



GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 1 – 2026 EDITION

Principal's reflections

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting term at Grace Academy, filled with opportunities for our students to learn, grow and shine. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard in the run-up to their GCSE and Post-16 exams, and they are now well into the examination period. We are immensely proud of their dedication and resilience. To celebrate their achievements, we will be hosting a Graduation Gala after the final exam, giving staff the chance to come together with our Year 11 students to mark this important milestone and wish them well as they take their next steps. This event will include the traditional leavers' assembly, shirt signing and a range of fun activities. Further details will be shared with students and parents soon. There will also be a year 13 leavers event.

Alongside exam preparations, the rest of the school has also been engaged in a wide variety of enriching experiences. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have enjoyed university visits where they took part in workshops on maximising memory, independent learning and an introduction to university life—valuable sessions designed to broaden horizons and build confidence. More recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Saltmine Theatre Company, who delivered a powerful performance focused on the theme of knife crime, followed by educational workshops that encouraged thoughtful discussion and reflection. Our Year 12 students have also been developing essential life skills through their first aid training, working towards becoming first responders—an ability that will serve both them and the wider community for years to come.

Personal development and wellbeing remain central to our mission at Grace Academy. These experiences are carefully designed to complement academic learning and support our students in becoming confident, compassionate and well-rounded citizens. As we move into the final half term, we have a packed schedule ahead, including important lessons, end-of-year assessments and a number of exciting activities and trips. Attendance during this period is vital to ensure students finish the year strongly and feel fully prepared for the year group they will be moving into after the summer break.

As you will be aware we were inspected by OFSTED in the final week of the term – the inspection went very well and the report will follow in due course. Whilst we can't give out specific findings, they commented on how well the academy knew its students and worked tirelessly to support them. They did also note that attendance is key to our success, and that parents and carers need to support the academy in ensuring their children attend. This will therefore remain an area of focus for both OFSTED and ourselves. Every bit of evidence and data shows that if your child attends they achieve in every aspect of their school lives, both academically and personally.

As always, thank you for the continued support you provide to both Grace Academy and your children's education. It makes an enormous difference, and we look forward to a positive and successful end to the school year.





Our Vision for Personal Development at Grace Academy

Personal development is a thread that runs through everything we do at Grace Academy. Our vision is to prepare our students to find their future in Modern Britain through the explicit teaching of our core values of Grace, Integrity, Respect, Potential and Excellence.



Our students are proud to be part of this community. They take pride in how they present and conduct themselves, and in the quality of work they produce. Our staff take pride in their work with students to develop them both academically and socially.

We are respectful of each other and our beliefs, allowing individuals to grow into their own unique selves without fear of prejudice.

Students at Grace Academy are able to feel successful every day, not just through the fantastic academic results they achieve, but through small wins each time progress is made or an obstacle is overcome, knowing that being the best version of themselves is the ultimate quest and the only expectation we have is for them to "try their best."

Our Personal Development Curriculum can be found on our website [here](#)

This term we would be really grateful to hear your opinions on our Personal Development Curriculum by completing the Google Form below.

[Personal Development Curriculum Feedback](#)





CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT – ENGLISH

This half-term our spotlight is on English, where students in each year group have been learning the topics listed below. To support your child’s progress in English, encourage them to complete their SPARX Reader homework, which can be accessed [here](#)

Year 7	<p>Non-Fiction Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Letters • Writing Articles • Writing Speeches • Working out the PAF of a task • Using DEAF techniques to develop a paragraph • Using AAFORREST devices to create tone • Using correct styles and layouts for different tasks
Year 8	<p>Non-Fiction Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Letters • Writing Articles • Writing Speeches • Working out the PAF of a task • Using DEAF techniques to develop a paragraph • Using AAFORREST devices to create tone • Using correct styles and layouts for different tasks
Year 9	<p>Creative Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a short story in response to a range of titles • Developing use of sentences, such as the Alan Peat sentences • Developing use of language devices, such as metaphors, similes, personification • Word choice for effect • Effective punctuation • Creation of tension • Delay of information • Making time jumps • Effective description of setting, character and emotion • Tone of narrator (voice and viewpoint). • Work on tenses
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking and Listening • Students prepare and deliver a Speaking and Listening Presentation. • Unseen Poetry • Students learn to respond to unseen poetry, developing analytical skills and essay writing. • Mock Exams • Students sit full Literature Mock exams.

The full English curriculum for all year groups can be found [here](#).



HOMEWORK AT GRACE

We are extremely proud of the number of our students that have engaged in our homework platforms since the start of the year. To date our students have completed **1222** hours of independent learning!

As we know, students make the best progress when they continue their learning, both in and outside of school, with research showing that students who regularly complete homework throughout their secondary education make an average of five months additional progress to their peers.

Since the start of this academic year our students have complete 1265 hours of independent reading on SPARX reader. The biggest success has been seen in the independent work completed by students using SPARX Maths with 256,920 questions completed in 2482 hours of independent study. These opportunities at home, alongside the increase in self-regulation in lessons, are supporting our students to become more independent learners, a key skill for all students.

To access their homework students can use the links below and sign in using their school email address:

[**SPARX Maths**](#)

[**SPARX Science**](#)

[**SPARX Reader**](#)

[**SMHW**](#)

If your child experiences any difficulties in logging in they should discuss it with their computing teacher, tutor or contact our ICT team at;

gas-student-ict-support@graceacademy.org.uk

Homework Timetable	
Day	Subject
Monday	English
Tuesday	Science
Wednesday	Maths
Thursday	Humanities
Friday	Other subjects



SUMMER EXAMS

Year 11 and Post 16 exams began this term with our students showing remarkable maturity and resilience throughout. They have worked incredibly hard in their preparation and approach to their exams. We are extremely proud of their efforts and fully expect this positive attitude to continue next half term as they complete the remainder of their exams.

Please see below the remaining exams for Year 11 and Post 16 after half term. Revision session for morning exams will start at 8.00am.

Year 11 Exam Timetable

Date	Exam	AM/PM	Exam Length
2/6/26	Science Exam – Triple/Combined Physics 1 Exam	AM	1hr 45/ 1hr 10
3/6/26	Maths Exam – Paper 2	AM	1 hr 30
3/6/26	Geography Exam – Paper 2	PM	1 hr 30
4/6/26	History Exam – Paper 2	AM	2 hrs
4/6/26	French Exams – Writing	PM	1 hr 15
5/6/26	English Language Exam	AM	2 hrs
8/6/26	Science Exam – Triple/Combined Biology 2 Exam	AM	1 hr 45
10/6/26	Maths Exam – Paper 3	AM	1 hr 30
11/6/26	Geography Exam – Paper 3	AM	1 hr 30
12/6/26	Science Exam – Triple/ Combined Chemistry 2 Exam	AM	1 hr 45/ 1hr 10
15/6/26	Science Exam – Triple/ Combined Physics 2 Exam	AM	1 hr 45/ 1 hr 10

Year 12/13 Exam Timetable

Date	Exam	AM/PM	Exam Length
1/6/26	Media Exam – Media Representations	AM	2 hr
1/6/26	A Level Fine Art	AM/PM	3 Days
5/6/26	A Level Photography	AM/PM	3 Days

Further communication will also be sent out regarding revision sessions taking place during the half term holiday.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

“Success is earned one day at a time. You start by showing up!”

New attendance ambassadors at Grace

Congratulations to our new Ambassadors who will become role models for our students for improving attendance across the academy. Watch out for all of the exciting initiatives to come from our students who will empower others to track classroom percentages, run rewards, and foster a culture where regular attendance is seen as essential to success.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Why do we care so much at Grace about Attendance?

Regular school attendance is crucial to academic achievement, social development, and future life opportunities. Missing school leads to gaps in knowledge, reduced confidence, and lower attainment, with research showing that even a few missed days can significantly affect grades in subjects. Therefore, regular school attendance is vital.

Rewards

We are working hard to reward all of our students with excellent attendance, this term the attendance raffle ticket draw will be LIVE and have prizes such as family food hampers, vouchers and more! Students can get tickets every day by being on time and having 100% attendance for the week, the more they are in school the more chance they have of winning! Please encourage your child to attend every day they possibly can.

Academic Year Attendance	Equivalent Number of Days Absent Per Year	Approximate Number of Weeks Absent Per Year	Number of Lessons Missed Per Year
98%	4	1	20
95%	9	2	50
90%	19	4	100
85%	29	6	150
80%	38	8	200
75%	48	10	250
70%	57	11.5	290
65%	67	13.5	340

It is a legal duty as a parent/carer to ensure that students attend regularly and receive their education. This means your child is expected to attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence from the school in advance. Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority for your child.



APPLICATIONS 2026

Thank you to all students who have already submitted their sixth form applications. Offer letters will be issued after the February half term. Any Year 11 students who still wish to apply for a Post-16 place at Grace Academy Sixth Form can collect an application form from Mrs Knight or Miss Perks. You can also request further information by emailing leanneperks@graceacademy.org.uk

YEAR 12 UNIVERSITY CAREERS EXPEDITION

In a pivotal step for their professional development, the entire Year 12 cohort recently traded their classrooms for lecture halls as part of a comprehensive careers programme. The students took part in an immersive expedition to two of the city's leading institutions: Aston University and Birmingham City University. The visit was designed to give students a first hand look at higher education, moving beyond prospectuses to experience campus life directly. Throughout the day, the group participated in interactive workshops and guided tours at both sites, providing a vibrant introduction to the academic environments awaiting them after their Post-16 studies.

A highlight of the trip was the opportunity for students to engage in real-world dialogue with recent graduates. These sessions allowed the Year 12s to hear authentic stories about the university experience, from the rigours of study to the excitement of campus culture.

As these students begin to narrow down their Post-16 choices, this experience served as a vital bridge between their current studies and their future careers, ensuring they are well-prepared for the journey ahead.





St John Ambulance - Young Responders Programme

Our Yr 12 cohort recently took part in the 'Young Responders Programme' which was delivered by a trained member of the St Johns Ambulance team. The programme featured interactive sessions based on real-life, first aid situations that resonated with young people.

Students learnt practical skills to support their confidence and knowledge when dealing with emergency situations. Discussions were also had to reflect how these incidents impact mental wellbeing.

The course aims to equip learners with practical capabilities for their futures that focuses on imparting essential life skills that serve as a bridge to the next phase of a student's journey.



Cancer Research Fundraiser

Scarlett Gathercole in Year 13 organised a 'Pretty Muddy 5K' event for Sutton Town Under 14 netball team for whom she coaches to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The girls raised an astonishing **£7333.25** for the charity. Scarlott said *'This achievement is personal to me as my family has benefited from pioneering Cancer Research treatments. This event has highlighted what teamwork and determination can achieve beyond sport'*.

An outstanding achievement for such a worthy cause.





WORLD BOOK DAY

What an incredible atmosphere we had during World Book Day! As we aligned our celebrations with the National Year of Reading, the academy was transformed into a living library. From the corridors to the classrooms, the "buzz" of storytelling was unmistakable. As is our proud tradition, the staff didn't hold back. We saw an eclectic mix of literary icons roaming the halls—from classic Dickensian protagonists to modern-day heroes. Seeing our teachers embrace their favorite characters truly brought a sense of magic to the school day and sparked plenty of "Who are you supposed to be?" conversations during break times. Our students took center stage, proving that creativity is alive and well at Grace Academy. Key highlights from the day included:

Stranger Sagas: Many of our brave students entered the National Young Writers competition. The challenge? To craft their own "Stranger Sagas." We were blown away by the atmospheric, spine-chilling mini-stories produced. We certainly have some burgeoning horror and suspense novelists in our midst with over 120 entries!

Artistic Bookmarks: In the spirit of personalization, students spent time designing and creating bespoke bookmarks. Inspired by their favourite covers and characters, these weren't just placeholders—they were miniature works of art.

The Book Market: Perhaps the most exciting event was the Book Market. The energy was electric as students browsed the stalls to select their free World Book Day books. It was fantastic to see students discussing genres and recommending titles to one another. Over 300 free books were given out.

The goal of this day is always to foster a lifelong love of reading. Whether it's through a 100-word "Saga" or picking up a brand-new novel at the market, every page turned is a step toward a brighter, more imaginative future.

Thank you to all the staff and students who made this day a resounding success!





Y7 CAREERS TRIP TO ASTON AND BCU

A group of enthusiastic Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring visit to both Aston University and Birmingham City University as part of the academy's commitment to raising aspirations and broadening horizons from an early age.

During the visit, students completed guided campus tours where they explored key university facilities and gained a real insight into student life, helping many of them to begin imagining themselves progressing onto higher education in the future. A highlight of the experience was taking part in an interactive challenge where pupils worked collaboratively to design and create their own university society club, using creativity, teamwork and leadership to develop ideas that would engage future students.

From imaginative sports clubs to creative social groups, the activity encouraged them to think about the wider opportunities university offers beyond academic study. The trip provided a valuable chance for students to build confidence, ask questions and develop a greater understanding of future pathways, with many returning inspired and excited about what their own educational journey could look like.





GRACE ACADEMY

MATILDA PRODUCTION

Students at Grace Academy Solihull captivated audiences with an exceptional production of Matilda The Musical, performed over three evenings and a special matinee performance.

Featuring more than 40 talented students from Years 7 to 10, the show was a vibrant celebration of creativity, confidence and collaboration. Across three sold-out evening performances, audiences were treated to an unforgettable display of acting, singing and dancing of the highest standard.

In addition to the evening shows, the academy proudly hosted a special matinee performance for local care home residents, feeder primary schools and students from Grace Academy Coventry. The matinee was a particularly heartwarming occasion, bringing together different generations and members of the wider Grace Academy community to share in the joy of live theatre.

From powerful solos to high-energy ensemble numbers, the cast delivered every moment with enthusiasm and professionalism. The choreography was sharp and dynamic, vocals were strong and expressive, and the acting brought humour and heart to the much-loved story. The audience response each night was overwhelming, with rapturous applause and standing ovations.

Behind the scenes, staff and students worked tirelessly to create impressive staging, vibrant costumes and seamless technical production, transforming the academy hall into the magical world of Matilda. The teamwork and dedication shown throughout rehearsals and performances were truly inspiring.

This remarkable production not only showcased the extraordinary talent within Grace Academy Solihull, but also highlighted the school's commitment to providing enriching opportunities in the performing arts.

A huge congratulations to the cast, crew and staff for delivering a show that will be remembered for years to come.





DRAMA BIRMINGHAM REP TRIP

A group of Year 10 drama students recently engaged in an educational excursion to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to deepen their professional knowledge. The visit featured a backstage tour including the wings and the auditorium and highlighted various technical specialities, such as scenography (set design, lighting design), costume creation (wigs and prosthetics), and stage management.

Beyond observing these production elements, the pupils participated in a practical acting masterclass facilitated by an expert to stimulate their upcoming course-related creative projects. This hands-on experience was designed to illustrate the collaborative efforts required to execute a large-scale theatrical performance.

Throughout the day, the students represented the academy exceptionally well, earning praise for their exemplary conduct from the theatre staff. This initiative successfully provided the learners with artistic inspiration and a broader perspective on potential career paths within the industry.



RIDE TO LONDON – TOVE 10 CHARITY EVENT

Our recent academy fundraiser was a great success, raising over £480 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, the academy's student selected charity for this year. Students and staff participated enthusiastically, creating a positive atmosphere throughout the event, which was themed to match a Monopoly Board and was facilitated and run by our Post 16 students, with support from our Academy Ethos Team.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed and helped support such an important cause.





GRACE ACADEMY

STUDENT VOICE

Students at the Grace Academy are no longer just following the rules; they are making them. Through a series of weekly referendums, the student body is actively shaping their own school experience by voting on key issues ranging from canteen menus to lunchtime social activities.

This initiative, which takes place during regular tutor sessions, is designed to help students live fundamental British values by giving them a direct impact on their school environment. Rather than decisions being made behind closed doors, students are given the platform to have their say on what matters most to them.

One of the most popular outcomes of this democratic process occurred at the end of last term. A resounding 68% of tutor groups voted for a 'Taste of the West Indies' to be the next major theme day in the school canteen.

The democratic pulse of the academy extends well beyond the dining hall. When students were asked to choose between new board games or more athletic equipment for their breaks, 57% of groups voted for additional table tennis tables. The school acted quickly on these results, and the new tables have already been installed on both the front and back playground areas for students to enjoy. We also purchased board games like Scrabble, Uno and Chess, as well as a variety of puzzles for students to ensure we were inclusive of all our student body's preferences when it comes to how they would like to spend their social times.

At Grace Academy students are proving that their voices are the driving force behind academy life.





SPORTING NEWS, EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Year 7 and Year 8 Football Teams

Well done to both of our Year 7 and Year 8 Football teams for winning their respective North Solihull Leagues. Both teams progressed to the semi finals of the Solihull Cup but unfortunately were not able to progress to the finals. Year 7 despite a good team performance lost 3-0 against a strong Park Hall side. The Year 8 semi final was against last years winners St. Peter's Catholic School and after an outstanding game of football were knocked out the tournament losing 5-3 after extra time despite two great goals from Isaiah Stoney-Gordon and Jaedon Hughes.



Sports Leaders Primary School Football Tournament

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders recently took part officiating and mentoring a Key Stage 1 Football Event for our local Primary Schools. Throughout the event our Sports Leaders promoted key sporting values such as teamwork, respect, fair play and determination. All students represented themselves with maturity and enthusiasm ensuring all of the Primary students had an enjoyable experience. We look forward to seeing these leadership skills continue to grow at future Primary sports events!



Sports Leaders Primary School Archery Competition

Our excellent Year 9 Sports Leaders delivered an archery competition for our local Primary Schools. All pupils that participated were accompanied from station to station by our Sports Leaders ensuring they all had the best experience possible. All Primary School students who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and left the event with a medal. Our Year 9 leaders were praised for their hard work and enthusiasm by the Primary School Teachers and our School Sports Partnership Lead.

Y7 and Y8 Satellite Football Tournament

Our Year 7 and 8 Satellite teams completed their seasons well with another confident and disciplined display in their final round of fixtures. During the tournament all of the boys showed good teamwork and impressive commitment throughout.





EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

There are a range of clubs and activities for all students to join, please see below the timetable for next half term.



Grace Academy Extra Curricular Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch Time	Fitness Club – Y7	Fitness Club – Y8		Fitness Club – Y9	Show Choir – All Years
After School (3 – 4pm)	Aladdin Rehearsals – All Years Chess Club – All Years Netball – All Years Football – Y8/9	Music Practice Club – All Years	Football – Y7 Rounders – All Years Aladdin Rehearsals – All Years Science Club – All Years	Music Practice Club – All Years Art/3D Club – Y7-9	Sport Science Y10-11 BTEC Drama & Music - Y10/11

If you would like to suggest some other clubs that your child would be interested in attending, please complete the Google Form [here](#).

CARE FOR THE FAMILY PROGRAMME

Next half term we will be launching a 'Care for the Family Programme' which will be ran over four weeks at the Riverside Family Hub on; 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June from 9:00 – 10:30am. This course is open to all parents and carers and will cover weekly themes such as; 'Strengthening family resilience', 'Understanding the teenage brain', 'Development communication that works'.

If you would like to attend the 'Care for the Family Programme' please contact maxinebromley@graceacademy.org.uk

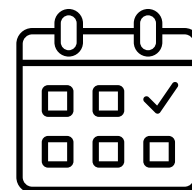




UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

June

- 1st – P16 Art Exams and Work Experience
- 4th – Y9 Values Day
- 5th – P16 Photography Exams
- 10th – Y9 BCU and Aston University Trip
- 15th – Y10 Geography Field Trip
- 16th – Y10 Geography Field Trip and Y8 Character Workshop
- 18th – Y6 Transition Information Evening
- 19th – World Music Day
- 22nd – Y10 and Y12 Mock Week
- 25th – Y11 into Y12 Transition Day
- 26th – Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 30th – Athletics Championships



July

- 1st – Y10 Food Technology Mock Exam
- 7th – Y12 – Personal Statements Writing Workshop
- 2nd – Year 9 Importance of GCSE's assembly led by BCU
- 15th – Y10 Geography Field Trip – Carding Mill Valley
- 20th / 21st – Rewards Trips and Sports Day
- 22nd – School Closes for the Summer Holidays

OTHER REMINDERS & HOUSEKEEPING

It is important the academy has up to date contact information for parents/carers. If there are any changes to your contact information please contact your child's pastoral team with the new information using the [contact information here](#).

It is important that all students adhere to the academy's uniform policy. More information can be found [here](#).

Reminder that [phones are banned in the academy](#) in line with the guidance from the Department for Education.

We are delighted to offer a free Breakfast club for our students in order for them to have a healthy, nutritious start to the day. More information can be found [here](#) for the relevant letter. To sign up for Breakfast club please complete [this form](#).

We are continuing to offer a food market with the food and other items being provided by *FareShare Midlands*. If you believe that your family would benefit from this provision, please complete this [form](#).