



GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER


Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You



Issue 1

Autumn Term

2021



Headteacher's Welcome

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Dear Students / Staff / Parents / Carers & Families

Welcome to the first edition of our new termly newsletter. I have now been in post for two terms and I would like to share with you all the fantastic news and events that have been taking place since April 2021. I have enjoyed spending time getting to know the wonderful students, staff, parents and families of Grateley House and I must say, it now feels like I've been here forever! I am so proud to be the Headteacher of such a lovely school.



Over the past two years, the education of children across the world has been disrupted but I am pleased to say the school is now settling into a new chapter. In this newsletter edition we celebrate a new curriculum, personal development activities, success stories, school improvements and much more. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as we did writing it!

In August, our key stage 4 and 5 students received their examination results, a combination of GCSE, BTEC and Functional Skills outcomes. We are so incredibly proud of their achievements and summer 2021 has been another very successful year for our students. A big well done to all of those students.



We have spent a lot of time focusing on transforming our curriculum, and I am pleased to welcome PSHCE as a stand alone subject again. We have also welcomed back the weekly themed assemblies and a celebration assembly on a Friday. Friday afternoons offer students the opportunity to experience a range of extra-curricular activities aimed at providing students time to try new experiences, and develop special interests and talents.

We would like to thank all of our extraordinary students for making this term such a success and for working hard to support each other.

We would also like to thank our parents and carers who have shown an overwhelming support for the school developments since the start of term.

Stay safe and enjoy your Christmas!

Dan Tresman
Headteacher



School Vision & Values

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term, we launched the Grateley House School Vision & Values to all students.

The Vision

To provide exceptional education and care to all students, providing them with a school experience that prepares them for adulthood and fosters a lifelong love of learning enabling them to participate meaningfully in society.

The Values

Be Kind

We respect each other

We are polite to each other

We keep each other safe

Be Brave

We are resilient

We try new experiences

We overcome barriers

Be You

We are proud of ourselves

We make good choices, everyday

We celebrate our differences

If you see any of these values at home, then please feel free to contact the school and let your child's tutor know. We would love these values to be shared across home and school.



Year 9 student trying new skills out in Art
(October 2021)



Year 12 student painting staff nails in Hair & Beauty
(October 2021)

Celebration Day July 2021

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Celebration Day 23rd July 2021

Celebration Day is one of the favourite dates on the school calendar. It is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the past academic year, recognising the individual successes of our students, each of their journey's at GHS being unique and personal to them. All staff feel privileged to be able to be part of these journey's and all feel an overwhelming sense of pride when achievements are made.

On Friday 23rd July it was a lovely warm sunny day. The scene was set; seats adorned the front lawn and the trophies and awards were on full display, glistening in the sunshine, waiting to be presented to well deserving students.



As students and staff took their seats, everyone sat quietly and respectfully whilst the Head Teacher addressed the audience. There was a sense of enthused anticipation as the Award Ceremony commenced.

For the students and staff, having faced and overcome an academic year that presented some unplanned and unexpected challenges, it was even more special to be able to celebrate the notable academic, and personal achievements made by our young people, each of them a star in their own right.

We also celebrated the amazing achievements of the students who were leaving us, set to embark on the next part of their personal journey. We will hold many fond memories of their time with us and sincerely wish them all the very best in their new adventures.

It was the perfect end to the school year. One of the many reasons we work at Grateley, is because we are fortunate to work alongside a diverse mix of unique and inspirational young people who all deserve to be able to achieve their full potential.



School Curriculum Transformed

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Since April 2021, school leaders and subject teachers have been busy re-designing and re-writing the school curriculum. This has improved the quality of teaching and learning at the school. It has led to a complete transformation of the school curriculum. Please read below the rationale for our new school curriculum.

Grateley House School delivers an ambitious curriculum that supports students with high functioning autism and complex needs to flourish in an education setting. As a school community, across education, care, parents and families, we aim to work together to provide holistic support that allows students to successfully navigate through their unique educational journey.

The curriculum at Grateley House School has a clear rationale that is shaped by common values that all students have the right to experience an education in a safe, nurturing and positive environment. The culture of learning is built around students' special educational needs, their social and emotional progress and considers their Education, Health and Care plans alongside their academic progress, seeing the two aspects as important as each other. At Grateley House School, we believe passionately that with the right support, high expectations and a nurturing environment that builds confidence and resilience, our students will succeed in education.


Our curriculum is designed in line with the National Curriculum (2014) and we use this as a framework to deliver interesting and exciting lessons. The National Curriculum is adapted, differentiated and extended to meet the special educational needs of our students and aims to foster an appreciation for human creativity and achievement. By carefully planning high quality lessons, we aim to impart the knowledge students need to become educated citizens and make progress from their individual starting points. Teachers are encouraged to plan stimulating lessons that instil a love of learning for all our students.

The curriculum is further designed to embed knowledge through delivering learning in a logical sequence allowing students to make connections and build on prior knowledge, embedding learning in their long-term memories. Curriculum content is often revisited and teachers continuously check understanding and clarify misconceptions.

Grateley House School is fully inclusive, allowing students to access a broad and balanced range of subjects, enriched by learning activities that nurture personal development and student's character. Students have opportunities to develop their special interests and talents through a personal development curriculum, which provides experiences that stretch beyond the classroom walls and actively promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

All students get to experience extra-curricular activities through a weekly personal development afternoon aimed at providing students with the opportunities to experience new activities that enhance their special interests and talents. The curriculum extends beyond the school day and into evening for our residential students where they enjoy learning opportunities that foster social interaction and team building. Every moment in the day is considered a learning opportunity for our students. Life in their homes provides students with the chance to develop social skills, undertake independent living skills that prepare them well for adulthood.

Our aim is to provide students at Grateley House school with the experiences and skills in which they can become lifelong learners, are well prepared for their next stage of education or employment and are able to play an active role in society.



A Student's note

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

I've been at Grateley house school since 2018. At age 14 I thought the world was against me and hated the prospect of being sent to yet another school. Despite how many times I pushed everyone away the staff have always gone above and beyond. They truly care about every individual and want to help us reach our full potential. No matter how many mistakes, situations we get ourselves in they're always here to pick up the pieces and help us piece together our own pathways. If it wasn't for Grateley House School I wouldn't be where I am now. Being at Grateley has helped me reach my potential in ways that I didn't think possible.

Hannah Wilson, Post-16 Student



Careers this Term

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Here at Grateley House, we are beginning to pull together an exciting careers programme. Some of the year 11 students have had interviews with Hampshire County Council's Career Service to discuss options for their next steps. This includes talking about vocational learning as well as more academic based pathways such as A-Levels. This provided the students with an opportunity to ask questions and gather information to help them make informed choices about their futures.

Students are able to consider their aspirational careers and discuss how best they can achieve their aims. These career meetings will continue throughout the year with all KS4/5 being given the option to attend them.

As well as 1:1 sessions with the careers advisor, students have had a group talk with the Schools Liaison and Outreach Co-ordinator from the Sparsholt College Group. This incorporates Andover College, University Centre Sparsholt & Sparsholt College Services, all with whom we have established strong links with. The talk covered the types of courses and careers they can lead to. The students engaged positively and asked sensible and mature questions.

The whole school curriculum encompasses careers with school displays and lessons directly linking to potential jobs and careers for life beyond Grateley.

A Focus on English

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Hello, my name is Lucy, and I'm the Specialist English Teaching Assistant and I support Mr Faye. My role gives me the exciting and privileged opportunity to work with a diverse range of pupils each have a unique personality with their own preferred interests. A crucial part of my role is being able to build strong working relationships with them all, supporting them to build their confidence and develop their attitude towards learning. As a specialist in the subject, I am able to offer a constructively critical eye when reviewing the students work; providing in-depth, objective support to the teacher, helping students get the very best learning opportunities from their English lessons.

Year 8 – The year 8's are currently reading and learning about David Walliams' *Billionaire Boy*, completing exciting and enriching tasks such as creating their own grotesque menus inspired by the fictional dinner lady, Mrs Trafe. Students are encouraged to take part in reading and writing activities with bespoke support provided by myself and the teacher, ensuring that they are all provided with an equal opportunity to reach their personal best.

Year 9 - So far this academic year we have studied a range of challenging topics, including the study of Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*, as well as exploring the harsh realities of homelessness and poverty. Over the course of the term, student have had to address the moral, social and cultural differences over these different genres and eras, encouraging them to be critical thinkers and able to see life through various perspectives. This half term, students have extended their ability to think 'outside the box', from studying Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. In this unit of study, students have honed their letter writing skills from prior learning in Autumn Term 1, where they wrote first person perspective letters from a WW1 trench.

Year 10 – Students have been learning about non-fiction and fictional writing, completing a series of tasks, especially designed to help them learn key writing and language techniques in preparation for exams. Over the course of the year students will have exposure to a range of source material, and be given the exciting opportunity to evaluate, compare and contrast writer's viewpoints and perspectives in an analytical way.

Year 11 – Students in year 11 are working towards their end of year examinations, whilst recalling prior learning throughout KS4. In doing this, they will have prepared for, practiced and had exposure to exam material, and conditions through the use of mock examinations taking place early in the year. (Feb 21). Students will cover all sections of the language paper, where they will have access to exam resources, past papers, sample answers and be encouraged to self-mark and evaluate to give them a real sense of what the examiner is looking for.

Anti-Bullying Week

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

As ever, Anti-Bullying Week (15th-19th November) formed an important part of the Autumn Term. Grateley House operates a zero tolerance policy when it comes to bullying all year round, however Anti-Bullying Week is an opportunity to celebrate differences and educate on the importance of eradicating bullying all together.



Engaged with nationally, Anti-Bullying Week is led by the Anti-Bullying Alliance; a coalition of organisations and individuals that are united against bullying.

Having recently introduced 'Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You' to the students, this year's Anti-Bullying Week theme of 'One Kind Word' tied in perfectly. In the week leading up to Anti-Bullying Week, CareTech ran a competition open to staff and students to submit an example of a time they were shown kindness. Excitingly, our very own Nickie Bessant (TA) was chosen as a winner!



The week began with 'Odd Sock Day' where staff and students wore odd socks. In addition to this, students were given a pair of socks and some fabric pens during morning mindfulness, and encouraged to decorate their own sock. This was a huge success, meaning a plethora of bright, colourful and happy socks were able to be displayed in the Assembly Hall on the Weekly Themes board. These socks now hold a permanent display of their own in the main building.

An assembly mid week led by Naomi Whimpenny gave information and examples to emphasise the overall message of the week. It was also lovely to hear examples of kindness that the students had shown through the week. It was really special to hear students thanking their peers in a public forum for showing kindness to them and being able to give specific examples of when this had happened.

Charity Days

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Jeans for Genes kicked off the fundraising with an interesting assembly and activities. Everyone wore Jeans for a donation towards the charity that raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic disorder and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected. **£140** was raised.

We then raised money for the national Macmillan Coffee Morning. This is a huge countrywide event to raise money to support people living with cancer. People all over the UK host their own Coffee Morning and donations raised on the day are made to Macmillan. Students worked hard to plan, advertise and prepare culinary delights for an impressive bake sale. The cakes were well received by all and a total of **£151.73** was raised.



In October, everyone worked to acknowledge and raise awareness for Breast Cancer Care by Wearing Pink! Another glorious pink themed bake sale took place and staff and students wore pink clothing and accessories. A total of **£50.05** was raised.

November saw us raise money for Children in Need. A non-uniform day and a staff vs students football game helped raise awareness amongst us all. The camaraderie throughout the football match was inspiring and amusing all at the same time! **£19.75** was raised.



Overall this term staff and students at Grateley House have raised a whopping **£361.53!**

Residential Activities

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

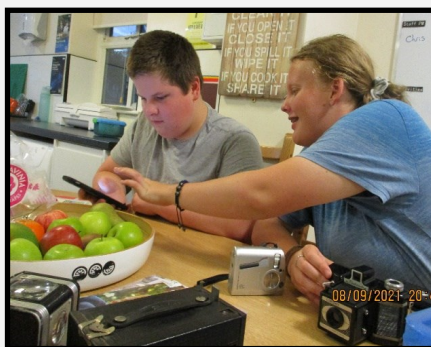
Summer & Autumn Terms 2021

Students continue to access the school rabbit and enjoy the therapeutic benefits of caring for her. Part of looking after H includes cleaning out her hutch on a weekly basis and providing her with food and water. Students regularly access the local pet shop to buy essential items and treats for her.

Along with learning how to look after animals', students have been practising the skills needed for them to live independently. Whether that is being able to catch the train, budget their money or access the community, the students at Grateley are constantly learning new skills for their future.



Staff have brought in their own skills and passions to share with the students and a number of clubs have been run to give the young people opportunities to develop their own interests. Photography has been particularly popular this year, with a number of our students enjoying taking photos and learning about digital editing.



Come Dine With Me

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term four students have taken part in a Come Dine With Me project after school. The project involved students working in pairs to plan, prepare and host dinner for another pair and two members of staff. The aim of the group was to support the students to develop their independence and social skills, as well as having some fun!

The first night was hosted by Zara and Bex from the school's therapy team and to model to the students what would be expected of them as hosts and guests. All four students who were invited to take part accepted the invitation and were up for the challenge, hoping to be crowned champions and take home the £10 prize money!

Our first pair of hosts planned their menu and went shopping with Bex for the supplies, then treated their guests to taco wraps (both veggie and meat versions), crisps and dips and carrot cake. At the next event the second pair prepared a feast of spaghetti bolognese, garlic bread and chocolate brownie. At the end of each meal the guests scored the evening based on the overall experience, while the hosts tackled the washing up mountains!

The competition ended with a celebratory evening, with Zara, Bex and the students combining efforts to cook the final meal. Our VIP guest, Eva, attended to award the coveted prize money and bring the competition to a close.

Throughout the term, the students have demonstrated resilience and overcome unexpected challenges. Zara and Bex enjoyed working with the students, and hope to run the project again later in the academic year.



Celebration Assemblies

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Each week, an assembly is held to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students, who work hard throughout the week and achieve points during their lessons for their learning and attitudes. These points add up and students work towards achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates based on their percentages of points. Students also receive certificates for their resilience, creative practice, literacy, numeracy and sporting achievements. Each week there is a pupil of the week as well as a tutor group of the week. The tutor group of the week gain their recognition based on their contributions to Weekly Challenges that typically form part of the display for the weekly themes. These themes are based on Personal Development and range from Online Safety, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Bullying to Sustainability, LGBTQ+ and Faiths and Beliefs.

The points and certificate systems have been really well received by students and Dan Tresman has promised that for every Gold certificate achieved, he will do 10 press ups! Some weeks this has been up to seven Gold certificates so Dan gets his daily exercise in, whilst the students cheerfully count through. George Fox has also occasionally joined in and more recently, some students have been! It is a positive and fun end to the week and all students enjoy these special and exciting assemblies to celebrate their successes and achievements.



Staff v. Students Football

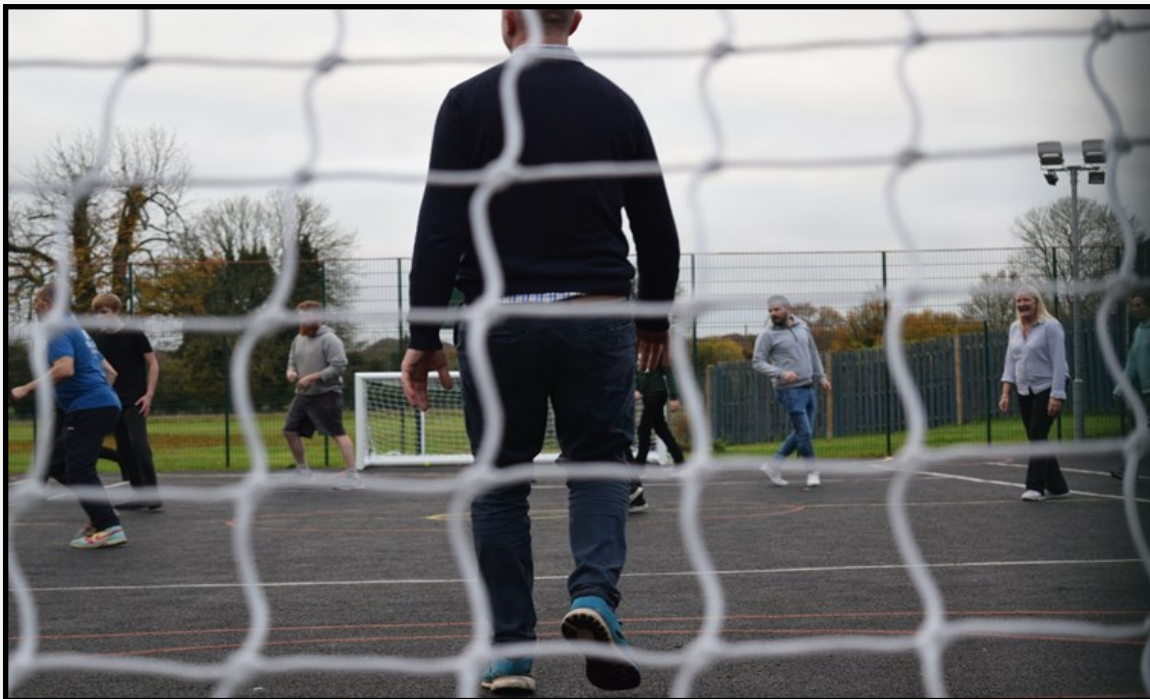
Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Match Report

Throughout this term students have engaged in a variety of lunch and break activities. These have been varied from football matches on the hardcourt to chess and other board games, set up around the school. These opportunities for students to interact with peers from other year groups has led to many discovering shared interests and developing their understanding, tolerance and communication skills in safe settings. It has also helped students get to know the staff away from the formality of the classroom.

A highlight of the half term was staff v students charity football match which was an action packed event; a highly competitive game. The staff had most of the possession in the first half taking a 3-0 half time lead, with 2 goals from Liam Faye and 1 from George Fox. Second half was far more even with the students looking a significant threat on the break. Henry Church scored a classy goal, turning on the edge of the area and hitting the ball into the bottom corner of the goal, past a diving George to make it 3-1.

Despite a good challenge from the students they were unable to score again. Dan Tresman then scored the staff's fourth goal to make the final score 4-1 to the staff team.

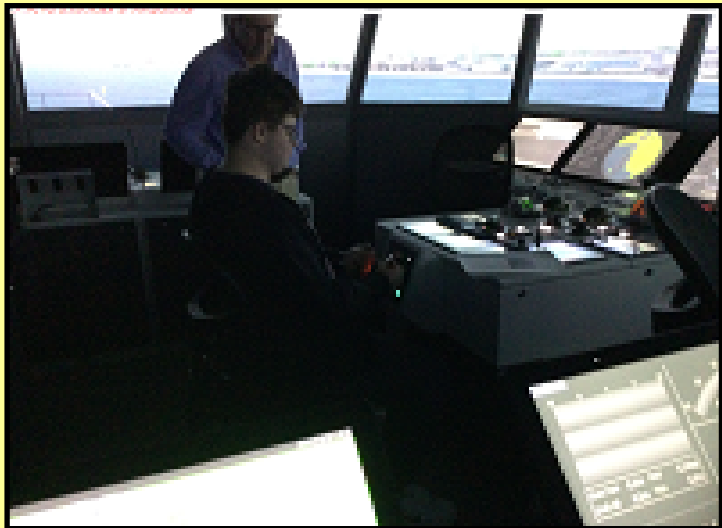


Post-16 Update

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The students in post-16 have had an excellent 'hands-on' Autumn Term. They have embarked on a new qualification concentrating on work-based skills development incorporating skills such as problem solving, time management, team work, organisation skills as well as developing their cooking and independence skills. Students have worked as a team and taken part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning and they have moved on to helping to organise and run a new event in terms of the Christmas Fete that all parents are invited to on the last day of the Autumn Term. They are also working hard on putting the final details together for a sustainable Soup Enterprise selling home-made soup to staff on a Friday lunchtime as well as the Grand Re-Opening of the school tuck shop early in the New Year. These enterprises are designed to arm the students with work skills to remember for the future as well as provide some solid evidence towards their qualifications which include Creative Crafts and Health and Fitness.

For the first time in 2 years students have been able to go out and make a contribution to the workplace. They have been working with local companies (The Army Flying Museum & Romsey Visitor Information Centre) and with in-house school departments such as the school kitchen. This has provided them with real-life experiences and has allowed them to be a help to those they have been working with. All the students that have taken part have been a credit to



themselves and to the school. Additionally, we had a special visit to the Maritime Skills Academy in Cosham for one of our students who has a keen interest in sailing. When there, he was able to take part in an exercise on the multi-million pound simulator they have at the facility and speak to

experienced ship's captains about their lives at sea. This was all part of a careers focus for all students, particularly those in their transition year.



The New Year promises to be even more exciting with additional enterprise projects (including the inception of a collection of GHS radio podcasts) and some potential additions to the work placement platform to allow more skills to be developed as part of our students' journey to independence and preparing for adulthood.

Personal Development

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

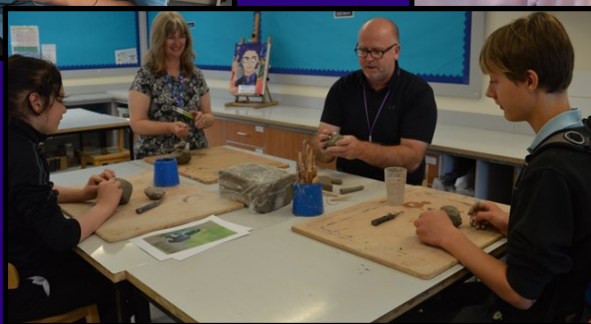
This academic year, we have introduced Personal Development afternoons on a Friday.

These have been a great opportunity for staff and students to share their skills and knowledge to promote wider Personal Development. These afternoons have included virtual reality activities and learning where students have been making use of the resources and technology we have available in the ICT suite. This has included robot making and Virtual Reality as well as opportunity to develop their confidence in using the hardware and software.

Some students have been developing their hair and beauty skills. This has included knowledge of personal wellbeing. The students have been providing facials and beauty therapy to others, these sessions are led by qualified staff we are lucky enough to have on our staff team. These are open to all, promoting an inclusive environment where the needs of all students irrespective of age, gender, race, religion or belief and the atmosphere is kind and calm.

Students have been extending their classwork through extra-curricular engagement where they can develop the skills they have learnt and apply this to their own interests. This includes creative expression in the art room as well as table top gaming.

Opportunities to develop thinking and study skills, along with Debate Club cover aspects of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural topics as well as British Values. Across the board, the Personal Development afternoons have been a wonderful chance for students to consider how their interests and newly discovered skills can be applied to everyday life both during their time at Grateley House and beyond.



Student Star Outcomes

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Making things better one step at a time

On the main site at Grateley we have started using Star Outcomes.

Our aim is for all students to develop and improve their skills, so they can do the things they want to do within their lives, to the best of their ability.

We want to celebrate their successes and when they find something challenging, we will work alongside them to get things back on track.

The important thing is knowing what the next step is and that is how the Student Star helps.

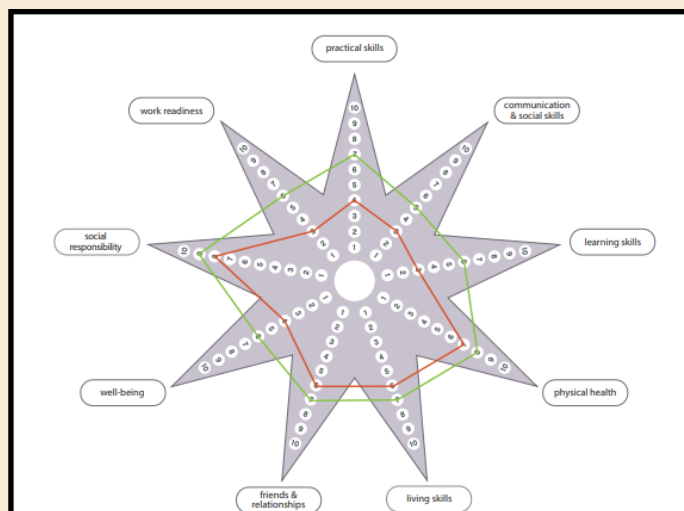
How does the Student Star work?

The Student Star helps Key Workers to look at what your child's life is like. It focuses on nine areas of life that are important to all young people such as practical skills and well-being.

Each area comes with a five-step scale called the 'Journey of Change' and each step has a different colour.

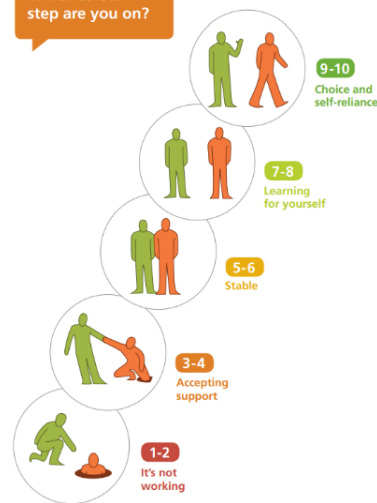
Together with your child we will look at the different areas of their life and agree which colour step they are on. This helps us work out what needs to happen next to improve things for your child.

Together, we mark their colours on the Star once a term and as progress is made, their Star shape will get better.



The Journey of Change

Which colour step are you on?



Student feedback:

"Star outcomes have helped me visually see the progress I have made during my time at Grateley house school. I found it helpful and enjoyable discussing my progress and what targets need to be put in place. In order to help me reach my future goal of going to university" Hannah Wilson - November 2021

A Focus on Mathematics

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Hi! I'm Natasha and I am the Maths Specialist TA and I have been working as the Maths TA at Grateley since the beginning of 2021.

This year the students have been working hard in a wide range of topics:

The year 8's have been working on multiplying and dividing whole numbers, understanding place value, working on fractions and have just been learning about measurements.

The year 9's have been working on algebra recently, and are beginning to understand some of the rules that apply to maths. This is a difficult subject to learn, but they are persevering, asking and accepting mine and the teacher's support when required.

The maths teacher, Álvaro, and I have begun getting the year 10s ready for their GCSEs. Although they will not sit their GCSEs until 2023, the preparation for this starts now. They are beginning to bring all their knowledge from Year 7, 8 and 9 to help them understand the next step. One of the trickiest areas we have covered so far this year is the Quadratic Formula. We spent a few lessons with the children breaking down the formula and working as a team to complete the work set. Well done students!

The year 11 GCSEs are just around the corner, and it won't be long until they are starting their revision. The year 11s have been revising previous work from the last few years, including algebra, areas and surfaces of 3D shapes and trigonometry. We have supported the children through videos, past papers, examples on the board and sitting with individuals and working out the answer together.

Well done Courtney! You've begun to understand how bus stop method works

Can I use bus-stop method to divide by 2? *with help from TA*

A) $2 \overline{) 43}$ $2 \overline{) 13}$ $2 \overline{) 21}$ $2 \overline{) 22}$ $2 \overline{) 14}$
 $2 \overline{) 86}$ $2 \overline{) 26}$ $2 \overline{) 42}$ $2 \overline{) 44}$ $2 \overline{) 28}$
 $2 \overline{) 13}$ $2 \overline{) 33}$ $2 \overline{) 17}$ $2 \overline{) 14}$ $2 \overline{) 34}$
 $2 \overline{) 26}$ $2 \overline{) 66}$ $2 \overline{) 24}$ $2 \overline{) 28}$ $2 \overline{) 68}$

INVERSE PROPORTION

1. q is inversely proportional to the square of t .
When $t = 4$, $q = 25$

(a) Find a formula for q in terms of t .

$25 \overline{) 100}$ $25 \overline{) 100}$ $25 \overline{) 100}$

$6.5 = \frac{k}{q^2} = \frac{k}{(1.5)^2}$

(b) Calculate the value of q when $t = 1.5$.

$q = \frac{k}{t^2} = \frac{104}{81} = 1.3$

STAND OUT IN YOUR SUBJECT

Weekly Themes

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Each week, the students focus on a new learning topic. This is presented in the Wednesday assembly and discussed during morning tutor time and used as the weekly tutor challenge.

The Autumn Term weekly themes have been:

Week 1	New Starters	Week 8	Mental Health Awareness
Week 2	Jeans for Genes	Week 9	Remembrance Day
Week 3	Healthy Body	Week 10	Anti-Bullying Week
Week 4	Cultures and Languages	Week 11	LGBTQ+
Week 5	Black History Month	Week 12	Religion & Faith
Week 6	Sustainability	Week 13	Human Rights
Week 7	Rights & Responsibilities	Week 14	Community

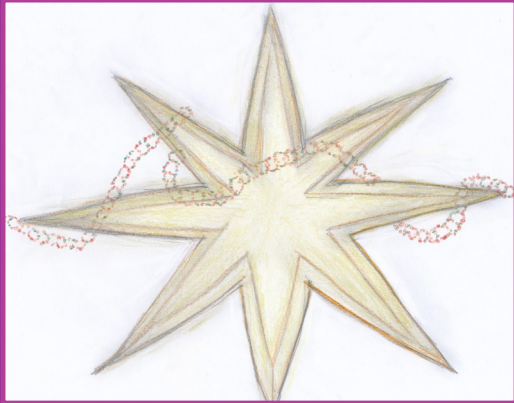
Looking ahead to next term, our weekly themes will be:

Week 1	New Year	Week 8	Individual Liberty
Week 2	Respect	Week 9	Equality
Week 3	Inspirational People	Week 10	Tolerance
Week 4	Extremism	Week 11	Gratitude
Week 5	Confidence	Week 12	Beliefs
Week 6	Online Safety	Week 13	Autism Awareness
Week 7	Kindness		

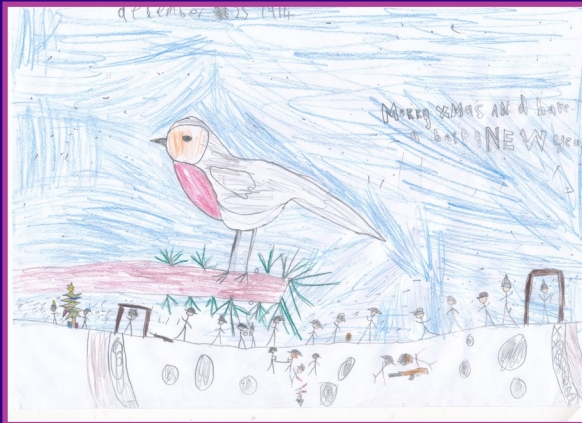
At home, please use this table to discuss the weekly themes with your child and ask them what they are learning about. Our weekly themes are an important part of our curriculum for all our students and the themes contribute to their overall knowledge and awareness of the wider world.

Christmas Cards

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Buddy Hammond-Haine, Year 7



Courtball Machanick, Year 8



Ellana Woodthorpe, Year 11

This Christmas, you will be sent a card designed by our Christmas card competition winners!

You will receive one of the designs on the left created by our wonderful students.

We want to thank all our students who took part in the competition.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!



THANK YOU!

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Thank you to all our wonderful students for all their hard work this term.

Thank you for all our parents/ carers for supporting the school through all the developments.

Stay safe and see you after Christmas!

