



High Grange

Autumn 2025

Newsletter



Headteachers corner

As we reach the end of this first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and rewarding start to the year at High Grange School. Walking around the school each day, I am constantly reminded of just how remarkable our pupils and students are. Their enthusiasm, engagement, and resilience shine through in everything they do. Whether it's tackling new subjects, developing life skills, or supporting one another through challenges, they continue to make us all extremely proud.

This half term has been full of examples of our ACE ethos in action. Pupils & Students have shown exceptional adaptability as they've settled into new classes, formed new friendships, and taken on new responsibilities with confidence and maturity. Their communication skills have continued to grow whether through speeches, presentations, or simply the small daily interactions that show kindness, cooperation, and respect. Most importantly, we have seen pupils & students demonstrating a genuine understanding of emotional wellbeing, recognising their own feelings, supporting peers, and showing real empathy and care for others.

What has impressed me most is the way our pupils & students approach each day with such determination and positivity. Many have stepped out of their comfort zones, from public speaking and creative arts to sports and off-site learning. Embracing every opportunity to learn and grow. Their resilience, particularly when faced with change or challenge, is something to be celebrated. It is through these experiences that they continue to develop the confidence and independence that are at the heart of what we do here at High Grange School.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the commitment and passion of



so they can achieve their very best. I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved so far and I am excited to see all that's still to come as we move into the next half term.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our parents and carers. Your continued support, understanding, and partnership play a vital role in everything we do. Whether it's encouraging learning at home, communicating closely with staff, or celebrating your child's achievements, your involvement makes a real difference. The trust and collaboration between school and home are at the core of our success, and we are truly grateful for the commitment you show in helping our pupils & students thrive both academically and emotionally.

Matt & Gavin

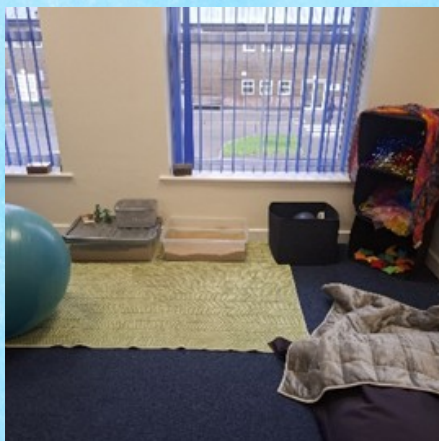
our incredible staff team. Every day, I see the care, creativity, and professionalism that our teachers, support staff, and wider colleagues bring to their roles. Their ability to adapt, inspire, and nurture each individual pupil & student is what makes High Grange School such a special place to learn and work. I want to extend my thanks to each member of staff for their continued dedication and for living out our ethos in everything they do.

Together, as a community, we are helping our young people to flourish, building their confidence, curiosity, and wellbeing



Therapy & Safeguarding

As our ACE focus this term is Emotional Well-being, this term we have focussed our therapy newsletter on the Psychology & Wellbeing department. We are delighted to announce the opening of our new Therapy Room! This space has been carefully designed for direct therapy sessions, providing pupils & students with a calm and supportive environment where they can explore, play, and express themselves creatively. The room is fully equipped with a variety of art materials, movement items, and sensory tools to support emotional regulation, personal growth, and wellbeing.



We are also thrilled to welcome Sophie, our new Child and Adolescent Counsellor, to the team. Sophie will work closely with pupils & students both in the Therapy Room and across the school, supporting their resilience, confidence, and emotional wellbeing. We are very excited to see pupils & students enjoying and benefiting from this inspiring new space.

If anybody would like any further information please let us know.

Dr Jo, Alice, Emma, Sophie, Bo & Bear



Safeguarding: Supporting your child's wellbeing. At High Grange School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child remains our highest priority. Children are increasingly using group chats and social media to communicate outside school. While these platforms can help strengthen friendships, they can also lead to misunderstandings, exclusion, or unkind behaviour.

We encourage parents to talk regularly with their children about staying kind and respectful online, and to remind them that words sent digitally can still have a significant impact. Please also be alert to changes in mood, reluctance to attend school, or withdrawal from friends, as these may indicate that your child is finding online social situations difficult.

Our staff are always available to listen and provide support. If you have any concerns, however small, please contact your child's class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team. By working together, we can help ensure every child feels safe, valued, and supported both in and out of school.

Useful Safeguarding Websites:

Online Safety

LGfL Parent Toolkit – Practical advice on social media, gaming, privacy settings, and digital wellbeing.

Thinkuknow (CEOP) – Videos and tips to help children stay safe online.

Emotional Wellbeing

Birmingham Children & Families Parent Toolkit. Guidance on behaviour, emotional health, and building resilience.



Use the QR codes to take you directly to the websites for more support.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Gavin Spicer (DSL)



Lower School

Lower 1: We now have six pupils in our lower 1 class who have been learning all about themselves and each other through play. Each Friday they enjoy a



new set of activities, exploring different ways to communicate, solve problems, and work together. They have also been developing confidence through simple tasks, group games, and creative play, building strong friendships and a sense of belonging in their new class.

Lower 2: We have five pupils in our class, not including our new puppet friends, who help us every day to understand social relationships and friendships. They particularly enjoyed the story *Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?*, which encourages filling your bucket with happiness and sharing it with others. Pupils have been practicing taking turns, expressing their feelings, and showing kindness, helping them to build confidence and develop positive connections within the class.

Lower 3: Lower 3 has five pupils with a shared love of movement. They begin each session with a backward walk to fire up their brains for learning. This has been a great success, helping them invent themes for role-play rooms upstairs, including a space room, music room, school room, and festival room. They have also been exploring teamwork, taking turns, and using their creativity to develop new games and activities, which has helped build confidence and a sense of belonging in the class.

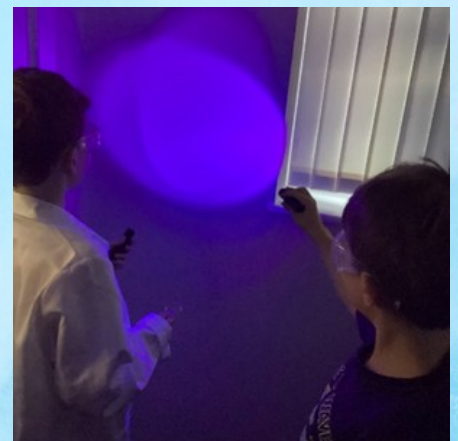


Lower 4: We have six pupils in Lower 4. This half term, they have been exploring inventions and linking them to the world of work. Pupils have engaged in enriching lessons about influential inventors in History and even created their own inventions. They have also been developing skills in Science, investigating aspects of CSI's such as forensics and geology. In English, the focus has been on writing and following instructions, helping pupils to build confidence and independence in their learning.

Lower 5: We have five pupils. They have also been exploring inventions, linking them to real-life careers, and creating their own imaginative projects. In Science, pupils have investigated different aspects of CSI's, practising observation and problem-solving skills. English lessons have focused on following and writing instructions, while Geography has explored our local community, helping pupils understand its diversity and what makes it unique. Both Lower 4 and Lower 5 classes have enjoyed embedding their learning through play and enrichment activities, applying their creativity and curiosity across all subjects.

Thank you all so much for your support this term.

Annie, Amy, Becky, Beth, Sim & Rose.



Middle School

Middle 1: A warm welcome to Tristan, Harry and Joshua into Middle school this September. All three have settled in well to their new surroundings. We have created some great speeches linked to Human Rights, cracked equations with algebra and learnt all about Cells and Diffusion, observing how a cup of tea brews. We have also completed successful offsite trips, including Elvaston Castle, Markeaton Park, Park Farm and finished the half term with fun at Tenpin Bowling. Our main highlight already has been our Enterprise Bake Sale, raising £90 for our chosen charity, Treetops Hospice.

Middle 2: This half term, pupils have settled brilliantly into Key Stage 3. In Science, we explored the structure and function of cells, even creating 3D models using playdough. In PSHE, pupils developed vital first aid skills, practicing bandaging, CPR, and the recovery position; building confidence to help in real-life situations. In English, our focus on communication and public speaking was inspired by Winston Churchill's "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream." Pupils then wrote and delivered their own powerful speeches on topics close to their hearts.



Middle 3: We have had a wonderful half term, full of fun activities and growing excitement for Halloween! During an offsite trip, the class visited local stores to buy decorations and then transformed their classroom into a spooky space. They also loved taking part in Arts Week, especially the disco, where they showed off their best moves to the Cha Cha Slide, YMCA, and Macarena! In English, we've been reading *Pig Heart Boy*, sparking great discussions about the ethical questions surrounding xenotransplantation and Cam's story.

Middle 4: It has been lovely to welcome all pupils to Middle 4 this half term. The class has settled in wonderfully and produced some excellent work, particularly in English, where we have focused on developing speech and language skills. Each student created and delivered their own presentation, exploring what makes an effective communicator. Middle 4 have also enjoyed some great trips to Lichfield Cathedral, Pickford House, and Tenpin Bowling.

Middle 5: Where do we begin? Middle 5 have had an amazing start to the year! Every pupil has settled brilliantly into their new form group and shown real enthusiasm across all areas of learning.

They've written inspiring speeches in English, worked hard in their academic subjects, and excelled in further education activities such as Horse Riding and Animal Care. A particular highlight was representing High Grange School at St George's Park in the Multi-Schools League; a fantastic achievement! The whole staff team couldn't be prouder of the progress and positivity shown. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Middle 6: This half term has been fantastic for Middle 6. Marlowe, Sonny, Will, and James have shown great enthusi-



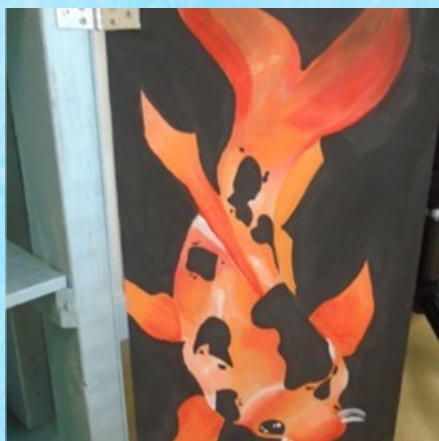
asm and success in everything they've done! They've worked hard across all their lessons, especially excelling in Maths, and have shown brilliant teamwork in house events. Arts Week was a highlight, showcasing their creativity and producing some impressive work. The class also enjoyed offsite learning at the Museum of Making, Pickford House, and the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. It's been a fun, inspiring, and productive half term for everyone!

Have a great half term everyone, Chris, Aimee, Emily, Rich, Jonny & Nathan



Upper School

Upper 1: Upper 1 have had a busy and productive half term! Mike has continued tractor driving at the farm and was thrilled to finally get it into 4th gear. Laila has shown fantastic determination in Maths, growing in confidence and skill. Jake has made a strong start studying Citizenship, working hard on exam-style questions. Noah enjoyed playing in the football match against Bemrose, proud of both his goals and the result. Chloe has produced excellent Maths work and loved her horse-riding sessions.



Upper 2: We have had a brilliant first term, full of learning, creativity, and team spirit. Pupils have spent time settling into their new form group, building friendships, and developing a strong sense of community. They've enjoyed a wide range of activities from horse riding and off-site trips in the local area to exploring next steps and careers. Arts Week was a real highlight, featuring drumming sessions, cake decorating, and creating colourful pop art signs. As we head into Autumn 2, everyone is looking

forward to preparing for the Winter Showcase.

Upper 3: Upper 3 have settled in brilliantly to Post-14, a big milestone for Oscar, Jacob, and Will. Will has been creative, painting Jacob's handmade cabinet with striking Koi carp designs. Jacob has enjoyed his DT lessons, quickly producing a new wooden project that's kept us guessing, is it a bird table, a snack table, or something entirely new? James has been honing his photography skills, capturing moments from the Arts Week events, and has impressed in Food Technology, earning "Chef of the Week" for his delicious healthy turkey burgers.

Upper 4: Upper 4 have made a great start to the year, settling in well with some new faces in form. Aiden celebrated his birthday in September with cake and gifts, while Ethan launched a Dungeons & Dragons club as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and enjoyed a special birthday breakfast made by Zoe! Jeffrey has been working hard, particularly in History and Food Technology, and is now travelling independently with



Alex. Dexter continues to keep everyone entertained and has been engaging brilliantly in lessons, especially cooking. Lilia has also settled in wonderfully, producing great work at the stables and even taking part in an impromptu riding lesson.

Upper 5: Upper 5 have had a successful start to the academic year. Despite a few early transport challenges, Benji handled everything with maturity and showed great independence by accessing lessons via Google Classroom. We were delighted to welcome Will back to the group and to introduce a new member, Noah, who has settled in beautifully. Darwin has had an excellent start both on the football pitch and in the kitchen; impressing everyone with his cheesy garlic bread!

Thanks for your support, Lisa, Neil, Debs, Reena & Lynn



Senior School

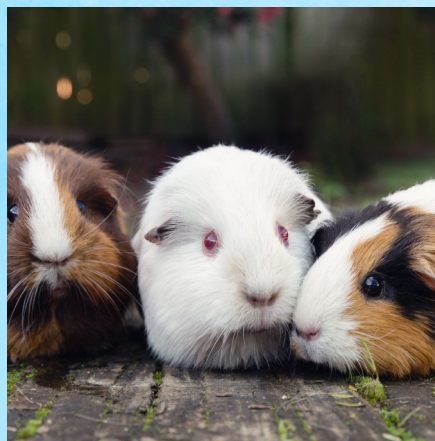
What a fantastic start to the academic year in the Post-16 community! The new look of the upstairs hub has created a more professional and vibrant learning environment. This year, we have introduced a number of exciting new experiences for our students, including a weekly STEM Venturi, where they are designing and building working wind turbines (not full size!) using computer programs and 3D printers. The Supported Insight Scheme is helping students develop employability skills and become work-ready, while a new Construction course at a satellite location has further expanded the curriculum. While there have been challenges along the way, as students adapt to new routines, work with external facilitators, and face unfamiliar skills they have approached every opportunity with enthusiasm, maturity, and resilience. Their ability to collaborate, persevere, and embrace new experiences has been impressive, making this a really promising start to the year.

Thank you everyone, **Chris Haines, Deputy Headteacher & Post 16 Lead.**

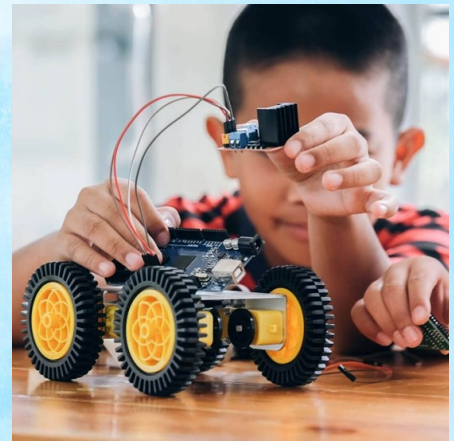
Students have taken on new work experience placements and have shown real enthusiasm for their roles. Some are developing culinary skills at a local res-

taurant, refining the basics of soups, sauces, and popular dishes. Others are gaining insight into all aspects of undertaker duties, while some are exploring fabrication and welding through engineered learning, creating useful metal objects and developing skills that are transferable to a wide range of industries. Alongside work experience, students have been focused on academic study, including A-level courses, as well as therapy sessions with our MDT. The commitment and resilience shown by all students have been impressive.

Students have also engaged well across



lessons and enrichment activities. Visits to the farm have been a highlight, with students enjoying caring for guinea pigs, goats, cats, and chickens. Chloe, Jack, and Grace have participated in STEM Venturi workshops, developing creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving through hands-on science and engineering challenges. The Supported Insight Scheme has helped students gain a deeper understanding of future pathways and careers. It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm and engagement.



Students have taken part in life skills events, including STEM Venturi and a police open day, providing valuable insight into future opportunities. A term highlight was a resounding football victory against Bemrose School, with the "Three Musketeers" contributing goals perhaps not quite David Beckham yet, but certainly making their mark! Evie has impressed everyone with her weekly Plan, Shop, and Cook sessions, creating delicious dishes and baked goods that have been enjoyed by students and staff alike. The first term has been a steady build-up as students settle into the year, and it has been wonderful to see their positivity, resilience, and engagement across all areas of learning.

We are proud of every student and excited for the bright future ahead. Thanks for your support,

Alex, Rebekah, Stephanie, Amy & Ethan.



Thoughts & Events



Lower School: What a fantastic start to the new academic year! We have welcomed 11 new pupils, and many of our existing pupils have moved into new classes, making this a busy and exciting time for everyone. Together, we have been building a strong Lower School community through play, therapy, enrichment time, and, of course, soft play! Arts Week was a real highlight, especially the disco at the end, we certainly have some serious dance moves on show!

Catherine Pope, Assistant Headteacher (Lower School)

Middle School: We have had a busy and exciting start to the term as pupils made the important transition from Lower School. Although the move brought a few challenges at first, with new routines, classrooms, and teachers to get used to. Pupils have approached everything with enthusiasm and determination. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have adapted to their new environment and settled into their class groups. Staff have been incredibly sup-

portive, helping everyone feel confident and ready to learn. Pupils are now fully engaged in lessons, showing great teamwork, curiosity, and a positive attitude across all subjects. We are very proud of the way they have embraced this new chapter and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive throughout the year.

Alison Seager-Spicer, Assistant Headteacher (Middle School)

Upper School: It has been a very busy half term, and we have welcomed eight new pupils into the Upper School. Many pupils have shown increased independence, confidently moving around the school to different classrooms and managing their own routines. It has been wonderful to see new friendships forming, while many pupils continue to enjoy familiar lunchtime routines, spending time with friends playing video games or participating in the various clubs on offer.

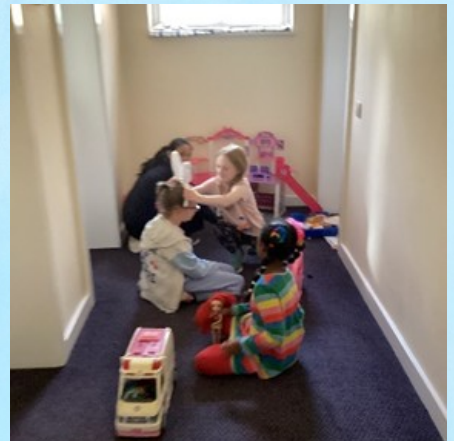
Victoria Sheridan, Assistant Headteacher (Upper School)



Events:

Next term, we look forward to welcoming you to our second Coffee Morning on 13th November, as well as our first Parent Training event of the year on 10th December. Fingers crossed you've all managed to free your diaries for our annual Winter Showcase on 12th December! Exact timings will be confirmed in the usual weekly newsletter.

We also have exam resits coming up. Information has been sent home to pupils and students who are sitting them. GCSE English Language will take place on



4th and 6th November (AM), with GCSE Maths on 5th, 7th, and 10th November (AM). In addition, pupils and students will be completing assessments for Entry Level and Functional Skills qualifications. We will share details once the assessment window has been confirmed.

If you are unsure about anything or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

