

# EDGE NEWS

*Monday 27th January 2020*

*Spring Term - Week 4*



# Headmaster's Introduction

*As we hurtle head long into week four and say goodbye to January, it always surprises me how quickly each term flies by...*

## Dear Parents

As we hurtle head long into week four and say goodbye to January, it always surprises me (and I should know better by now), how quickly each term flies by. This is made all the more poignant for Alex and me as many of the events and activities that are happening will be the last ones that we experience at Edge Grove. Luckily, there is still lots to look forward to for the remainder of the academic year.

I hope that many of you enjoyed meeting Lisa McDonald last week and found it helpful to put a face to her name and to hear a little of her educational philosophy. I know that after three full days at the school and a Governors' Strategy meeting, Lisa returned to New York a little tired but very happy to have met so many pupils, parents and staff, and excited about the future. Unsurprisingly, she found the children absolutely delightful and very welcoming and was so impressed with both the learning she saw and the opportunities available to our pupils.

Change is healthy and all schools must evolve and adapt or risk stagnation and an inevitable drop in standards. I am very confident that Lisa is just the right person to lead and take Edge Grove forward whilst also understanding and appreciating the special nature and ethos of the school which will, I am sure, remain largely unchanged. The current challenges facing schools are many and varied but we are fortunate that Edge Grove has such a strong reputation, both locally and nationally and is also so highly regarded by senior schools.

You may have seen the familiar face of Mr McManus when out in your cars, as he charges along the pavements clocking up the miles in preparation for this year's London Marathon. I used him and our other marathon running staff of previous years as examples of



determination, tenacity and the importance of trying hard and not giving up when speaking in assembly earlier this term. "I have started so I will finish" is a very familiar phrase but one so often superseded by "I quit" when the going gets a little tough. However, not so by our Director of Sport so please do support his efforts in fundraising for our school charity – Hertfordshire Community Foundation – by clicking [here](#).

I know that he, and the charity are very grateful for your generosity. And don't forget to wave and shout some helpful words of encouragement if you see Mr Mc out training!

It's another busy week ahead culminating in the much anticipated annual FoEG Quiz. Mr Wooding returns as quiz master and will this be the year that a staff team can beat the parents...?

Best wishes

Ben Evans





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# CALENDAR

*What's on this week*



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# CALENDAR

For fixture information see the Information Letter

## Tuesday 28th January

Year 8 CE exam week

Pre Prep Strings, Woodwind and Brass showcase, Pre Prep Hall,  
8.45am

Governors' Education Committee, 5.00pm

## Wednesday 29th January

Year 8 CE exam week

Year 3 Egyptian Workshop, Apthorp Hall, 9.00am-3.45pm

Rugby v Heath Mount, U10, U11, U12, U13

Netball v St Margaret's, U13

## Thursday 30th January

Year 8 CE exam week

Rugby v Lockers park, U8, U9

Lower School Inter-House girls' netball

## Friday 31st January

Year 8 CE exam week

Year 1 and 2 parents' coffee morning, 'Navigating and supporting social  
relationships', Pre Prep Hall, 8.45am-9.45am

Exeat begins at 6.00pm (school closed)

FoEG Quiz Night, Apthorp Hall, 7.00pm

## Saturday 1st February

Exeat

Year 7 Baccalaureate Boarding Challenge Weekend

## Sunday 2nd February

Exeat

Boarders return, 6.30pm

## Monday 3rd February



# Pre Prep News

# Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson  
Head of Pre Prep

Thanks in part to the influence of Mrs Doughty, Pre Prep children demonstrate a real passion for natural sciences. Year 2's topic this term is *Our Island Home* and they have been studying native wild birds with a focus on their natural habitat, food and birdsong. Miss Chaplin and Miss Henwood led an assembly to introduce the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 2020 and we hope that you will get busy twitching with your family! The children will be making bird feeders and I hope to be able to spot the odd robin or two in and around the Pre Prep gardens.

The colour red has in fact been a real feature for us this week as Chinese New Year Celebrations inspire learning. Miss McDonald helped Pre-School children make their own red play dough on Tuesday, which was then adorned with gold accessories. Once again, we are grateful to visiting parents who take time to share their knowledge and childhood experiences of significant festivals and traditions with our pupils.

Myths and legends have also captured the children's imaginations, in particular the Loch Ness Monster. It is fascinating to observe a lesson when a conscience alley is used; the pupils are asked to take a stand either for or against a statement or dilemma and use persuasive language to make their case. At the moment, the case for their being a monster in the Loch has my vote!





Lower School  
News

# Lower School News

Samantha Robinson  
Head of Lower School

It has been another busy week in Lower School. On Monday, it was wonderful to see so many parents at the Games Open Afternoon. Whilst the boys and some girls are learning the rules of



rugby, the rest of the girls have been developing their evasion skills in netball.

In English, year 3 pupils have enjoyed exploring adventure stories and are now in the planning stage of creating our own. As the children are learning about Ancient Egypt in topic, their adventure story will be set in Egypt. If you want to test their knowledge, ask them why the River Nile was so important?

It has been an exciting week for year 4. First up was the trip to the Natural History Museum at Tring where the primary focus was art, specifically, sketching birds for future reference in art lessons. However the children also

attended a thought provoking science workshop which tested their prior knowledge of skeletons and animal adaptation. Chase (pictured) is looking carefully at the skeleton of this animal to work out what it is.

Back at school, science didn't feel like science when the children were melting chocolate as part of an investigation, and in topic the Anglo Saxons have been settling in various strange, yet familiarly named, parts of Britain.

And finally, thank you to 4T for an excellent assembly on States of Matter. The first of many in the Apthorp Hall! We were also treated to an assembly all about Chinese New Year delivered by Tara and Devika.



# Middle School News



# Middle School News

Kate McManus  
Head of Middle School

In French, year 5 have had a busy week revising key vocabulary about school, including opinions about 'les matières scolaires' and items of food they can eat 'à la cantine'. Year 6 have also been reviewing prior expressions about television programmes, films, books, computers and hobbies in order to be able to talk about their favourite



activities in different weather.

In PSHE, 5N have been 'connecting' with each other (our flourish focus for this term) by sharing talents, and even teaching each other something new! So far we have had a wonderful taekwondo demonstration, loom band making, paper craft and even recorder and cornet lessons! We have thoroughly enjoyed learning from each other and reflecting on our experiences - it was great to see them being the teachers for a change!

In textiles, year 5 have been learning how to do Batik. Batik is an ancient craft that uses hot wax to draw with. When the hot wax is dry, fabric

paint is applied to finish the design. Children have been studying sea life for design ideas.

In Geography, year 6 have started a new topic: Global Trade. We have been exploring how some logos are known around the world and therefore how products are traded around the world. The children created a timeline to show how trade has developed through the ages and this week our focus is on food trade. They have been asked to bring in food packaging that shows the country of origin for that food item.



# Upper School News



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# Upper School News

**Anna Warren**  
Head of Upper School

The Creative Arts children who are not performing in the Upper School show are completing a comprehensive theatre course within their rotation groups. They are learning about the wide variety of jobs involved within theatre including front of house, backstage and the different performance elements (orchestra, chorus, principles). They will then learn about the history of theatre before they split into their different components comprising set design, props, costumes and stage make-up. The children are lucky in that every staff member within the creative arts department has worked professionally within the theatre industry and is able to bring their own specialist experience to the course.

In PE, year 7 are working on developing their core strength, flexibility and stamina on the trampoline. Pupils are experimenting with different landings and making shapes in the air in preparation for developing their own sequence to showcase their skills. This week the focus has been on performing a back landing safely with control and accuracy, linking this new move into their routine.



Year 8 have been working on the proficiency in trampolining award. This award is from level 1-9, and becomes increasingly more challenging as

you progress. Most pupils have made it to at least level 6 while some have managed to achieve level 9, including a front somersault. Each level consists of a certain amount of moves plus a routine to finish.



# Boarding News



On Sunday evening the boarders enjoyed a lovely dinner with Miss Millie and Miss Antonia in the Grub Hub.



On Monday evening the children had the choice of either the IT Room or the Sports Hall. Children enjoyed playing games and editing some photographs in the IT Room and played Basketball in the Sports Hall.

On Tuesday evening the children all had prep to

get finished so they all did that up in the Boarding House and on Wednesday evening the children all went to the Sports Hall to play a range of games including netball and football. The younger boys then came up and watched a movie and the older boys continued playing football on the new PlayStation.

Thursday evening saw an outing of the year 7&8 girls to Shaketastic whilst the rest of the boarders played in the Sport Hall.

After a busy week we hope that all of the children have a lovely weekend and we shall see you all next week!



See the next page for all our Upcoming Boarding Activities.



## Upcoming Boarding Activities

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### Week 4

Monday 27th January      Waffle Making

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Tuesday 28th January      Sports Hall Activities

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Wednesday 29th January      Basketball and Netball

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Thursday 30th January      Warhammer

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Friday 31st January      Exeat

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### Week 5

Sunday 2nd February      Movie Night

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Monday 3rd February      Cupcake Decorating

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Tuesday 4th February      Multi Sports

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Wednesday 5th February      Valentine's Day Cards

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Thursday 6th February      Boarders' Choice

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Friday 7th February      Top Golf Activity Night

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### Week 6

Sunday 9th February      Let's Cook!

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Monday 10th February      Tuck Shopping Trip

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Tuesday 11th February      Tuck and Movie Night

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Wednesday 12th February      Multi Sports Tournament

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Thursday 13th February      Year 7&8 Boys Outing/ Dodgeball

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Friday 14th February      Half Term

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For all Match Reports click [here](#) and don't forget to follow Edge Grove Sport on Twitter @EdgeGroveSport



## Strong performances in Table Tennis Zone Final

Following our success in last term's Herts County Championships, the teams travelled last Saturday to Morpeth School in London to represent Herts in the Zone Final. Eight teams took part and we faced the county champions from Hampshire, Essex and Sussex in our leagues.

Read the full report [here](#).



## Honor and Amber represent Herts in Squash National Final

Congratulations to Honor and Amber who represented the U11 Herts Girls team in the National Finals last Saturday in Nottingham. They faced a strong Yorkshire team in the quarter-finals and lost 0-3. In their second match they lost narrowly 1-2 v Sussex before finishing 8th overall. Well done!



## Tricky conditions at Beechwood Park Inter-Schools Cross Country

The Edge Grove boys and girls did extremely well and showed great perseverance in what was some very tough running conditions against some very good athletes.

Read the full report [here](#).

## 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.

# Development Update



As Ben mentioned at the start of this Newsletter “all schools must evolve and adapt or risk stagnation and an inevitable drop in standards”. The Development Office is all too aware of this with its sole purpose being investment in the school and progression.

Edge Grove is a thriving school but we recognise that we must never stand still and rest on our laurels. Our ‘One School’ vision provides us with the framework for future development and capital projects that will secure our future in this competitive environment. Fundraising through the Development Office plays a central role in our drive for excellence – we do not run our finances at a significant surplus and so it is the generosity of today’s Edge Grove School community providing those extra items that help enhance and enrich learning both inside and outside the classroom.

With this in mind, we recently launched the Edge Grove Annual Fund. The aim of the Annual Fund is to provide essential ‘extras’ which will enhance our curriculum and augment our children’s experiences at school. Your kind support of the

Annual Fund will have an immediate impact on the lives of current and future pupils.

The Annual Fund was launched just before Christmas and to date we have raised just over

£3,000 which has enabled the first few items to be ordered by their departments. This means that current pupils are already seeing the benefit of this fundraising initiative.

However, we have a long way to go to reach out £30,000 target for the year. Thank you to those of you that have already contributed. No matter how large or small your support is greatly appreciated. If you can help in any way please complete the donation form at the back of the Annual Fund booklet and drop it into the Finance Office.

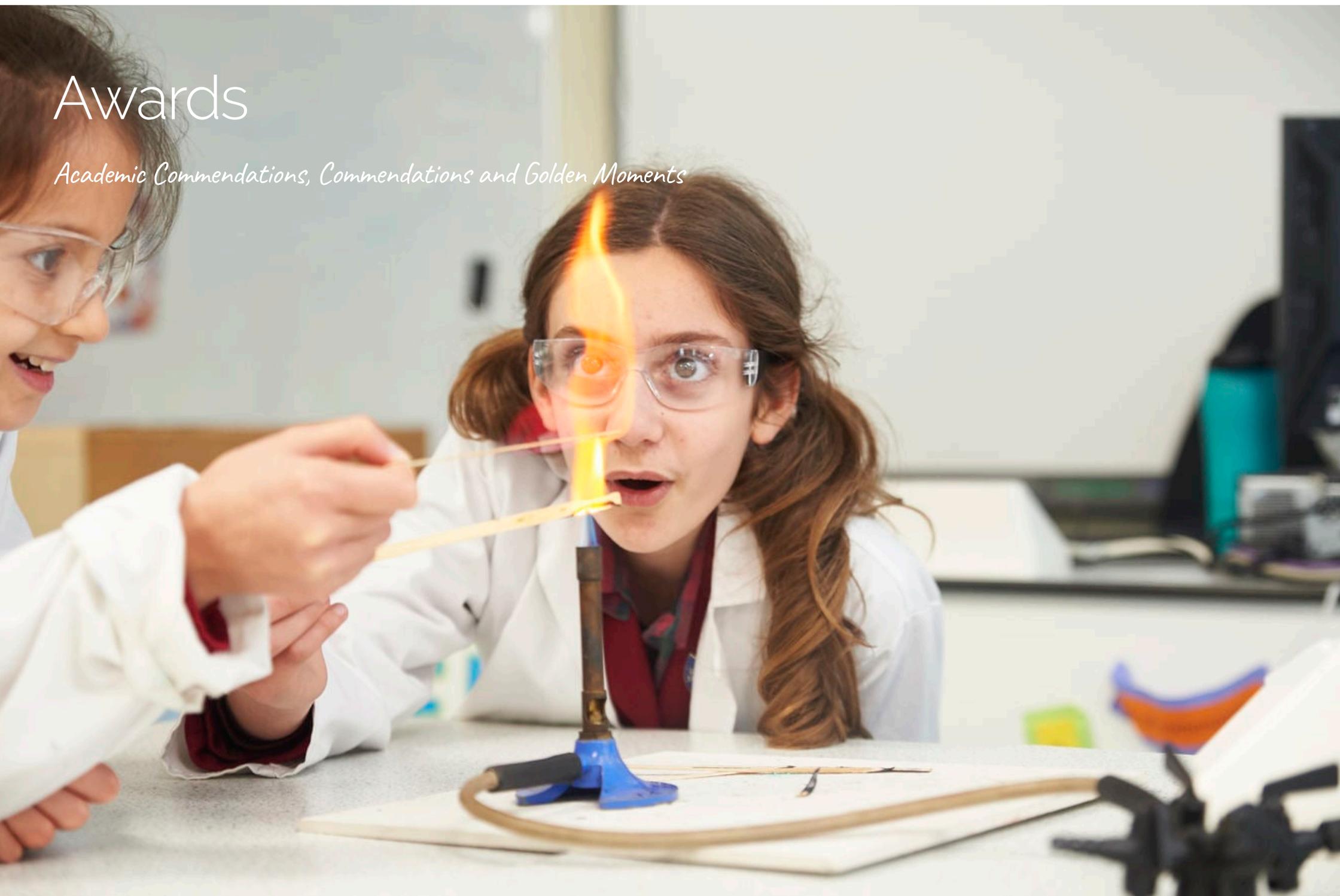
Read more about the Annual Fund [here](#) and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Also, if you have any unwanted foreign currency lying around we would be happy to receive it, convert it to £'s and add it to the 2020 Annual Fund. We have a collection box located in reception.

Thank you for your support.  
Sue Maughan  
Development & Alumni Manager  
[smaughan@edgegrove.com](mailto:smaughan@edgegrove.com)



# Awards

*Academic Commendations, Commendations and Golden Moments*



## 17th - 23rd January 2020

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

### Academic Commendations

Fraser, Oliver 3D  
Harris, Avi 5N  
Mahmood, Jannah 3D  
Kachhela, Shay 5N (2)  
Nursiah, Esmé 3D (3)  
Kapadia, Kimaya (Kimmy) 5N  
Antohe, Maria 4M  
Mistry, Keya (Shona) 5N  
Dacres, Alexandria 4M  
Okoye, Chizara (Zara) 5N  
John, Rahul 4M  
Hao, Zi Chen (Lucas) 6A  
Kumarappan, Krishna (Krish) 4M  
Bhimjiani, Akira 6E  
Presto, Ren 4M  
Cox, Thomas 6E  
Tailor, Rishi 4M  
Izadpanah, Ariana 6E

Bennett, Bella 4T  
Malyon, Jack 6E  
Ellis-Scarfe, Marcy 4T  
Glenholme, Stephanie (Stephie) 6T  
Koffman, Tyler 4T  
Patel, Nikita 6T  
Magbagbeola, Oluwafewa (Fewa) 4T  
Benson, Miles 7D (2)  
Pal, Vihaan 4T  
Christofis, Emilio 7D  
Aluya, Karsten 4TC  
Lake, Sophia 7D  
Hughes, Ridley 4TC  
Xu, Qianxun (Chihiro) 7D (2)  
Kim, Andreas 4TC  
Beer, Daisy 7KM  
Lloyd, Sophia 4TC  
Harris-Eze, Kenechukwu (Kene) 7KM  
Martin, Mia 4TC  
Jay, Jaden 7KM  
Phillips, Summer 4TC  
Orriss, Declan 7KM  
Schofield, Jamie 4TC (2)  
Patel, Niyam 7KM  
Tilbury, Rory 4TC  
Williams, Javan 7KM

Toledo Shapiro, Nathan 5C (2)  
Bilgora-Kelly, Harry 7M  
Caplan, Oliver 5D  
Hogan, Allegra 7M  
Fabian, Ethan 5D  
Lawson, Zoe Grace 7M  
Lieberman, Ella 5E  
Neumann, Anderson 7M (2)  
Padayachy, Hugh 5E  
Stein, Sam 7M  
Tanna, Rohan 5M  
Bakare, Olujimi 7W  
Camilotti, Niccolo 5N  
Prince, David 7W (2)



### Commendations

Bartlett, Anabelle 3D  
Alsaghir, Raneem 6C  
Shah, Avi 3D  
Bennett, James 6C  
Golden, Sophie 3M  
Connolly, Katherine (Katie) 6C  
Passan, Nico 3M  
Cookson, Hayden 6C  
Phillips Bhan, Ophelia 3M  
Pearson, Lottie 6C  
Phillips, Lacey 3M  
Phillips Bhan, Louis 6C  
Rodol, James 3M  
Rainbow, Dominic 6C  
Rodrigo, Ronan 3M  
Steven-Jennings, Emily 6C  
Sansom, Eleanor (Ellie) 3M  
Sutcliffe, Theodore (Theo) 6C  
Shah, Khushi 3M  
Aheer, Kishan 6GT  
Taylor, Nathaniel 3M  
Bennett, Monty 6GT  
Wilkins, Benjamin 3M  
Fazzini-Jones, Lucia 6GT  
Woolfson, Jesse 3M

Tilbury, Jemima 6GT  
Sanders, Bryony 4T (2)  
Patel, Arjun 6L  
Shah, Rohan 4TC  
Glenholme, Stephanie (Stephie) 6T  
Agasee, Jamie 6C  
Mehta, Prashil 6T  
Ali, Mehdi 6C

### Golden Moments

Avi Shah 3D - For being a really kind friend and offering to share his snack during playtimes.

Ophelia Phillips Bhan 3M - It was lovely to see Ophelia helping a child in her class today, without being asked, and diligently tidying her area of the classroom.

Karsten Aluya 4TC - I was so impressed by Karsten and his actions after cookery club. He had just baked a batch of flapjacks and upon returning to Lower School he began to offer them to any and all lucky enough to pass. An act of kindness that truly impressed me and in the spirit of the school. Simply outstanding Karsten!



Rex Ashley 5E - For being such a good buddy to Louis and looking after him so well on his taster day today.

Hugh Padayachy 5E - For being such a good buddy to Louis and looking after him so well on his taster day today.

Kenechukwu (Kene) Harris-Eze 7KM - Thank you for taking down the chairs in form time for me without being asked.

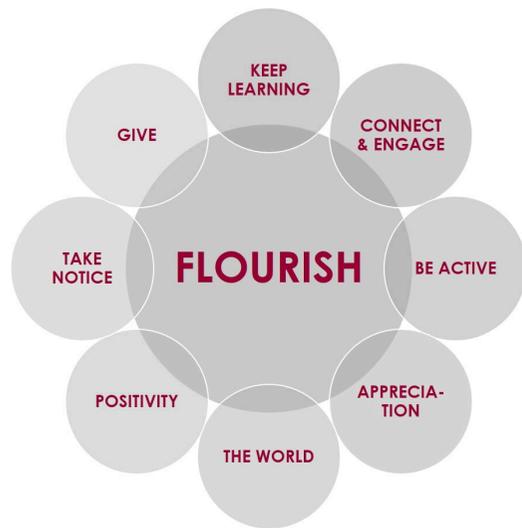
Declan Orriss 7KM - Thank you for taking down the chairs in form time for me without being asked.

Kush Fatania 8O - Stopped to help a teacher carrying something heavy. Very kind and helpful!



## Upcoming Events

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



### Flourish Family Focus

#### *Effective Praise*

Wednesday 12th February, 8.45am

Each stage of child development brings challenges that influence the way children think, feel and behave as every child develops in different ways: physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally.

A parent's role is to prepare their child to move forward in life confidently and independently, it is a role which requires myriad skills, is constantly evolving and for which there is no manual. As part

of Edge Grove's Flourish programme we are pleased to introduce Flourish Family Focus, half-termly bitesize coaching sessions for Pre Prep parents which offer regular opportunities to gain insight into, and explore common parenting challenges. These empowering sessions focus on raising awareness, self-awareness and, most importantly, provide solution-focused strategies, tips and techniques to assist confident forward movement.

The first session, Effective Praise, led by Mrs Sharp, Head of Wellbeing, will be held on **Wednesday 12th February at 8.45am** in the Wellbeing Centre.

If you would like to attend please email [KMcGowan@edgegrove.com](mailto:KMcGowan@edgegrove.com) to reserve your place.



### Flourish Parent Workshop

#### *Effective Communication*

Friday 6th March, 8.45am

£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](mailto:ssharp@edgegrove.com)



# FRIENDS

OF EDGE  GROVE

## Upcoming Friends of Edge Grove Events

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Friday 31st January

Quiz Night

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Friday 7th February

Friday Friends Coffee Morning

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Saturday 21st March

Lego Model Building Festival

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# FEBRUARY \* Half term CAMP

AT  
**EDGE GROVE SCHOOL**

with **Josh Rose**  
and his team

**February 17th - 21st**

**OPENING HOURS**

**9.30 am to 3.30 pm**

(extended hours available)

**PHONE 07798792590**

**EMAIL [hello@keenbeansport.co.uk](mailto:hello@keenbeansport.co.uk)**

**[keenbeancamps.co.uk](http://keenbeancamps.co.uk)**

## Mini Beans

This is a chance for your children to take part in a safe and fun environment with exciting play-based activities. These are kept short and energetic to keep the interest of all children. Activities include: **bouncy castles, Inflatable slides, football, multi-sport** and **dance** sessions as well as many other great fun activities.

**Ages - 3-4**

## Creative Beans

Bring out your creative side in a series of crafting and building activities! Take part in **Lego Challenges** that test your skills, from building the tallest, strongest tower to making working mechanisms that create marble runs and machines. Become a robot master with our **Lego Mindstorm** workshop, making everything from racing robots to working mechanical arms.

Many more creative activities are offered such as **Papercraft Modelling** (to take home!), **3D graphics art** and **Cardboard Crafting** for costumes and props.

**Ages - Year 2 to Year 6**

## Sporting Beans

Bring lots of energy to our fun and exciting activities which change every hour. Can you hit the bull's eye in **Archery** or be the fastest through our **Inflatable Assault Course**? Will Iron Man or Hulk win in our padded **Sumo Wrestling**? Can you score the basket that wins the game for your team?

Other activities include: **Basketball Dodgeball, Baseball, Tub Golf, Bouncy castle, Bean Bag Curling**, and many more!

There is so much to do that you will not want to go home!

**Ages - Reception to Year 6**

## Performing Beans

Become the next **Dancing Queen**, or **King of the Stage!** Learn how to work the room and keep the crowd in awe of your presence. Perform in mini-shows, become fun characters, bust some moves in dance routines and project your voice for all to hear. Become an inspiration!

**Ages - Reception to Year 6**

*Thank you for reading*

# EDGE NEWS

EDGE GROVE SCHOOL

Aldenham Village

Hertfordshire

WD25 8NL

Email: [office@edgegrove.com](mailto:office@edgegrove.com)

Telephone: +44 (0) 1923 855724

