

GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You



Issue 8

Spring Term 2024



Message from the Principal

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Welcome to the eighth edition of the school newsletter.

It has been a wonderful Spring term at Grateley House School, that has been packed with a fine array of learning opportunities and enriching activities which I hope you will enjoy reading about within this newsletter.

We are very proud of our students and how they uphold the school values - Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You. This has been reflected in how they have welcomed the two new students who have joined the school this term and how they have embraced the opportunity to try new experiences. We were also very impressed by those who sat their mock exams as we recognise this can cause a level of understandable apprehension for some.

On Thursday 21st March members of the Student Council met with the Governors, who stated it had been a joy to speak with them. The student councillors spoke positively about there being more students at the school and how this meant they had more friends. One of the councillors eagerly informed the Governors about the Creative Lego competition that he had planned, prepared and held for Comic Relief - This event was a great success and was well received by the participants. The Governors were really impressed by this and the fact that members of the school Photography Club had been responsible for the event photography.

The Student Council have been asked to prepare and deliver an assembly on Online Safety and Gaming next term which will be really positive and informative.

A personal highlight for me this term was when Zoo Lab visited us. The Ranger, Annie, who brought in a selection of her exotic pets to show us was amazing. Her animated delivery style and wealth of knowledge ensured a captive audience. Every student who attended a session either held or touched one of the animals - My favourites were Bubba the Tree Frog, who was a lively character and Henry the tortoise who loved having his shell scratched and tickled. You will read more about this great learning experience in the newsletter.

It was unfortunate that we had to postpone our annual 'Grateley Stomp' event on the last day of term due to the weather; however this will now be taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May and we are really looking forward to this. There will be more information to follow in the new term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter.

I look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 16th April.

Best wishes,

Eva Pereira



FA Cup Experience at St Mary's Stadium – Saints v Watford

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

It was indeed very lucky when local side Southampton drew their Fourth Round FA Cup away game to Watford on the 28th January, with a score of 1:1.

It meant that our passionate and dedicated PE Teacher, Mr Lopez, was able to spring into action, securing a number of tickets for the replay match at St Mary's Stadium - This was a rare opportunity for our school community and one that had to be seized quickly!

There were a number of students and staff who were really keen to express their interest in going to the match.

On the chilly Tuesday evening, 6th February, the excited group of students and staff headed to the FA Cup fixture.

The first half was much of a 'feeling out' process with both sides locked at 0-0 at half time; however, the second half is when the action happened!

Those attending were treated to a 3 goal masterclass by Southampton, securing them the win and progression to the next round.

This was a real community event with a whopping crowd of 17,844 at St Mary's Stadium. Our keen band of supporters were able to witness a great performance and hopefully made memories that will last a lifetime.

Some staff and students reported it was the best game of football they have ever been to and this has fuelled their desire to go again!

Come on you REDS!



Ampport News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Cournall has continued with his activities in the community this Term.

Each Tuesday evening he has been attending Koala Teens Club in Andover and he really enjoys socialising and making new friends.

On a Thursday evening Cournall attends a local football team on for training. They play each week at a local secondary school and compete in competitive matches against other teams on a monthly basis at Eastleigh.

After lots of hard work, learning and encouragement, Cournall has begun to understand and put into action what it is that he has to do in order to develop the meaningful friendships he has craved for so long. Cournall now feels he has developed close friendships in school and at his clubs and he communicates with several of these friends during his weekends at home and during school holidays, which is fantastic!

Cournall has continued with his weekly food tasting experiences. Some foods were as bad as he thought, but he has found things that he would never have tried before that he actually likes. He has tried a wide variety of different things this Term including Chinese food for when it was Chinese New Year.

Fran has also been visiting Koala Club and she has made a couple of friends there, who she is able to keep in touch with throughout the week. She enjoys the activities that are available to do when she is there, such as arts and crafts, gaming, soft play, board games and a safe place to socialise.

As well as the Youth Club, Fran enjoys regular swimming sessions in Salisbury with staff and sometimes Cournall.

She enjoys her once weekly baking sessions in house, where she gets the opportunity to be very creative. During one baking session she experimented with the use of fondant icing, colouring and moulding it into lovely shapes. She also created a fantastic Birthday cake to take home for her Sister.

Fran continues to enjoy creative activities in the home such as arts and crafts. This term she has found a love for crochet and has been busy making fantastic items for herself. She has also been keen to get the outside space ready for the better weather and has helped with the new planting in the garden.



Monxton News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term has been a busy one for Monxton students, who are both in year 11 and looking at their options for the next academic year.

Carter has attended several visits to Andover College, including an interview, to get a feel for the place and see what it is like. These visits have been alongside visits to a few colleges near home – all have their pros and cons so a big decision will be made at some point!

Harper has also attended a college interview and did well in it. He has some more visits booked for the upcoming weeks where he too will need to make a decision about September.

We have had some exciting trips and activities which our students have been involved in. In January Carter took part in the Stonehenge Stomp. Despite it being on a Sunday, his dad kindly dropped him off for it! Carter was paired up with Mr Hand and despite a hiccup of 'getting lost', they made it round in good time.

Harper has engaged with Nick in the kitchen, helping him prepare the evening meals on a few occasions. He has also provided staff and peers with endless giggles and laughs as he is quite the jokester! Harper has also taken Mr Hand on a fishing trip where they had to use as much patience as they could, as the fish weren't playing ball... Mr Hand gets all the good trips!!

There has been a shake up of the Monxton staff team following Lyn (and the lovely Willow), leaving at Christmas. This left us without a Team Manager (and without everyone's favourite 4-legged friend), so the ever-dedicated Mr Hand has stepped in to take over the role for now.

We are also in the process of having a garden 're-vamp' where Luke and the maintenance team are attempting to make us a new patio, if it ever stops raining long enough for them to finish. We have also had some of the grass area re-turfed, making it much bigger in the process. We are all looking forward to being able to use it in the summer when the weather is warmer, and dryer hopefully!!!



Staff Updates

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



“Hi all and thank you for making me welcome here at Grateley House School and the Cambian group.

My name is Nick and the latest member to join Luke and the Maintenance Team, I have previously worked 10 years at The Wellington Academy Secondary School. I am looking forward to the bigger tasks ahead.”

“Hello there! I’m Simon Jones – I’m new here at Grateley House School and would like to thank everyone for the warm and supportive welcome; it’s a pleasure to be part of the team. I’ve joined the school as our new English teacher; I’ll also be working to embed literacy throughout our curriculum. I’ve spent the last fourteen years working in post-16 education in Bristol, Salisbury and Southampton, engaging with young people with a huge variety of learning styles, and I’m excited to bring this experience to Grateley! My greatest passion in life is music (the noisier and weirder the better): I dabble in making electronic music, love to spend my free time at gigs and festivals and spend hours ‘digging in the crates’ for rare vinyl records. My other hobbies and interests include cinema (I’m a huge Star Wars fan), reading (ghost stories are a favourite), vintage shopping, tattoos, skate culture and streetwear and, last but not least, Skipper D. Fluff, my part-time cat.”



“Hi, my name is Julie, I am a new domestic assistant at Grateley. I have three sons and quality family time is important to me; I like going out on trips with them, or just watch a movie at home.

I enjoy going out for walks on my own or with friends. I am a kind caring and fun person to be around.”

Stratford Lodge News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This term has been fairly busy at Stratford Lodge, all the students continue to work towards various qualifications and make steps towards their future.



Warhammer is still a big focus for all, as are trips to Blandford and Salisbury model shops to stock up on supplies such as paint, brushes and Daemon Princes.

One weekend we tried out Clip and Climb in Andover where our intrepid explorers climbed the dizzying heights of various climbing walls. It took a while for confidence to be built but before too long they were happily climbing to the top of the walls.



We have been busy creating a calm and relaxing room for those who need a bit of peace, it is affectionally called the Zen Den and will offer an area for relaxation, mindfulness and homework.

We have ventured as far as Portsmouth where we all went to see Al Murray as the pub landlord, at the Guildhall. He was really funny and we were all impressed with his memory for names when he was talking to the front row.



Rupert passed his driving theory test and has booked his practical test in June... Well done Rupert !!



Rupert getting pizza after work experience!

The staff initiative this half term is a gaming competition but we have gone old school so everyone has had a go on the Wii and Mega drive, there is even an amazing trophy for the winner.

Rupert has had the amazing opportunity with a potential apprenticeship placement. He spent the week trying his hand at everything including manufacturing, stores, marketing and even a mock interview.

Rupert's also joined the trip to see Southampton FC play at St Mary's stadium.

Preparing for GCSE Summer Exams

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

News from the Exams Officer 2024

It's that time of year again, when thoughts start turning to the Summer Exams, which for some of our Year 11 students represents the end of their KS4 studies and the gateway to their next step along life's journey.

Entries have been made and the time between now and the first exam starts to pass all too quickly.

This year the exams run from Friday 10 May until Friday 14 June, a period of 4 weeks. Whilst this can seem a long period filled with anxiety and stress for some of our students, it does mean that the exams are reasonably well spaced and only once will some students have to face two exams on one day, although both the exams are quite involved - Mathematics Paper 3 in the morning and Creative i-Media in the afternoon. I am sure the students will face the exams with fortitude.

This year there are fewer GCSE subjects requiring students to sit examinations, although even these subjects still involve up to 11 papers: English Language, Mathematics, Biology or Combined Science Trilogy, which provides 2 GCSE grades, despite its name, and the Cambridge National exam for i-Media, where coursework is also involved.

For other more practical subjects, Art and DT covering Creative Crafts and the Sports Diploma there are no terminal exams, as these Level 2 or Level 3 courses follow the NCFE syllabus and rely on the completion of coursework, with detailed write-ups explaining development of ideas, or improvement and refinement over time.

While teaching continues in some subjects to ensure the full syllabus is covered, in other subjects, revision of difficult topics has already started. All students have been offered revision guides or workbooks and directed to subject specific revision ideas or online revision sites. Students are encouraged to consider starting a little revision now, but for some students we hear, 'it's only March' and May seems a long way off! Nonetheless, the therapy team are available if students feel they need coping strategies to support mounting anxiety.

I'm sure that everyone reading this newsletter will spare a kind thought for our students during their exam period and wish them Good Luck.



Isle of Purbeck - Geography Trip

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On one of the very few beautiful days of January, the key stage 4 geography students embarked on a field trip, to the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset.



This term's topic has been 'Coasts' and Mr Fox and

Miss Longson, supported the students to conduct a review of the different features of the Jurassic coastline.

The students visited the town of Swanage, Dancing Ledge and Durdle Door.

Among many of the Jurassic coastline's features, we visited examples included of the following: a bay, a headland, a wave cut platform and an arch, stack and stump.

Students were able to demonstrate their knowledge by describing the different, coastal features, types of erosion and specific wave types that have caused changes along the coastline.

No geography fieldtrip is ever quite complete without excitement of some sort! - All students were able to demonstrate skills in map reading, understanding the use of local landmarks and different compass bearings; however, there was no notification about the amount of mud we encountered on our walk to Dancing Ledge.

Well done to all students for their positive engagement in the trip and overcoming the mud bank that we were faced with!

We look forward to studying rivers... with hopefully less obstacles!

Subject News - DT

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Students in years 7 and 8 have been making colourful Easter flowers from recycled timber in DT. They have designed cardboard templates of the feature they would like their chosen flowers to have and used these to transfer the information to their chosen pieces of pine. The components have been cut out accurately on the scroll saw and shaped with hand files and sandpaper, then glued together. Once painted the flowers look very Spring-like and of course will last a long time, unlike real ones. Students have really enjoyed this project and have gained some useful new skills as well.



Visit from a Storyteller

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday 22nd March we were treated to a visit from Mike O'Leary professional storyteller, author and retired teacher. He entertained students with a range of traditional tales. We heard about sleeping warriors under a local hillfort who are dangerous if they are woken up! We travelled to Ireland with him in our imaginations to hear the tragic story of Sadhbh, (pronounced Sythe) who was turned into a deer by a druid. We heard about witches and dragons, enchanted geese and ghosts. He treated us to an array of sound effects from curious instruments such as a thunderbox and Northumbrian pipes.

In between stories, he explained how stories are crafted and let us into some writer's tips of the trade, such as placing strange characters under a hill or deep in a lake. He explained how things tend to come in threes in traditional stories, and we listened to thunder approaching from the distance (using the thunderbox) and thought about how to describe it.

A visit which was very entertaining, and also very educational!



World Book Day - 7th March

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On 7th March we celebrated World Book Day in typical GHS style. For the day, a group of Teletubbies manned the reception area with no particular tubby custard incidents reported. Staff and students came to school dressed in an array of costumes, from 'The Fantastic Mr Fox' to 'Where's Wally'. Appearances from 'Friar Lawrence' (Romeo and Juliet) and 'Snow White' added to the excitement. In case discipline was needed to rein in the enthusiasm, a spectacularly unkind Miss Trunchbull kept everyone in order with her brutal dislike of everything.

All students and staff had an opportunity to enter the WBD quiz. Results showed that we are an amazingly well-read bunch – staff and students alike!



Chinese New Year

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday 9th February we enjoyed a day devoted to celebrating the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Dragon. We found out about the monster Nian, and how he terrorised villagers every New Year until people discovered that he didn't like the colour red, loud noises or bright lights. These things are still used in Chinese communities to frighten the monster away in the form of red lanterns, firecrackers and fireworks. Students and staff discovered what animals the Chinese associate with their birth years. Our birth years included goats, dogs, tigers, horses and pigs! Students looked at how Chinese families all over the world celebrate New Year. We compared activities which are part of the Chinese culture to our own New Year festivities, and found out that they are very similar – staying up late, seeing friends and family and eating lots! Perhaps most importantly, huge thanks to Nick for providing us with a Chinese feast. We enjoyed noodles, sweet and sour sauce, prawn crackers and spring rolls.

"I enjoyed the special Chinese menu for Chinese New Year. And some of the teachers wore red because it is a special colour which scares away monsters." Year 7

"The food was amazing, especially the spring rolls" Year 11

"I found out I was born in the year of the rat, so I am apparently quick-witted, smart, charming, and persuasive" Year 10

"My favourite food is Chinese. It was interesting to find out why they have dragon dancing." Year 9

"I found out that monsters don't like noise or red." Year 7

"It was fun learning about the Chinese culture and their traditions, and I enjoyed the Chinese food very much, especially the prawn crackers." Year 11



Student Work - Art

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Student Work - Food Technology

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

In food tech students planned and baked a range of treats for a bake sale in support of comic relief.

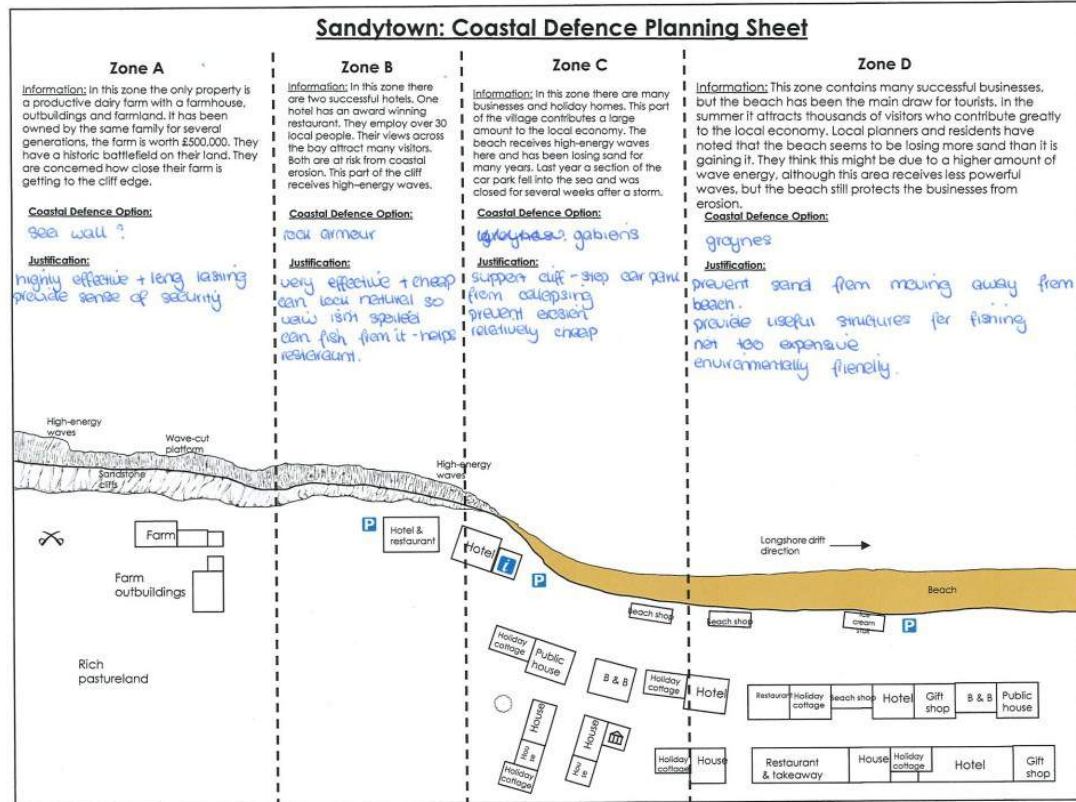
KS3 students' spectacular bakes included: marvellous madeleines, fantastic flapjacks, brilliant brownies and super sponges – classic Victoria and a zingy lemon.



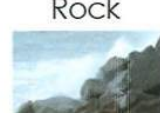

KS4 produced some delicious mille feuille – amazing first effort!



Student Work - Geography

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Name of defence	Description	Advantages & disadvantages	Ratings
 Sea wall	concrete barrier placed at foot of cliffs. Redirect wave energy back out to sea. Built in areas that feed 'head the line' - reduce erosion rapidly.	Advantages highly effective extremely long lasting Disadvantages not environmentally friendly look ugly + unnatural	Effectiveness and durability: 5/5 (5 blue icons) Cost: 5/5 (5 yellow icons) Sustainability: 2/5 (2 green icons)
 Groynes	timber/rock structures built from coast out to sea. Trap sediment that's transported by longshore drift. material used to make them is special - prevents them from eroding too quickly.	Advantages create a wider beach - tourism not too expensive Disadvantages can starve certain areas of their sediment supply. look unnatural and disrupt path of cliff	Effectiveness and durability: 4/5 (4 blue icons) Cost: 4/5 (4 yellow icons) Sustainability: 3/5 (3 green icons)
 Rock	pieces of rock placed at foot of beach. -resistant rock such as granite rocks force waves to break dissipating wave energy before it reaches cliff barrier.	Advantages can look natural very effective at reducing erosion rates. Disadvantages if resistant rock is hard to get, can get expensive. small stones can be shifted	Effectiveness and durability: 4/5 (4 blue icons) Cost: 3/5 (3 yellow icons) Sustainability: 3/5 (3 green icons)
 Gabions	wire cages that contain pebbles. they support cliff and provide buffer against erosion. pebbles absorb/dissipate wave energy.	Advantages cheap + effective improves drainage on cliffs Disadvantages ugly + unattractive when damaged become hazardous	Effectiveness and durability: 4/5 (4 blue icons) Cost: 5/5 (5 yellow icons) Sustainability: 3/5 (3 green icons)

Hannah, Year 10

British Transport Police

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Helping to safeguard the GHS school community

On 24th January 2024, we were really pleased to welcome Sergeant Jassel of the British Transport Police to our school and he delivered an assembly on Rail Safety for our students.

Sergeant Jassel clearly explained the dangers present in regard to trains and railway tracks and he instructed students on how best to keep themselves safe.

The students were told that should they ever encounter an issue on a train journey that required police attention then they could text the British Transport Police on **61016** for support.

Students listened with interest and responded with their own questions which Sergeant Jassel ably answered.

We are extremely grateful for the close working relationship that has been fostered with the school and the British Transport Police and their efforts in helping to safeguard our school community.

We look forward to them visiting us again next year.



Living Hatching Eggs

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Egg-citing News from Science

In addition to the yellow daffodils heralding Spring from the school grounds and the containers outside the Science lab, this year, Spring blossomed (hatched) inside.

We received 10 eggs from *Living Hatching Eggs* and all the equipment required to incubate and brood the eggs, for a period of 2 weeks.

The eggs arrived on Monday and by Wednesday excitement was rising as we could hear the first cheeps from inside them. On Thursday morning the first chick had emerged and quickly the word spread, resulting in a steady stream of students (and staff) who came

in to observe or predict which egg would be next. Thursday proved to be a very busy day both in terms of visitors, but also in terms of the egg activity, as first one and then another and another and started to hatch. The incubator was certainly providing interesting and compelling science lessons! By the end of the day, we had six Spring chicks, whose arrival on 1 March coincided with the meteorological first day of Spring.

This first set of chicks were transferred to their brood box that evening and by Friday they were sufficiently robust for the first gentle cuddles. Just like very small children, the chicks would walk and eat and then just collapse and sleep, all tumbling in a heap, before starting their adventures together again.

There was another addition on Saturday morning, and this little one had fought really hard to escape the confines of her shell, after we had heard her cheeping from 12 o'clock on Friday. The last three never hatched, but the company suggested that we had exceeded the normal hatch rate of some 30% in more natural circumstances.

During the second week, all students were really engaged in the progress of the chicks and engrossed in watching their antics and the development of their first feathers. For some students they also enjoyed the opportunity to handle and hold these delicate bundles of fluff and it was lovely to see them being calm, kind and gentle. Many were very sad when we had to let them go on Friday, as at present we did not have the facility to keep them, but they are not forgotten, as they provided inspiration for one of the Year 11 students, Ryan, whose excellent artwork captured them so well in the painting that accompanies this report.



A fantastic achievement for Declan!

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Declan is a young man who left Grateley House School in July 2023 after being a valued member of our school community for 8 years.

Recently his Mum shared this inspirational update:

"I would like GHS to know that Declan has extended his hours at McDonalds to a full-time position of 5 days a week 8 hours a day.

To put this into context, when Declan was a little boy I thought he had global developmental delay. He couldn't speak or play and struggled to interact with his family and I was on the receiving end of many a kick or scream.

Even after his diagnosis his Dad and I always thought that we, his siblings or the state would have to take care of him and that his own independence was something that could never be achieved.

We thought he would never learn to read or write; how wrong we were.

When Declan arrived at GHS he was quiet and shy; however, I hope polite and well mannered. Academically he would not be a student to reach the heights of exam successes, but he had watched his sister and brothers leave home and go to work and this is what his own aspirations were.

On leaving Stratford Lodge Declan started working at Premier Inn getting there for 06:30 to begin his shift, three days a week. The pressure of the commercial kitchen was too much for him and he left having had his confidence knocked.

However, McDonalds saw in Declan someone who wanted to work and after his interview (for which he was suited and booted and really looked the part) offered him a part-time job for 18 hours a week. That was in late August. Since then he has passed his driving test, is now working full-time and has opened many savings accounts to obtain maximum interest on all the precious wages he is now earning.

In addition, he contributes a little to the household budget, does all his own laundry and helps with the cleaning, cooking and many other household chores.

I couldn't be prouder. Declan is a huge ambassador for what GHS can offer and what personal determination can achieve."



National Careers Week

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The beginning of March saw all the students and staff at Grateley House School embrace National Careers Week 2024. National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

NCW is a dedicated week every year allowing schools, colleges, universities, alternative provision settings and organisations to work towards career plans and pathways for students. It's backed-up with lots of downloadable, digital and video resources for educators to support students to refine their career ideas, regardless of where they are on this journey.



As always, we put together a bespoke programme for our young people. This year, in particular it was also very ambitious with a number of different mediums for students to access resources and support across the scope of the week. Additionally, we felt that a little competition may also provide some extra motivation for our young people. The Lucky 7 Passport was introduced whereby students would have to access a minimum of 7 different Careers-based activities across the week to be entered into a prize draw for a £10 High Street Shopping Voucher. This created a competitive element to the week as well as one that was driven towards our young people developing their career plan or pathway.

Within the programme of activities, we had a number of online opportunities for students to access. These included a range of webinars delivered by the STEM academy (including sessions on Careers in Space, Data Handling, Pathology as well as Being the Best Version of Yourself) and the Tech She Can Learning team (including Sustainable Transport & Technology for Sport). Some of these webinars were delivered early in the morning starting at 8.40am, however, we still had some keen



learners wishing to be part of these sessions. Additionally, BBC Bitesize activities and resources were available to students, within which some of them enjoyed seeing celebrity job swapping as a source of learning and entertainment. The National Careers Week service also offered their own online resources including a Virtual Careers Fair as well as an on-demand streaming of videocasts from professionals and potential employers.

We were in a position to be able to offer our Key Stage 3 cohort mock interviews whether in person or online. Students engaged with these really well given they were being interviewed, at times, by people they have never met before which can be an anxious time for anyone. The interviews were about allowing students to discuss their skills and gain confidence in this area. We thank the Hampshire Careers Service, school staff and Geoff Harrison of Sherwin-Williams for their assistance with these interviews.

National Careers Week - continued

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

As a school we were very lucky to have been visited by multiple employers as part of our National Careers Week offer to our young people. This was a blend of both online and in-person visits. It is always so important for students to encounter employers and professionals from a range of industries to allow them to be able to see just what those industries are like to work in.



Firstly, we were visited by Jen from NHS 350+. She came into the school and was able to discuss with the students the sheer range of jobs available in such a vast organisation like the NHS. This was both enlightening and enriching for the students as they could see the depth of opportunities on offer and could then foresee a potential career with the NHS that they had not previously considered. In essence, that is the point of National Careers Week. We are planning some additional sessions with the NHS in terms of career planning later in the year.



Our next visitor was only able to talk with us online. Heath Gunn has had a rich and diverse work history and was able to share this with the students. This ranged from his time in the Royal Navy to selling cars to being the CEO of Enham Trust, right up to the modern day where Heath discussed his current work with the NHS as well as his own company's (Move That Mountain) work, where he coaches businesses and leaders to be better at all aspects of their role. Additionally, on the day Heath 'visited' us it was World

Book Day. Heath is also a published author of crime fiction. He was able to tell us how he goes about writing his books and the process behind it as well as how he gets 'lost' in his writing and almost sees it as a form of therapy. Students were very engaged in the whole discussion and also offered Heath some advice for the content of his next novel.

Our final visitor, was not technically during Careers Week, but came into the school the following Monday. TH White are a local company who have been in operation for over 100 years and supply equipment and appliances to the farming and agricultural community across the UK. Andrew, Louise and John visited us to tell us all about the company, their history, the range of employment opportunities as well as bringing with them a very large tractor that the students really enjoyed looking at. Students were particularly engaging with John who was an apprentice and they were keen to know about his



journey. This was an excellent insight into the company and students enjoyed the visit.

As a whole, the students engaged really well with a very broad careers week programme and as a school we feel that we have met all the Gatsby Benchmarks (the legal education framework for careers guidance in schools) across the scope of the week. We look forward to the next Careers Week although we will be embedding lots more career-focussed education in the coming weeks and months.

Stonehenge Stomp 2024

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



On Sunday 28th January staff and students from Grateley House School took on the adventurous challenge of the Stonehenge Stomp.

For this event the GHS team took on a running or walking distance of either 10 or 20 kilometres whilst enjoying the ancient landscape around Stonehenge.

It was a glorious, sunny day where all taking part did extremely well, supporting each other along the way!

This year the GHS 'stompers' have helped to raise funds for EdUKaid who support our sister school in Tanzania and we raised an impressive £325.

Everyone is already talking about taking on the challenge next year, and upping their distances! Roll on 2025!

The funds raised along with the money from our Christmas fayre has been used to transform the playground at Shangani and decorate the classroom so that it is a bright and stimulating environment.

SHANGANI



Zoo Lab

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

To coincide with and celebrate National Science week, (something we tend to celebrate with fun activities in the summer term after the exams,) ZooLab were invited into school to bring us a new set of animals to learn more about.

Student groups were rearranged so everyone could be involved in the three separate sessions, meaning that we had larger than normal mixed groups and the audience further swelled by additional staff from all sectors who were able to join and be part of the experience. All students coped with these changes really well, which I am sure was partly due to the excellent presenter Anna, whose infectious enthusiasm really drew the students in.

Firstly, we were introduced to a giant African Land Snail who enjoyed being passed around the group and held by all who were still keen after being informed that this species had the largest number of teeth of any animal, having several thousand, which is more than a shark.

Then there was a large Chilean rose tarantula and although as she grows older, her pink colouration would develop, she was shown to all in the safety of her travelling box, but even though she was very calm, arachnophobes did not want to see her up close!

Next to be discussed was a small tortoise who was just becoming active after a period of 'brumation' – a new word for many, meaning the condition of inactivity during the cold winter months, but not quite the full state of hibernation. The tortoise seemed to like being stroked and responded very well to the students.

Then it was the turn of the white Australian tree frog. Students liked to see the effect of his 'sticky feet' enabling him to climb up the wall, but although very calm in the first session, in subsequent lessons he proved very active and demonstrated particularly good jumping skills as he tried to evade capture and return to his travelling box. Needless to say, this provided much excitement and enjoyment for many of the audience.

Finally, it was the turn of the fully grown corn snake, which brought smiles of delight to many faces as he twisted around arms exploring his environment. Those who have not handled snakes before were surprised that although cold to the touch, the skin is dry and quite smooth and they enjoyed holding him, as he twisted around arms and explored the environment with his tongue.

What a successful morning and so lovely for staff to see students so happily engaged, and some so knowledgeable, throughout the sessions.

The good news is that we have a provisional booking for next year with the promise of getting to know a different set of animals. Many students can't wait!



Comic Relief

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This year for Comic Relief, Grateley House School held a rather delicious bake sale, which raised a whopping £102.11!



We also took part in the Red Nose Day Lego challenge to create structures around the theme of sustainability in order to raise awareness.

Both in teams and individually, students and staff took part in the competition and built some models to reflect sustainable housing, sustainable transport, power plants and recycling plants.

The builds were judged on structure, creativeness and appearance. Mrs Pereira, Mr Fox and Miss Morton had the difficult job of judging the competition.

Well done to Michael who was awarded first place, followed by Josh and Lennon.

Also, well done to Courtnall, Elliott, Adam, Tom and Mr Hand!



Thank you to Ayden and Logan for photographing the event.

Everyone did an amazing job and had fun!



Safeguarding Topic - Fake News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



The rise of fake news and its potential negative influence on young minds is a growing cause for concern. Young people are growing up in a globalised world in which they process

information from a wide variety of sources and online sources are a constant and convenient source of information. The danger lies in the fact that they might not necessarily possess the knowledge and skills they need to assess the reliability of what they find out there.

The digital media landscape today is filled with misinformation and even adults require sharp critical literary skills to help discern fact from fiction. For young people the challenge is harder and the rise of fake news is a threat to our young peoples' wellbeing, trust in journalism and democracy. For this reason, it is important that we help our young people, both at school and in the home, to become discerning viewers. Large-scale national survey findings have indicated that a quarter (26% of 8 to 11-year-olds and 24% of 12 to 15-year-olds) of UK children and young people believe that "if a website is listed by a search engine it can be trusted" (Ofcom, 2017), and in a survey carried out by the UK's National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT, 2017) more than a third (35%) of teachers said pupils had cited fake news, or inaccurate information found online, as fact in homework or during class discussions.

Safeguarding Topic - continued

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

In order to mitigate the risk of fake news the government has created a SHARE checklist. This is a useful resource in helping both adults and young people to navigate our challenging media landscape.

Share checklist

sharechecklist.gov.uk

S

Source

Make sure that the story is written by a source you trust, with a reputation for accuracy. If it's from an unfamiliar organisation, check for a website's "About" section to learn more.

H

Headline

Always read beyond the headline. If it sounds unbelievable, it very well might be. Be wary if something doesn't seem to add up.

A

Analyse

Make sure you check the facts. Just because you have seen a story several times, doesn't mean it's true. If you're not sure, look at fact checking websites and other reliable sources to double check.

R

Retouched

Check whether the image looks like it has been or could have been manipulated. False news stories often contain retouched photos or re-edited clips. Sometimes they are authentic, but have been taken out of context.

E

Error

Many false news stories have phony or look-alike URLs. Look out for misspellings, bad

We hope you will find the above useful and wish you all a safe and restful Easter holiday.

The GHS Safeguarding team.

HAPPY



EASTER