



Friday 13th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of next week we are saying 'Goodbye' to a number of our staff. As you know, due to the low numbers expected to be in Residential in September a decision was taken to close that aspect of the school. This of course has meant that unfortunately some of our staff will therefore be leaving. We recognise the care given by our Residential colleagues, some of whom have worked at the school for many years meeting the needs of a wide range of pupils. As a school we want to recognise those years of dedicated service and thank those people. Members of Residential Care who are leaving are Katy Aylett, Tracey Boore, Diane Ellis, Simone Pears and Ruud Oosterbaan.

Some of the members of the Care team have applied for redeployment in other departments within the school and we are delighted that George Brown will join the Behaviour Team and Donna Williams will continue to work in Enrichment Activities.

The restructure has also had an impact on the Education Team. Many of the roles that were once school based, now have a hub wide focus. (By hub, we are referring to the three OHCAT schools within our area – St Dominic's, Grafham Grange and ourselves.) So the school will no longer have a 'Head of Education' but a single Regional Lead for Education will work across the three schools. This means that Mr Mark Warner will be leaving us. We are immensely grateful to Mr Warner for the work he has done, working tirelessly on behalf of the pupils.

Mr Liam Fletcher is also leaving. Again we are grateful to him for his care for our pupils as well as facilitating a wide range of activities for them. Finally in the Education Team, Mr Sid Adams who has worked here as a Teaching Assistant, is going back to University to obtain a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and become a qualified teacher. He will be an asset to the profession.

Our Housekeeper, Mrs Sandra Norkett is retiring. Mrs Norkett has worked here for 28 years! Daily she has ensured that the school is clean and tidy and that the pupils are well cared for. She has consistently done this with smile on her face.

We wish all these members of staff well in the next stage of their careers and lives.

Space does not permit here to talk about new staff and arrangements for September, but I will write to you next week concerning that.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Neptune: The boys have enjoyed exploring the amount of sugar in food. We worked out percentages and how much per 100g or ml and discovered that was the same as the percentage! We have measured out the amounts of sugar to make a display, look out for it in open day. We have been finishing the year with assessments to see how much progress they have made. I am so proud of the progress all the boys have made this year. Some boys have been learning to use a sewing machine to create their hot air balloons. They enjoyed quick cricket again in PE.

Titan:

In Titan class we have been completing assessments this week, all boys have put maximum effort into these. They have all wanted to prove just how much they have learnt and remember from the school year. The boys had a wonderful time at Connect with the Countryside on Thursday and were great representatives of Brantridge School. The boys have to see and pet a variety of farm animals; they were able to learn how locally produced foods are made, and have a little taste; there was some fly-fishing and even fire starting. It was a fantastic day and all who attended should be very proud of themselves.

Mars:

Assessment week in Mars class and we can clearly see some great progression. The students should be very proud of their achievements!

We have been trying hard to complete our class guided reader *The Cursed Child* which we have been really enjoying, and which has really helped to up-level our reading comprehension.

As well as this, we have finished our gymnastics sessions, which has seen all boys make excellent progress and all have achieved badges - not only helping coordination, agility and balance - it has also helped our confidence.

Jupiter:

Assessment week in Jupiter this week. Most of the boys engaged very well in the tasks at hand to demonstrate the extent of their learning from this term. On Wednesday, we went on our class trip to Grafham Grange School lake to go fishing. The boys were engaged and enthused throughout, making number of very impressive catches. We landed 4 good sized bream, 2 nice tench and tiny perch. It was superb to see the boys helping each other if they got in a pickle as well as sharing their tactics and strategies and encouraging each other to keep going to catch the next one. Enjoy the pictures of the ones that didn't get away.



Saturn:

The boys in Saturn have worked very hard this week to show us how much they have improved in reading, writing and maths. They have completed assessments successfully and it is a pleasure to see how much resilient our boys have become by managing to sit and work out the questions for up to an hour at times. It has been a great week again and the boys are showing that they are earning their time off for the summer holidays. We have looked at The Jungle Book story and the boys have written a narrative story around one of the scenes in the story. It has been a pleasure to see that they have used different sentence structures, conjunctions, different punctuation and paragraphs to write their stories. Well done boys!

Mercury: This week pupils have been watching Danny the Champion of the World and Matilda and answering verbal questions to show their understanding. Some pupils have also been reading and answering questions about poetry. In maths they have been learning about different measures and recapping how to convert between them. In science, they have been recapping their knowledge on the solar system, gravity and learning about meteors and meteorites. They've also had another great week at the swimming pool learning about butterfly stroke.

Residential News

In the penultimate week before the summer holidays the boys in residential have done very well. It is always a worrying time with some boys leaving and others to see what new classes they are in next year. They have enjoyed trips to Base and local skatepark, cinema, shopping and watching the England match (which was off course abit disappointing). For the rest they enjoyed relaxing time in school with playing on the iPads and watching a film. One more week to go and usually there will be lots of exciting activities to enjoy.

Residential Student of the Week – Callum

Brantridge Weekly - Roll Of Honour!

TOP OF THE LEAGUE

- 1st Danny – 406 points
- 2nd Felix – 405 points
- 3rd Jayden – 405 points



TITAN

King of the Golds	Jayden
Star of the Week	Billy

MARS

King of the Golds	Alfie O
Star of the Week	Alfie O

SATURN

King of the Golds	Danny
Star of the Week	Danny

MERCURY

King of the Golds	Tyler B
Star of the Week	

JUPITER

King of the Golds	Jack
Star of the Week	Taylor

NEPTUNE

King of the Golds	Sam
Star of the Week	Sam

Resident of the Week	Callum
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Forest School Award	Mars class
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Therapies:

The whole school has been targeting 'sitting to learn' this week in the Social Communication Programme. I'm sure if you ask your child what this means they will be able to show you. This target aims to support our students to develop their attention and listening skills by sitting with the correct posture so that they can attend to others and learn to our best of their abilities.



Next week's Social Communication Programme target is: 'Stay on task'.

This target is to encourage our pupils to stay on task and to not get distracted by other things. For example our thoughts, other people or events. In addition 'Stay on tasks' relates to staying on topic where some of our students find it difficult to stick to a topic of conversation.



Forest School

This week due to this being the last week in class together we decided to have a change and each class participated in a cup tower challenge, which was taken very seriously by each class trying to build the highest tower and became the winning class. We also went on scavenger hunts and designed paper plate marble runs.



Marvellous Mars the cup tower challenge winners with an epic tower which was 23 cups high and when measured it was 258cm!

Great team work 😊

Neptune and their tower managing a great 18 layers!



Titan nearly got there only for it to fall at 17 layers!



Saturn managed to hold the title for two days with 19 layers until Mars took the title from them!

