

# EDGE



# GROVE

## Newsletter

24th September 2018



Dear Parents

Wednesday and Thursday afternoons are always a favourite time of the week for me. It is a chance to watch the many fixtures which take place in all far flung corners of the school site, also helping to maintain my step count and get some much needed fresh air as well as chat to the many parents who faithfully support week after week. Last Wednesday there were 18 girls and boys fixtures being played by our Middle and Upper School pupils, demonstrating superbly our inclusivity and sport-for-all policy. It is not only the best and most able who play but, for example, with Colts' teams encompassing A to J it means that everyone, regardless of ability, enjoys being part of a team and representing their school. It is experiences such as these which children will remember long after they have left school and the skills acquired; resilience, team spirit, leadership, and communication to name a few will play a major part in ensuring academic success and help with their development into accomplished and confident young people. Do not underestimate the amount of work which is involved by our games department from finding schools who are willing to field the number of teams required to the high quality

### Calendar

#### Tuesday 25th September

Year 8 Geography trip to Cadbury World (formal uniform)

Reception parents' curriculum workshop, Pre Prep Hall, 8.45am

Lower School parent tutor evening, Theatre, 4.30pm

#### Wednesday 26th

Lower School maths workshop for parents, Theatre, 8.45am-9.30am

Year 4 Tesco Farm to Fork, 9.00am-12.00pm (formal uniform)

Dance Performance, The Place London - *cancelled*

Football festival at Haileybury, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Football v St.Martin's, Colts F, G, H, I, J (H) Colts A, B, C, D, E (A)

Upper and Middle School inter-house hockey tournament

#### Thursday 27th

Middle School coffee morning, North Dorm, 8.30am

Football v St.Martin's, U9 (H)

Football v Westbrook Hay, U9 (A)

#### Friday 28th

Macmillan coffee morning, Headmaster's House, 8.30am

Reception CREW Workshop, Pre Prep Hall

'The Wheels on Debussy' Concert, Lower School, Theatre - *cancelled*

Exeat - School closes at 6.00pm

#### Saturday 29th

Exeat - school closed

#### Sunday 30th

Exeat - school closed (Boarders return, 6.30pm)

#### Monday 1st

Swimming Gala v Beechwood Park (A), 4.30pm

Rush hour concert, Lower School, Theatre, 4.30pm

coaching, supervision and care on busy match days and to our catering team for providing in excess of 400 match teas each week. However, we wouldn't have it any other way and to see the excitement and enjoyment on the pupils' faces and the tremendous individual and group progress they make over the term is more than enough to justify the effort.

Potential is a word not heard often enough when talking about schools and children's education in North London. All too often it is about current attainment levels, test results and class positions. Thankfully not at Edge Grove where we place huge emphasis on pupil potential using our standardised data to highlight this which our talented teachers then use to realise the potential of every child. Of course, this doesn't just happen in the classroom but on the sports pitch, the stage, in the woods and literally everywhere. At Saturday's very busy Pre School Open Morning it was extremely gratifying to meet so many parents considering Edge Grove as their first choice school for their children because of our emphasis on the individual and in providing a total curriculum to support their development both pastorally and academically. The school itself also has huge potential and we never stop reflecting and evaluating our provision and how we can innovate and improve further. This should be the aim of every good school but here we are lucky to have the space and resources to be truly distinctive and progressive. The new Lower School building is an obvious example of this but there are other areas which include our future partnership with the Wildlife Trust to further enhance our site as a nature reserve and educational resource, the ongoing support from the Woodland Trust which will see over 250 young trees delivered in the coming months and the plans for our small rare breeds farm that will be established in the Spring. One small aspect of this has also seen Alex and the boys out in their wellies this weekend building a small wildlife and educational area for the Lower School outside the year 3 classrooms complete with bird table and bird bath, insect attracting plants and rain gauge. It is still a work in progress and will develop further with the help of pupils and staff over the coming term. It is exciting for us all to be in a school where the possibilities are endless and the pursuit of excellence is a common goal.

It is another exciting and busy week ahead and I look forward to seeing the potential of every pupil being realised to the full.

Best wishes

Ben Evans



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# Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson,  
Head of Pre Prep

We were delighted to take delivery of some potting tables for our wildlife garden and forest camp this week. The tables have been made by students at Francis Coombe Academy as part of an enterprise project. Crocus bulbs have been planted and we look forward to seeing the results of our green fingered pupils in the spring. In year 1 and 2 the Fabulous Fashion project has encouraged the children to think about materials and their uses as they begin to think like scientists. I am looking forward to talking to Reception about their stick creations this week; I am greeted with such enthusiasm for learning when I visit. The Pre-School are not to be outdone when it comes to the daily mile and can be seen making the 'Mobot' sign when they have completed several laps around their garden! All in all the term has already revealed such wonderfully active learners across the Pre Prep.



# Lower School News

Samantha Robinson,  
Head of Lower School

## Year 3

It has been another exciting week for year 3. In maths, the children have been continuing to investigate numbers. Perhaps you could test your child on how rapidly they can remember their number bonds to 20? What about bonds up to 100?

In English, year 3 have been looking at narrative poetry. They have read poems about some rather unusual events happening to a group of teachers involving not only the beach, but also a rather scary monster! The children have focused on this week's behaviour for learning, using their creativity to invent their own frightening creature and re-enacting the perils that their teachers might find themselves in to aid their own poetry writing.

In science, year 3 have carried out their first investigation of the year, testing out materials with different opacities and seeing how this affects their shadows. In topic we have practised being historians, asking and exploring our own questions.



## Year 4

Week three has been full of creativity in year 4! During English, the children have been exploring Aesop's fables, their features and characters ready to create their own fables next week. The Wolf and the Lamb story was a funny affair, with many interesting excuses created for the wolf - ask your child! In maths this week, the focus was on subtraction and place value with the children developing their formal methods and problem solving. The science unit continues exploring animal adaptations and their habitats with the children creating short videos on the Puppet Edu app. In topic, holiday postcards were written to Mrs Miller (Head of Geography) to tell her about the physical and human geography of a holiday location.



# Middle School News

Kate McManus

Head of Middle School

The year 5 and year 6 pupils had separate assemblies this week, exploring different themes. *Kindness* was the theme for the year 5s assembly and all pupils were tasked with being kind in all they say and do! The year 6s explored the theme of *responsibility as role models* and this prompted some interesting discussion and viewpoints. As the year 5s continue to become familiar with their new routines and structures, the staff are continually reviewing our processes to try to make the transition as easy possible. All my visits to their classrooms this week have reassured me that they are settling well and under the watchful eyes of their tutors, they are embracing life in the Middle School.

## Maths:

Year 5 red set have been ordering and comparing fractions, decimals and percentages. They finished off the topic with a tarsia puzzle drawing on their knowledge within a collaborative environment.

Year 5 green set have been busy multiplying and dividing decimals by powers of 10. They have been working in groups to use place value grids and counters to demonstrate their excellent conceptual understanding.

## French:

Year 5 have been learning to describe themselves and others in French. They have enjoyed creating small presentations in class using the new vocabulary.

In the last couple of weeks, year 6 have been busy researching information about Paris and learning what you can do in the beautiful capital of France. They had a great time sharing their interesting facts and photos of Paris.

## History:

Year 5 had a fantastic time at Hampton Court last Friday. They particularly enjoyed the great hall where Henry VIII held his extravagant banquets and the kitchens where all the food was prepared. We did not see any ghosts which Hampton Court is also famous for!

## Music:

Year 5 have been very busy this week creating two different types of storyboards. We have begun now setting this to music ready to further add to them by exploring music technology and Soundtrap in a few weeks time.

Year 6 have been composing music for film and are creating their own film plots which they will be composing underscores for in the coming weeks.

## Art:

Year 5 and 6 are preparing for the 100th year anniversary of WW1 and to commemorate this they are creating ceramic poppy bowls.

## Classics:

Year 5 enjoyed exploring different ancient civilisations and used Top Trump cards to order them onto a timeline, as well as to find key facts. They then discussed where the Ancient Greeks came in on that timeline and used their observation and deduction skills to infer about different objects from some of those civilisations.

## Computers:

Year 5 and 6 have been sitting their 'Cognitive Abilities Tests' (CAT) this week.

These online assessments measure each pupil's potential performance. They are used in conjunction with the Progress Tests in English and maths as well as the Pupil Attitudes to School and Self to help pupils realise their potential.





# Upper School News

Anna Warren,  
Head of Upper School

## ***Be Creative***

### **Year 8 Bacculaureate**

As part of this term's Bacculaureate studies, year 8 pupils were inspired by this week's enrichment workshop on stress management. The session, delivered by E-Cube, explored a range of ways to reduce anxiety, from harnessing effective dietary habits, to promoting better sleep to nasal breathing techniques. Pupils also explored the different types of stresses we may encounter including cognitive, behavioural, physical and emotional. This was a really positive and reflective session for all involved. The stress-busting 'good mood' foods such as dark chocolate, citrus fruits, berries and avocados went down very well indeed!



**Year 8 Science:** Investigating rates of reaction. They asked: how does the particle size or temperature of a solid affect its reaction rate?



**Year 8 English:** What better way could there be to introduce World War 1 poetry to Year 8? Transform the English classroom into trenches! This fully immersive experience brought home to pupils the horrific realities of being a soldier on the front line, and was the perfect entry point into analysing Wilfred Owen's poem *The Sentry*.

## Year 7 Bacallaureate

Do you know what true team spirit is? Ask our year 7 pupils – they do! Our thanks to E-Cube for another stimulating and thought provoking workshop on the power of effective collaboration. Via a series of fantastic games and activities, Year 7 were challenged to think not only of themselves as members of teams, classes, school groups etc. but as members of global communities. A meditation at the end provided the opportunity to reflect on these responsibilities.



**Year 7 & 8 Art:** pupils have been looking closely at poppies and refining their sketching techniques. After they have completed these pencil studies they will be experimenting with different media to represent what they have drawn.



## Inter House News

We are pleased to say the new Year 8 House Captains are settling into their roles. They have met together and discussed how they can best raise the spirit of their Houses and promote them. They have been put in charge of the House Notice boards under the arches and have some creative ideas for them – please watch to see how the boards develop!



Shavan & Leke



Jimi & Douglas



Alex & Leo



Jensen & Harry



Freddie & Nicole

## Dance Academy

*Dance academy, Theatre, Ruth Mair, Years 3 to 8*

Dancers have begun working towards securing a firm technique in classical ballet based on the Royal Academy of Dance and Vaganova methods. They will work towards exams ballet with the Royal Academy of Dance and certificates through the International Dance Council.

As part of the dance time they tie in to the Schools focus of the week and this week have been bringing creativity into the sessions with free expressive dance. This will help when working towards the Trinity exams which Ruth Mair will introduce soon with the support of the music and drama departments.

On a weekly basis the time will be split between Classical Ballet and then, on rotation, Jazz and Contemporary using the transferable skills from the ballet class.

Any male dancers will be set a special dance challenge and all will be given a choreography task in their chosen dance style.





### Sports News

Follow Edge Grove Sport on Twitter  
[@EdgeGroveSport](https://twitter.com/EdgeGroveSport)

[Click here for all this week's match reports](#)



**Academic Commendations,  
Commendations and Golden Moments  
14th September to 20th September**

[Click for more details](#)



### MUSIC

**Music lesson timetables will be updated on FireFly on Friday afternoons.**

[Click for music lesson timetables](#)

## Flourish Parent Workshop

### Exploring your child's developing brain

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, 8.45am – 11.00am  
£25 per person

Research into neuro science continues to evidence that childhood is a time of tremendous brain development and that this process continues until the age of 25. The young brain literally changes shape and size in response to everything encountered: the environment, experiences, parenting and relationships.

Familiarity with the stages of brain development, the changes they bring, the influence they have on thoughts, feelings and behaviour will, without doubt, assist the navigation of the challenges each stage presents and help in preparing for the changes ahead.

The role of a parent evolves constantly. This workshop offers the opportunity to explore topics that will assist you to support your child's development, physically and emotionally:

- Ages and stages – physical and neurological brain development
- Nature versus nurture
- Keeping up with the ever changing 'job description' for parenting
- Supporting the developing brain – building blocks for success
- Communication – are you speaking the same language?
- The power of subliminal learning

For further information and to book your place please contact Sally Sharp, Head of Wellbeing:  
[ssharp@edgegrove.com](mailto:ssharp@edgegrove.com)

## OCTOBER HALF TERM



### SPOOKY RECIPES & Halloween Fun!

#### YOUNG CHEFS

30<sup>th</sup> & 31st October

9.30am – 3.30pm (extended hours option available)

#### Edge Grove School

- Cookery Camps are open to both boys and girls from 7 – 13yrs and we have small groups so that everyone receives individual attention.
- Each day will be different and our budding cooks will learn how to make different dishes as well as enjoying lots of foodie fun and games.
- Our camps include lunch (vegetarian option available) all ingredients and equipment, as well as a free recipe booklet.
- Each child will have a fun, 'hands on' cookery experience and go home with lots of treats to impress family and friends.
- The camps are structured to allow children of all abilities to learn new skills, make new friends and have a fun time in the school holidays.
- The course runs from 9.30am – 3.30pm and the daily rate is £65 per child.
- There is an extended hours option available for a small additional daily charge.
- **CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS also being taken now for the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December.**

To book you place call us on 01442 876259 or email [bookings@how2boilwater.com](mailto:bookings@how2boilwater.com)

