



EDGE NEWS



@EdgeGrove



Edge Grove

Monday 8th October 2018

Dear Parents

With just two weeks until half term, the term is flying by and the opportunities for our pupils are considerable whether it be academic endeavour, sport, music or enrichment. Our girls' hockey teams excelled at Orley Farm last week showing fantastic skill and team work and our football teams continue to impress at all age groups - well done to everyone involved. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions for our whole school Harvest Festival Service on Wednesday, which will all be donated to the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership, as in previous years.

It was interesting to read this week that three top schools (Westminster, St. Paul's and Wellington) will be dropping the Common Entrance (CE) exam requirement and according to the headmaster at Wellington College, this would allow "...prep schools more flexibility to design their own courses, and to develop skills for the future, without spending months on exam preparation".

It has been a long held belief of mine that CE has had its time and place in education when we are preparing children for their future careers in a time of exponential change. This was partly the reason for us, over two years ago, developing the Edge Grove Baccalaureate which focuses on leadership training, skill acquisition, critical thinking and personal enrichment. The EG Baccalaureate Award is now recognised and welcomed by a majority of senior schools in place of CE grades and allows us to provide a rich, innovative and exciting programme of study and assessment in years 7 and 8. It is gratifying to see that some of the most renowned public schools in the country are following suit. We are currently producing a short guide to our Baccalaureate programme which will be sent to all parents soon.

My best wishes to everyone for a great week ahead and don't forget formal uniform for all pupils on Wednesday.

Best wishes

Ben Evans

CALENDAR

Tuesday 9th October

Upper School Coffee Morning, North Dorm, 8.30am
Year 3 visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum
Year 6 Art and Science visit to Kew Gardens
Governing Body Estates Committee Meeting, 5.00pm

Wednesday 10th October

Whole School Harvest Festival Assembly, Sports Hall, 10.00am (formal uniform)
Football v Kingshott, 1st, 2nd, Colts D, Colts E (H) 3rd, Colts A, Colts B, Colts C (A)
Football v Kingshott, 4th - *cancelled*
Football v Aldwickbury and St Columba's, Colts F, Colts G, Colts H, Colts I, Colts J (H)
Hockey v Belmont, U13 (A)
Hockey v Chesham Prep, U11 (H), U10 (A)
U13 District Table-tennis Championships, 4.00-6.00pm

Thursday 11th October

Year 6 trip to Paris departs, early morning
Orchestral trip to Downe House, by invitation (formal uniform)
Year 2 'History off the Page' Workshop, Pre Prep Hall
Football v Beechwood Park, U9 (A)
Football v Beechwood Park, U8 (H)
Hockey v Heath Mount, U9 (A)

Friday 12th October

4+ Assessment (for Reception entry in September 2019) - Reception closed all day

Saturday 13th October

Year 6 trip to Paris returns, evening

Sunday 14th October

No activity

Monday 15th October

Year 7 Poetry Competition, Theatre, 2.00pm
Rush hour concert, Lower School, Theatre, 4.30pm

Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson,
Head of Pre Prep

The year 1 pupils enjoyed a fantastic learning experience thanks to 'History off the Page'. They began by entering a dark and dim hall, lit only by lamplight as they sat around the fire in the dungeon of the fairy tale castle. As the day progressed they were set to work stitching leather pockets, making candles, mixing a perfumed tonic and weaving rope amongst other tasks that would have been familiar in a medieval castle; each step of the way was explained and put in to historical context. The day ended with a banquet, where guests and the king were entertained by jesters. This is learning the Edge Grove way and I am delighted that both pupils and staff immerse themselves so wholeheartedly in the experience.

It is encouraging to see Pre school pupils growing more secure in their own environment, branching out in to the woods on the main site and welcoming specialists such as Mrs Eglinton to add music to their curriculum. We were delighted to hear that last year's 1 Oak were winners of the Great British Button Challenge. This was a campaign to get children sewing again and their map of Edge Grove decorated with buttons impressed the judges – well done!



Lower School News

Samantha Robinson,
Head of Lower School

Year 3

Children have been anticipating the arrival of Wallace and he finally arrived on Thursday to answer appropriate questions the children had prepared. They found out lots of information with which to write their character profiles and indeed, some even pretended to be Wallace themselves and answer questions in the 'hot seat'! Children have been getting to grips with polygons and irregular shapes this week; becoming conversant in using a Carroll diagram to sort them. Symmetry has been another avenue within the 2D shape area that has been investigated. Year 3 have very much enjoyed creating their own 'Andy Goldsworthy-esque' sculptures using natural materials in Forest School. Let's see if they develop this further in their gardens at home or the local park! We've been looking at stone age tools too so whilst creating sculptures they might find some flint spear ends...



Year 4

It was 4T's turn to visit the Tesco store on the Farm to Fork experience, and what an experience, as they got to stand in the freezer where it was -5 degrees. The children completed a questionnaire about a variety of produce and then sampled some of the food which all went down well. 4R get to go soon. Back at school the children dusted off their RUCSACs from year 3 to solve multi step real life problems using the calculation strategies that they've have been working on recently. Included above are two photos from the fable readings last week which proved to be a lovely experience for both year groups. This week Year 4 grappled with fact or opinion, on the run up to persuading us all to visit their holiday destination. Severe weather is being studied in topic and so you can quiz your children about the Beaufort Scale.



Middle School News

Kate McManus

Head of Middle School

Art/ DE

Year 6 have been considering the techniques used to create effective petals from clay. They have been very careful with the amount of water they use to mould the clay. Too much and the clay becomes soggy and falls apart. Too little and the clay tears and falls apart. It's very tricky to use just the right amount of pressure under the fingers tips with the right lubrication for optimal results. They achieved excellent outcomes and many children earned commendations.

Maths

Pupils have been getting some valuable practice at exam technique whilst carrying out the first of their Rising Stars assessments this week. As children progress through the school, examination becomes more frequent and more important and this early exposure helps children and teachers to prepare for this.

English

The first round of Rising Stars assessments have been rolled out this week focussing on Spelling, Grammar and Comprehension. This helps us to adequately prepare children for examinations that they will face as they progress through the education system.

Geography

Year 5 have been exploring the Physical geography of the UK. They have been doing this by listening to clues and then guessing which places are being described. We have been adding important physical geography to our UK maps.

Year 6 have two geography lessons a week, one of which involved practicing their location knowledge and map skills. They are successfully using an atlas to discover new places and relate this to their own maps. Alongside this we are exploring tourism and this week will look at the impacts of tourism, both positive and negative.



Upper School News

Anna Warren,

Head of Upper School

Upper School Common Room

Upper School pupils can finally look forward to some time relaxing in their very own common room! In forms, Year 8 have been spending break times in their new space, and have been busy thinking of ways to spruce up the interior with some homely touches!

In the Classroom

As part of their Baccalaureate, year 8 have been researching effective study techniques and creating a presentations in Google Slides. In Creative Arts, pupils in the elective music class experimented with some creative music composition and in English, using words and phrases from the war poetry and Wilfred Owen, year 8 pupils created their own poetic pieces on the classroom working wall.

In Geography, year 7 have been studying plate tectonics this half term. At present we are exploring earthquakes: their causes and impacts. Pupils were asked to complete some guided research for their prep investigating the Haiti 2010 earthquake. Of course, at present, we are faced with the growing death toll in Indonesia and this will be discussed in forthcoming lessons. I would encourage all year 7 pupils to pay attention to the news updates regarding recent earthquakes and volcanoes in order to understand how fragile our world is.

Year 8 have reached their conclusion of the rivers and coasts topic this week. In class we have been studying flooding in Bangladesh and we have been asking pupils to empathise with the people of Bangladesh and the lives they lead. We have set a prep this week, detailed on both Firefly and Google Classroom which entails research in to the most recent (2012) Bangladesh floods, examining the causes and consequences. We look forward to reading through their write ups.

Did you know?...

That gorillas don't actually eat bananas! Gorillas don't encounter bananas in the wild so they aren't part of their natural diet. Year 7 & 8 pupils learnt this and other fascinating facts about gorillas when Tom Harrison from the Gorilla Organisation visited the school earlier this week as part of their Edge Grove Baccalaureate programme. He gave a very interesting talk about his work in Uganda and Rwanda and also about taking on the London Marathon gorilla-style!



THE DANGERS OF TUTORING

By Ben Evans

As a school, we completely understand that preparation for senior school entry can seem bewildering for parents which is why we are available at any time to give advice and take you through the process step by step. We also live in an area where entry to certain schools is highly selective and competitive which can add to the anxiety for parents and also lead to much misinformation. I am becoming increasingly concerned by what I hear is being discussed, especially by parents at other local schools, and how this will impact directly and negatively on our pupils' well-being and mental health. I was particularly horrified to hear that there are 'tutors' (or possibly charlatans?) out there feeding on parents' anxieties by charging £70 per hour for interview practice - apparently there is a particular way to shake hands! At Edge Grove, we encourage our children to become confident and articulate communicators from a young age and interview practices are something we do informally and in a way that is natural and purposeful for each individual child and is tailored to their school choices. This starts with form tutors, then heads of school and ultimately with me. We know the children well, the schools they are going to and what is required in a way that no tutor could ever do.

Please think twice before following the crowd and employing the services of a tutor. Remember the value of every day at school, the hard work and commitment of our teachers and their in-depth knowledge of what is required. Our continuous assessment is wide ranging and allows us to identify if and when a child needs additional support in the form of regular booster sessions and together with the after-school sessions for reasoning, English and maths we have it covered. Should we think additional support is necessary, we *will* let you know. School days at Edge Grove are busy, purposeful and full of learning (academic and otherwise). Does your child really need an hour or more with a tutor going over ground already covered or would they benefit more from extra sport and exercise, family walks or trips to a museum, castle or nature reserve? The hard work is being done at school and children deserve the time to rest, relax and enjoy themselves too. We cannot and should not under-estimate the impact that the stress that tutoring can have on our children's well-being now and in the future.

It is also worth remembering that schools at both 11+ and 13+ are introducing entrance procedures that focus more on problem solving, team skills and pupils' ability to communicate with confidence and interest rather than solely on tests which favour the heavily tutored child.

Don't just take my word for it, I have compiled a list of news articles on this subject which you may find interesting:

[The Telegraph— "Private Tutoring is abhorrent" says Private School Head](#)

[The Times—Pupil's exam angst eased by crystal maze puzzles](#)

[Nappyvalleynet.com—New 11+ Entrance Tests match Educational Philosophy at Wimbledon High School](#)

[The Telegraph—Schools largely to blame for rising mental health issues](#)

[IE-Today.co.uk—Spotting the tutored child](#)

If you have any questions about the 11+ and 13+ entrance process and would like to arrange a time to see me please do not hesitate to do so via Mrs Dawson—ADawson@edgegrove.com



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
28th September to 4th October**

[Click for more details](#)



MUSIC

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

[Click for music lesson timetables](#)



ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

7 hour workshop

Nutrition

Movement pattern

S&C

Team work

Olympic athlete visit

Snack provided

Wed 31st Oct & Thurs 1st Nov

9am-12:30

Years 4-8

£65

Contact kevans@edgegrove.com to book your space and for more information

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



OCTOBER

MON 29TH

TUE 30TH OCT

SARACENS RUGBY CAMP

SARACENS TWO DAY SKILLS CLINIC
AT TABARD RFC

AGE U7 - U14

PRICE £66.00

ONLINE PRICE £60.00

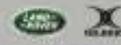


For further information on the course and our total rugby experiences on offer please visit: www.rugbycamps.com/saracens or call **Sid Young** on **0203 675 7242**



ALLIANZ PARK | GREENLANDS LANE | HENDON | NW4 1RL
Tel 0203 675 7200 | www.saracens.com

Twitter: @SARACENSrugbyTV Facebook: SARACENSOFFICIAL Instagram: @SARACENSrugbyTV



Each booking includes a £2.50 handling fee. 10% discount on online bookings only. Prices above are online prices on football already included the 10% discount. Group booking discount rates apply. 10 places booked per age group. 7 additional complimentary places. Please contact 0203 675 7242 for further information.

“Friday Friends” Coffee Morning

Date: Friday 12th October

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Location: The Pavilion

(Please park your car as normal and walk down the main drive using the new Edge Grove Park and find us in the building on the main pitch to the right.)



We invite all parents from the school to come for a cuppa and a biscuit. It's a great way to meet other parents or catch up with friends.



EDGE  GROVE
SOCIETY

The Edge Grove Society is trying to locate any current parents that have had a previous connection at the school. Perhaps you have family members or friends that were old boys or girls who may have contributed to your reasons for coming, maybe a cousin, grandfather, neighbour, friend of the family?

We have many lost Alumni on our system and we are trying to locate and engage with as many people as possible so any help with connections would be greatly appreciated.

Please email egs@edgegrove.com.

SPOOKY RECIPES & Halloween Fun !
OCTOBER HALF TERM Edge Grove School



Recipes include.....Toffee Apple Cake, Treacle Tarts, Chocolate Pumpkins, Giant Shortbread Spider Cookie, Bonfire Chilli, Spooky Sausage Mummies plus lots more!

Vegetarian option available

30th & 31st October 9.30am – 3.30pm (extended hours option available)

- Open to children from **7 – 13yrs.**
- Small groups so that everyone receives individual attention.
- **Each day will be different** with lots of foodie fun and games.
- Our camps **include lunch**, all ingredients and equipment, as well as a free recipe booklet.
- 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 **18th, 19th & 20th December.**

To book you place call us on 01442 876259 or email bookings@how2boilwater.com

