

EDGE NEWS

Monday 13th January 2020

Spring Term - Week 2



Headmaster's Introduction

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop

Dear Parents

It has been a brilliant start to the term and I am ever enthused, even in the dark days of January, by the excited chatter and smiling faces of our pupils as they return to school. There is a lot planned for them over the coming weeks and I have no doubt that the children will approach everything with their customary energy and enjoyment.

It is my overriding aim that within the whole Edge Grove community, we treat each other with kindness and respect. You may have noticed the large signs which have appeared around the school with the resonating Aesop quote reminding us all that acts of kindness are the most important thing we can do, and are never wasted. It is this message that we will be reinforcing throughout the term and I hope you will be able to support us by talking to your children about their acts of kindness at home. We will also be celebrating them, at every opportunity, at school.

In my start of term assembly, rather than talking about New Year resolutions which unfortunately we usually end up breaking (crisp eating and gym visits spring to mind!), I spoke about focussing more on our behaviours instead. The need to always give of our best, approach everything we do with determination and effort, and above all never giving up. When learning an instrument, starting a new after-school activity or tackling a particularly thorny maths problem solving exercise, it can be all too easy to declare, 'I quit' as the alternative to digging deep and trying hard which can be uncomfortable. Again please help us in encouraging this with your children in order to ensure high levels of resilience and in turn, greater achievement and success.



I hope, wherever possible, that you will be able to attend the curriculum and coffee mornings being held for each year group over the coming days. In response to parental requests, we are holding them to not only keep you informed about curriculum coverage each term, but also to look deeper into how we teach, the learning outcomes and levels of attainment expected and how you can purposely and productively support your children at home. There will also be lots of opportunity to ask questions and for staff to clarify any misconceptions.

My best wishes for a good week ahead.

Ben Evans



“

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop



CALENDAR

What's on this week



CALENDAR

For fixture information see the Information Letter

Tuesday 14th January

Year 8 school specific exams week

Year 5 Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning,
Theatre, 8.30am-9.15am

Wednesday 15th January

Year 8 school specific exams week

Pre-School Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning,
Pre Prep Hall, 8.45am

Thursday 16th January

Year 8 school specific exams week

Year 7 Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning,
Theatre, 8.30am-9.15am

Reception Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning, Pre
Prep Hall, 8.45am

Rugby v Westbrook Hay, U9, U8

Netball v Westbrook Hay, U9

Friday 17th January

Year 8 school specific exams week

Year 8 Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning,
Theatre, 8.30am-9.15am

Year 1 Spring Term Curriculum Workshop and Coffee Morning, Pre
Prep Hall, 8.45am

Saturday 18th January

Board of Governors Strategic Planning Day

Sunday 19th January

Monday 20th January

Lisa McDonald (Head Elect) visit, Meet Lower School parents at drop
off, Apthorp Hall, 8.15am

Lower School games open afternoon for parents, 1.45pm-2.30pm

Year 5 Pathways into Year 7 and 8 presentation for parents, Theatre,
6.00pm-7.00pm



Pre Prep News

Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson
Head of Pre Prep

When I was six years old I started to learn to play the recorder and I still keep one in my desk drawer to this day, shamelessly relishing any opportunity to play a tune or two to anyone who will listen! Therefore, you can imagine how excited I am that year 1 are all learning to play recorder in their music lessons. This humble little instrument is a fantastic way to introduce the children to the joy of reading and playing music. Year 2 will have the same opportunity, but their instrument will be the violin and so the Pre Prep will be a place of real creativity and a platform for progress over the coming weeks and months. Sharing Assembly gave us the opportunity to hear about some of the wonderful places that the children had visited over the holidays, both far flung and nearer to home. Flipped learning challenges continue to inspire us all and we look forward to more discoveries in 2020. Thanks to the generosity of the FoEG, we now have a new artificial grass surface on our covered outside play area. This firmly establishes this as a space for physical activity, so central to the development of young children. Using the wooden climbing equipment also supplied by the FoEG, clambering, rolling, balancing and jumping involves the children in strengthening their core stability and developing their fine and gross motor skills, which in turn support focus and skills in the classroom. We are enormously grateful and encouraged by the continuing support of parents in so many different ways and look forward to more collaboration ahead.





Lower School
News

Lower School News

Samantha Robinson
Head of Lower School

The children are all looking refreshed and ready to learn after their Christmas holidays. In year 3, it was pleasing to see that so many children have enjoyed the reading challenge. This week, the children have been practising their inference skills in reading. They have also started a new class book for guided reading. In maths, the children continue to learn their times tables and have compared multiplication facts using the greater than/ less than symbols. During art, the children have been learning how to draw a self portrait focusing on the positions of the eyes and nose.

Year 4 have been investigating forces in DT and how they can affect them. They were challenged to make a marble run from the top to the bottom in the longest time. Science was all about states of matter, surprisingly there are only three, and one interesting point of discussion centred around whether cream was still a liquid when it was whipped and looked more like a solid? In English there was a comprehension focus but answering questions on an explanation text as that is the current English topic. Anglo Saxons; who, what, where, when and why - the children should have a good idea of these after exploring each question in topic lessons.

Even though the children have only been at school for three days, they have certainly achieved a lot. What an amazing start to the spring term!



Middle School News



Middle School News

Kate McManus
Head of Middle School

Rehearsals are in full swing already for the year 5 & 6 production of *The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan!* They have been learning the songs for the show and have learnt how to project and articulate clearly when singing. Mrs Eglinton was very impressed with 6AC's enthusiasm and the speed at which they learnt the songs. Well done all and good luck with the future rehearsals!

In science, year 5 started their term-long unit that will have them flying into the Solar System. They have recapped this week how the Earth's rotation causes Day and Night. They were able to be teachers and evaluate 'pupil' written statements and evaluate where the misconceptions were and have a go at correcting them.

In geography, year 6 hit the ground running straight into a new topic this term, Global Trade. Pupils have been discussing trade and how it has developed over time. We played 'guess the logo' and discussed how so many companies now are recognised globally for the products or services they provide. Ask your child what the term 'globalisation' means and (hopefully) they will be able to tell you. I have asked year 6 to bring a clean food packet in to school next week that clearly states the country of origin for that food item, ideally not the UK, so we can explore where our food has come from and why.

A highlight of the week for year 6 was making flatbread. They have been able to practice kneading in preparation for leavened bread next week!



Upper School News



Upper School News

Anna Warren Head of Upper School

Happy New Year! It was a pleasure to welcome our Upper School pupils back to school this week and see them so enthusiastic and ready for the term ahead, which I know is going to be another busy and exciting one indeed.

Thursday was a perfect example of how we like to hit the ground running! We were so fortunate to be able to host three of Hertfordshire's Deputy Lieutenants, Marion Brown MBE JP DL, Suzy Harvey DL and Janie Wentworth-Stanley DL into Edge Grove to discuss with the children the Queen's various roles, the Commonwealth and its benefits for us, as well as how this links to the British Values which we regularly celebrate and promote in school on a daily basis.

Our Upper School pupils participated in a brilliant debate, responding to questions including:

- What is the relevance of the Monarchy in modern day society?
- To what extent does the Queen promote British Values?
- What are some of the benefits and responsibilities of being a British Citizen?

In form discussions, we will definitely be returning to the issues raised in the shared debate.

I would also like to congratulate Riley who, amongst his busy revision schedule for the upcoming exams, managed to arrange to sing once again for the residents of the Sunrise of Westbourne senior living home in Dorset on Monday 30th December. Riley performed a number of songs as well as some Christmas songs to which the residents happily sang along. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his performance

and many of the residents, who are sadly suffering from dementia, remembered Riley's first performance there at Easter. It really shows how music helps to improve well being and memory in these circumstances.



Boarding News



We welcomed back a number of boarders this past week and we look forward to welcoming even more over the next few weeks.

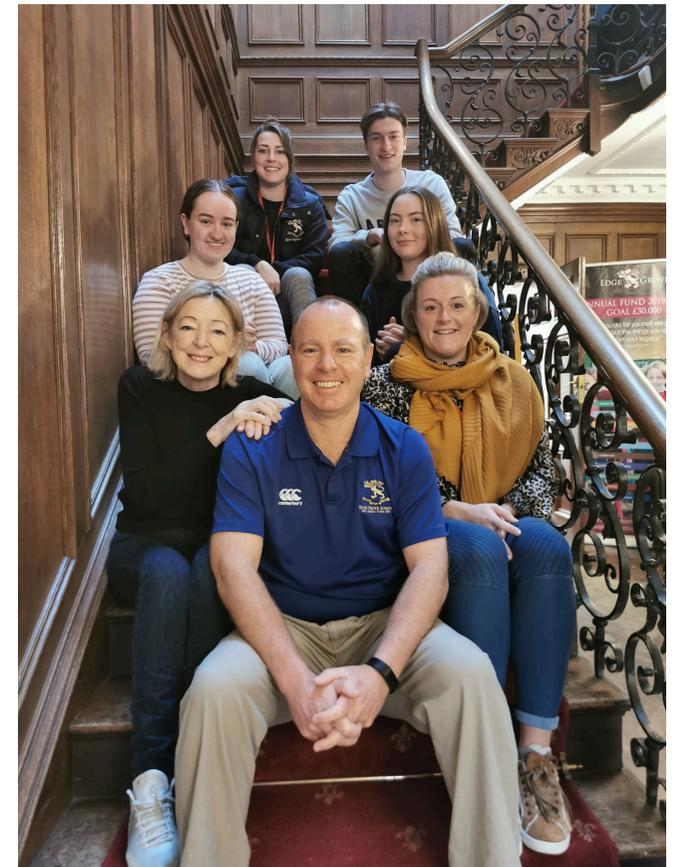


As well as welcoming new boarders we also have a couple of new staff joining us. We have our new Gaps, Miss Millie and Miss Antonia, both joining us from Australia this year. I am sure that all of the children will have a lot of questions for the Gaps and they look forward to meeting you all around School over the coming weeks.

As with any term we have thrown ourselves into evening activities from the first day. On Wednesday whilst the girls had 101 questions for the new gaps, the boys went over to the Sports Hall to play some football and basketball.

On Thursday the children decided to have a very chilled evening with a Fifa Tournament in North Dorm, a movie in both Willow and Beech as well as homework in Cedar.

We have lots of fun activities coming up (see Upcoming Boarding Activities further down) and we have our first Activity Evening of the term on Friday 17th January with just a few spaces left so if you are interested in coming please email nhughes@edgegrove.com



The Boarding Team



Hi, I'm Miss Antonia, one of the new Gaps at Edge Grove. I'm from Sydney, Australia, and although I've travelled plenty before, I have never been to the UK. I enjoy hockey, gymnastics and rowing, as well as the performing arts. I'm looking forward to embracing the vibrancy of Edge Grove life and getting to know the incredible staff and students.

Miss Antonia



Hi, I'm Miss Millie and I'm one of the new Gaps from Sydney, Australia. I enjoy reading, writing, painting, photography, netball, tennis and volleyball. I am looking forward to becoming familiar with every aspect of Edge Grove Life.

Miss Millie

Upcoming Boarding Activities

Week 2

Sunday 12th January

Cookie Fest

Monday 13th January

Basketball & Netball

Tuesday 14th January

Fifa 20 & Wii

Wednesday 15th January

Dorm vs Dorm Card Games

Thursday 16th January

Badminton Tournament

Friday 17th January

Go Jump! Activity Evening

Week 3

Sunday 19th January

Netball Shooting

Monday 20th January

Tobi Music Workshop

Tuesday 21st January

Pancakes

Wednesday 22nd January

Football Tournament

Thursday 23rd January

Year 7&8 Girls Outing/ Dodgeball

Friday 24th January

Chinese Takeaway



For all Match Reports click [here](#) and don't forget to follow Edge Grove Sport on Twitter @EdgeGroveSport. Match Reports will resume next week when fixtures restart but in the meantime please find some other sporting achievements below...



Mr McManus takes on the London Marathon

Following in the footsteps of our 'Faster Headmaster' last year, Mr McManus has been chosen by Hertfordshire Community Foundation to take on the 26.2 miles of this iconic event on Sunday 26th April 2020.

Click [here](#) to read more and to support Mr McManus and the HCF.



Daniel M swimming success

Daniel M in year 7 has been training hard in the pool and all his hard work has paid off as he moves into the top squad at his swimming club. He is the youngest member of this squad so it is a huge accolade. He will be competing throughout January in the Hertfordshire County Championships in 11 events. Well done Daniel!



Football selection for Alfie

Congratulations to Alfie in year 8 who has been selected to represent the Hertfordshire & Essex U13 Football team. We wish him the best of luck in the tournament in April.

London Marathon 2020



Mr McManus at our charity Fun Run last year

I am delighted to be running in the London Marathon this year having been chosen by the Hertfordshire Community Foundation to run in aid of them. They are one of the school's charities and one which does such fantastic work supporting so many groups and individuals across the county. My target is £1,500 which will make such a difference to the charity's work. I am very hopeful to get the support of the Edge Grove community to help me to reach my target. If you feel that you would be happy to sponsor me I would really appreciate any donation, no matter how small. My fundraising page can be found here: [Virgin Money Giving - Brian McManus](#)

Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is a county wide charity which seeks to tackle need and deprivation by providing grants to vital small charities, community organisations and to families and children living in crisis in Hertfordshire. The county is perceived to be affluent and yet there are pockets of deprivation in every district. HCF encourages local charitable giving to help make Hertfordshire a better place to live, for everyone. Every penny raised stays within Hertfordshire.

Although I have run a marathon before in Durban, South Africa it was 15 years ago! I took up running again 2 and a half years ago and at that stage a 20 minute run was all I could manage. Having completed the Hampton Court Half Marathon last year the thought of doing another "lap" was so daunting that I really thought my marathon days were over. However, nothing comes to those without a lot of hard work and I fully intend to enjoy my day on Sunday 26th April. As such I have not set a target for myself in terms of finishing time so that I can enjoy it and soak up the atmosphere.

I must remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint and I need to follow my 17 week training plan and not over-do it. I have already had smiles and waves of support and encouragement when parents have passed me on some of my initial training runs and I look forward to this continuing.



Creative Arts
News

Pre Prep Learn New Musical Skills *Mrs Eglinton, Head of Music*

Years 1 and 2 have been given the opportunity to learn a new musical skill! This term year 2 will be learning how to play the Violin. During their first lesson this week they have learnt note G and have learnt how to hold and pluck the instrument. All pupils were extremely keen and excited for their first lesson. The sound was very professional for their first lesson! Well done year 2 and keep up the hard work!



All of year 1 are learning how to play the recorder this term. 1 Larch had their first recorder lesson on Friday, and the sounds that resonated through the hall weren't too bad on the ears! The pupils made a very good first impression on me!



Do please kindly be reminded that recorders are named and will need to be brought in to school every week for their lesson:

Larch – Friday

Oak – Wednesday

Maple – Tuesday



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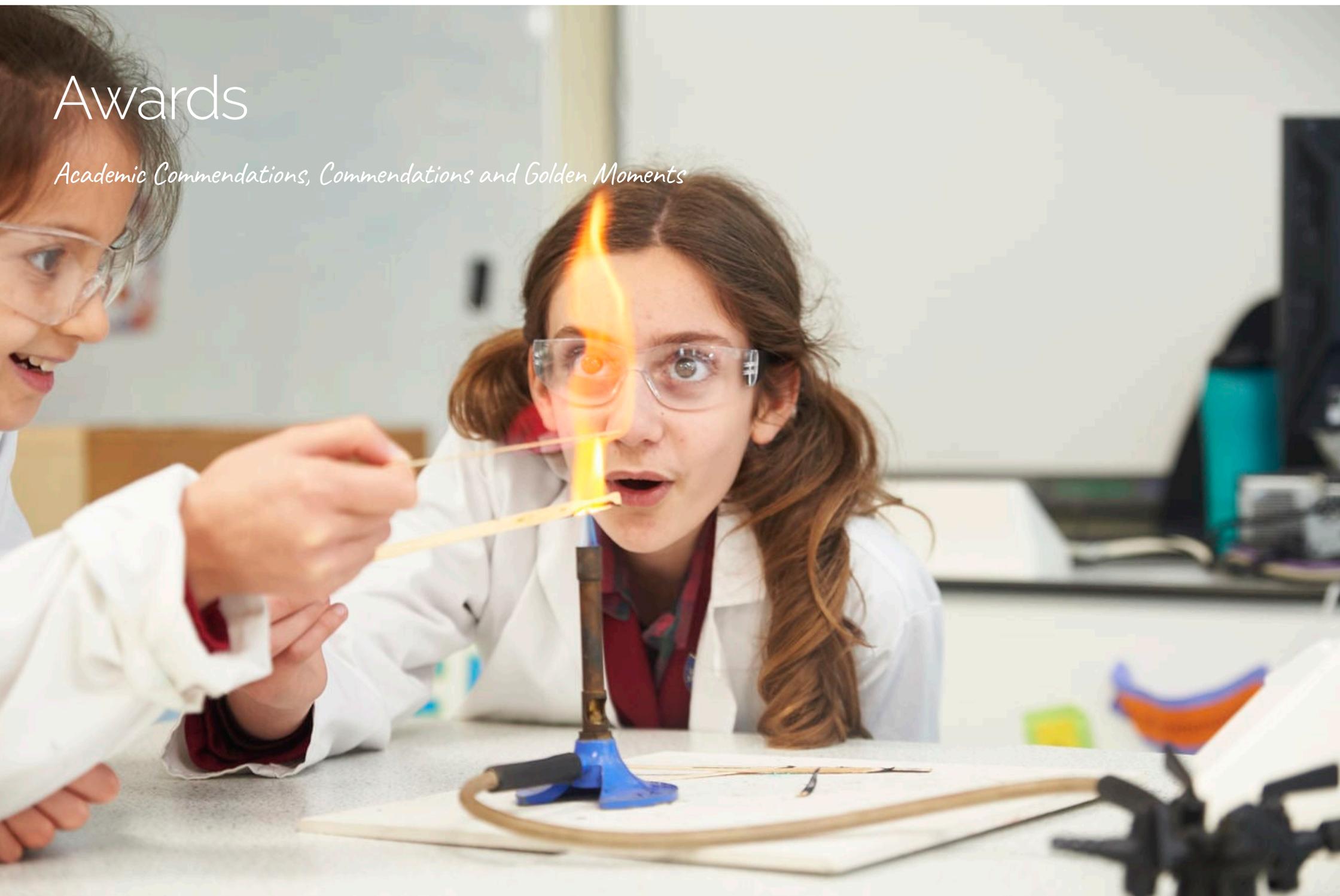
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Awards

Academic Commendations, Commendations and Golden Moments



6th December 2019 - 9th January 2020

Click [here](#) for this week's Academic Commendations, Commendations and Golden Moments or see the full list below:

Academic Commendations

Evans, Edward 4M
Balogun, Araoluwakitan (Kitan) 7D
Presto, Ren 4M
Benson, Miles 7D (2)
Shah, Tara 4M
Johnson, Nia 7D
Ball, Otto 4T
Lake, Sophia 7D (3)
Cadbury, Joanna 4T
Maughan, Daniel 7D (3)
Ismaila, Kamil 4T
Xu, Qianxun (Chihiro) 7D (3)
Pal, Vihaan 4T (2)
Amin, Kieran 7KM (3)
Pullen, Emily 4T
Beer, Daisy 7KM
Sanders, Bryony 4T

Coffer, Samuel (Sammy) 7KM (2)
Wevers, Robert 4T
George, Nathan 7KM
Kim, Andreas 4TC
Harris-Eze, Kenekwaku (Kene) 7KM
Malyon, William (Billy) 4TC
Orriss, Declan 7KM (2)
Samuel-Napier, Darcey 4TC
Kolawole, Oluwatoye 7M (2)
Schofield, Jamie 4TC
Bakare, Olujimi 7W
Waters, Oliver 4TC
Eledan, Jesse 7W (2)
Oladuji, Zachary 5C
Onuiri, Onyekachi (Kachi) 7W
Opaleye, Eniola 5C
Asaria, Ali 8K (2)
Izzi-Engbeaya, Ehije 5E
Bhimjiani, Aaryan (Arry) 8K
Nursiah, Evan 5M
Fatania, Kush 8O
Asaria, Fatemah 5N
Izadpanah, Arman 8O
Burov, Nikolay (Niky) 5N
Patel, Yash 8O
Camilotti, Niccolo 5N

Robey, Hadley 8O
Mistry, Keya (Shona) 5N
Sunden, Benjamin 8O
Okoye, Chizara (Zara) 5N
Zaveri, Sophia 8T
Meier, Oliver (Olly) 5S



Commendations

Caplan, Oliver 5D
Gray, George 7W
Bulmer, Charles (Charlie) 6A
Antohe, Andrei 8K
Cookson, Hayden 6C

Hilton, Wesley 8K
Johnson, Nia 7D
Branston, Buster 8O
Lake, Sophia 7D
Levy, Joseph 8O
Maughan, Daniel 7D
Robey, Hadley 8O
Beer, Daisy 7KM
Austin-Ajaero, Maddison 8T (2)
George, Nathan 7KM
Ejim, Ifesinachi 8T
Orriss, Declan 7KM
Goyal, Panav 8T
Pinkerton, Amber 7KM



Oyetunde, Daniel 8T (2)
Hogan, Allegra 7M
Vincent, Denva 8T (2)
Kolawole, Oluwatoye 7M
Zaveri, Sophia 8T (2)
Lawson, Zoe Grace 7M (2)

Golden Moments

Oluwadarasimi (Dara) Olunloyo 5C - Tatiana didn't have a partner in Classics so Dara and Emilia instantly said that she could join their group and work as a three.

Emilia Coster 5M - Tatiana didn't have a partner in Classics so Dara and Emilia instantly said that she could join their group and work as a three.

Niccolo Camilotti 5N - For helping someone else by packing away their things for them.

Shay Kachhela 5N - For lending spare skins to Niky when his were all wet.

Deborah Oyetunde 6L - Without me asking,



Debbie helped by collecting all the paper rubbish at the end of a very busy English lesson.

Myles Artime 8T - Holding the door open for other pupils.

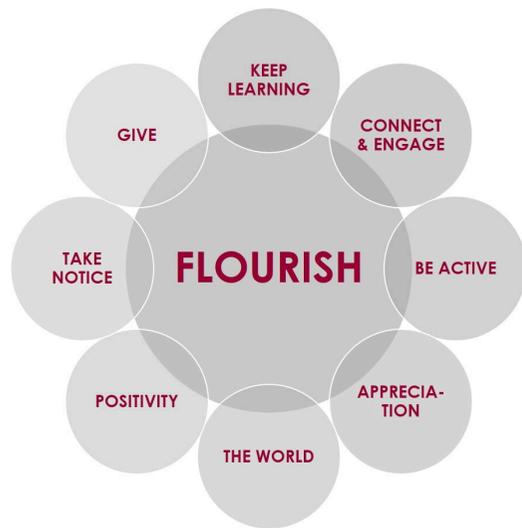
Maddison Austin-Ajaero 8T - Looking after Denva when she had a nosebleed.

Alexander O'Keefe 8T - Being super efficient with tick off sheets.



Upcoming Events

*Flourish Parent Workshop, FoEG Coffee
Morning, Quiz Night and more...*



Flourish Parent Workshop
An interactive, strategy focused approach to
Effective communication
Friday 6th March, 0845 – 1100
£25 per person

Communication is about more than just exchanging information. It is about understanding the emotion and intentions behind the information. As well as being able to convey a message we need to also listen in a way that gains the full meaning of what is being said and makes the others feel heard and understood.

Encouraging communication that develops expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas can positively influence a child's relationships and behaviours throughout life. As well as benefiting self-esteem, problem solving abilities and behaviour, good communication skills are key to building and sustaining successful relationships, achieving goals and supporting wellbeing.

This workshop provides an opportunity to explore how we can talk to children so that they will listen, listen to children so that they will talk and to experiment with tips and techniques that may encourage clear, confident, effective communication now and for life.

Focus:

- What is effective communication?
- Listening skills
- Communication styles: passive, assertive, aggressive
- Communicating clearly: 'I' statements
- Building and supporting good communication habits

For further information, or to book your place, please contact Sally Sharp, Head of Wellbeing. ssharp@edgegrove.com



Upcoming Friends of Edge Grove Events

Friday 31st January Quiz Night

Friday 7th February Friday Friends Coffee Morning

Saturday 21st March Lego Model Building Festival



The Friends of Edge Grove Quiz and Curry Night with guest host: Mr Wooding!

**Friday 31st January from 7:00pm (7:30pm start)
in the new Althorp Hall**

Will the parents or the staff win?
Can Mr Evans make one last attempt at getting his hands on the trophy?

£15 per person including the quiz and a chicken or veg curry.
Cash bar with drinks and snacks.
Come as a team (maximum of 8) or as individuals (we can make up a team for you).

For tickets, how to pay and dietary requirements please email: sarahlbmeier@gmail.com



FRIENDS
OF EDGE  GROVE



Thank you for reading

EDGE NEWS

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