

Newsletter

Monday 26th September

Great Start to the Year

I would like to thank you all for helping making the start of the year run so smoothly. It already feels like we are well into our routine and the students are starting to make some good progress. I would like to update you on a few issues, to make sure you know what we are doing at school so you can support your child at home.

Grafham Grange Values

We have 6 Grafham Grange Values

- **Achievement**
- **Respect**
- **Community**
- **Honesty**
- **Exploration**
- **Self-Belief**

Each term one of these values plays centre stage and is our focus for Personal Development lessons and assemblies.

This term our focus value is:

ACHIEVEMENT

It would be great if you could talk to your child about what achievement looks like and how they would like to achieve in future.

Noise Academy

Every week we are extremely lucky to receive visits from Sam, our Noise Academy teacher. He is working with a number of our students, teaching them DJing skills. They are practising on industry standard decks and are working towards nationally recognised qualifications in Music Technology.

If your child would like to be involved in Noise Academy, but they haven't had the chance yet, please let their tutor know and we can see what we can do!

Anti Bullying and Anti Racism Workshops

On Friday 23rd September we were visited by Steve Macaulay. Steve is extremely experienced and has worked with many schools to help them teach students about bullying and racism.

Steve worked with Year 9 students and shared his experiences with them. His workshops were brilliant and kept all of the students spellbound, they were all engaged and focussed for over an hour!

Steve's work helped students begin to understand that we all have our challenges and issues and being unkind to others isn't the right way to respond. He also showed that racism is unacceptable and not something that can ever be tolerated.

I am very pleased to say that Steve's visit was not a one off and he will be back soon to share his exciting workshops with other year groups, we are really looking forward to having him back

Classcharts

We log all of our rewards and concerns on Classcharts. Every family member can access Classcharts, and when you do you can see just how your child is getting on at school.

We are sending out details of how to log into class charts soon. If you are having difficulty connecting please contact the school office and we will help as much as we can.

It is a really easy tool to use and I am sure will make it easier for you to understand how your child is doing at school

Rewards and Celebration

Each Friday we hold a Celebration Assembly to celebrate all the students who have done well during the week. Each week students will receive certificates

celebrating great work in lessons and there are awards for those who have earned the most Class Charts points.

Parent Forum

In my last Newsletter I discussed a Parent Forum. Unfortunately, this initiative was delayed following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

I would now like to hold the Parent Forum on **Tuesday 11th October at 5pm**

The Zoom Link for the meeting is below:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82124573175?pwd=NGN5UmoyZ1A3b0lLbWl0YmFjOFpFZz09>

During the meeting we will discuss our recent Ofsted report and what we are doing to respond to it.

If you would like me to discuss any other issues during this meeting please let me know.

You Tube Newsletter

I also had to cancel my first You Tube Newsletter following the Queen's death. The first video will be available from 17:00 on Monday 25th September at the following link

<https://youtu.be/fORnw0biyRY>

I am really interested to hear any feedback about the videos, it would be great to know if they are helpful!

Parent Support Group

We also have our first Parent Support Group on Tuesday 27th September at 4.30pm to 5.30pm, if you haven't yet received the Zoom link please contact the school office and they will send you the information you need.

The purpose of the group is:

- to help you empower each other through education and support

- to open up about their worries and concerns and explore possible ways forward
- to provide a helpful space for you to identify and share their concerns around their children's wellbeing and to meet others sharing similar experiences.

The first meeting will be the **27th of September** and the theme will be: **Anxiety**.

A flier with all of the details for this group is attached and I encourage all of you to attend, it is a great initiative and I am sure will provide you with great support.

Employment Opportunities

At the moment we are recruiting for PALS. We particularly need people who can at as:

- One to one support
- Class room support
- As a member of our Team for Inclusion and Engagement (TIE)

No experience is required as all training is provided. There are good career pathways with opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in teaching, psychology, counselling and more.

Grafham is a challenging, but rewarding place to work and I would love to bring more excellent staff in to join our brilliant team.

If you are interested, please contact me for a chat, if you know somebody else who is interested please let me know – there is a finder's fee reward!

The application form can be found at:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/1-1-pastoral-and-learning-support-assistant-guildford-1695885>

And Finally...

Once again I would like to thank you for all you do for your children. It is vitally important we work together in partnership, if you have any concerns, suggestions, ideas, please let us know. We are here to provide your child with

the very best opportunity and will leave no stone unturned in our quest to ensure they have a brilliant education.

Robin Bertrand

And Finally...

As you can see we are already very