half-term, the focus for **Year 11 Leith** has been firmly on exam preparation and success. Our Year 11 pupils have worked diligently to prepare for their Functional Skills exams in both Maths and English. In addition, some pupils also sat GCSEs and NCFE Food Technology assessments. Once results are received, any identified gaps in learning are addressed through targeted one-to-one or small group interventions, ensuring every pupil receives the support they need.

Despite the demands of exam season, pupils have continued to enjoy a rich variety of extracurricular activities, including arts and crafts, gardening, Muay Thai, and Forest School. These experiences provide a valuable outlet and contribute to their overall well-being. As the end of their time at Grafham approaches, it has also been a meaningful time for reflection—an opportunity to look back, celebrate achievements, and share fond memories of their journey so far.

And finally, Year 11 Pewley...

As exam season hits full swing, most pupils are buried in books, pens in hand and summer fruits juice close by. But for Pewley, success isn't about acing tests—it's about staying balanced. After a whirlwind of revision sessions and tough exam papers, they have found the perfect way to blow off steam: through their extracurricular football sessions and enjoying time in the sunshine!

Trading textbooks for turf, they have joined teammates on the pitch—a regular part of their routine that helps keep stress in check and energy levels up. Football offers a refreshing break from academics and a chance to reset before heading back to the books.

It's a great reminder that mental health matters and staying active through extracurriculars can make a big difference. Best of luck to all the Year 11 pupils as they continue through exam season—we are cheering you on!

As you can see, we have been extremely busy developing our school to ensure all pupils are able to develop their passions, regulate their emotions and gain qualifications.

Stay Informed

Next term is going to be a very busy final term of the year, so please be sure to check below for dates for trips, events, and key dates.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Let us make this final half term a positive and productive one!

Louise Needham

Principal, Bramley Grange Academy.

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Dates for the Diary

June 2025

5th June - Summer Camp Yr 7
18th June - Yr 8 Grayswood – D-day Museum trip
19th June - Yr 7 Holmwood – Wisley Trip
20th June - INSET day
26th June - Summer Camp Yr 8
26th June – ALL Yr 10 - Weald and Downland Trip

July 2025

1st July – Year 6 Transition Afternoon 1
3rd July – Year 6 Transition Afternoon 2
3rd July – Summer Camp Yr 9
4th July – PSHE morning “Charlies Wish” – all pupils
9th July – Year 6 Transition Afternoon 3
10th July - Yr 7 Wingate– Henley Fort trip
11th July - Year 6 Transition Afternoon 4
11th July - Summer Camp yr 10
17th July – Sports Day
18th July – Academic Review Day – all parents invited.
21st July – Reserve sports day
22nd July – Pupils break for summer at 1pm

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025 - 2026

September 2025

Monday 1st September
Tuesday 2nd September
Wednesday 3rd September
Thursday 4th September

INSET DAY
INSET DAY
INSET DAY

Students Return to school.

October 2025

Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Half term holiday

November 2025

Monday 3rd November

All students return to school.

December 2025

Friday 19th December

Students break for Christmas.

January 2026

Monday 5th January

Students return to school.

February 2026

Monday 16th – 20th February

Half term holiday

Monday 23rd February

INSET DAY - LSEAT TRUST

Tuesday 24th February

Students return to school.

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March 2026

Monday 30th March – 10th April

Break for Easter holidays

April 2026

Monday 13th April

Return to school

May 2026

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Half term holiday

June 2026

Monday 1st June

Students return to school.

July 2026

Friday 17th July

Break up for summer holiday.

**** ADDITIONAL INSET DAYS TO BE ADDED ****