



GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nookside, Sunderland, SR4 8PG
Tel: 0191 534 4444 • Fax: 0191 534 4111 • Email: info@grindonhall.com • www.grindonhall.org
Principal: Mrs Joanne Maw

March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you'll agree that this has been an enjoyable and productive half term for everyone here at Grindon Hall Christian School. Here are some highlights:

The sky is no longer the limit for the students of Grindon Hall Christian School!



ROCKET LAUNCH: NET APRIL 2, 2018 4:30 PM EST | SPACEX FALCON 9 CRS-14

Students at Grindon Hall Christian School have been working as part of a project at the forefront of space exploration in partnership with Quest for Space, Silicon Valley, California. As part of a hand full of children globally they have, as school children from Yr 6-8, aged 9-12yrs, been part of the global quest to understand space better.

This Tuesday evening, 9.30pm UK time, the experiment designed by the children here in Sunderland is being sent to gather real data on the ISS from Cape Canaveral in the USA.

Partnered with Quest for Space, they designed a completely original experiment using robotics and Lego Mindstorms software, to test how different colour fabrics responded to heat and radiation in space. Their data will add to the global understanding of new technologies for the future.

The jobs of tomorrow are going to require a huge skills expansion and will increasingly be in computer software & electrical engineering and robotics. The

next frontier will see space exploration as a reality. Being part of such an inspiring project has given the children and other pupils at the school hope to dream impossible dreams and has opened up new possibilities for their futures.

Statement from Quest for Space:

"Grindon Hall Christian School is leading the way for students in the UK to send experiments to the International Space Station with Quest Institute for Quality Education of San Jose, California! The Quest for Space program is at the forefront of student space exploration and will soon be expanding their experiment capability to run student experiments on an outside platform in the vacuum of space. Visit www.questforspace.com for more information. The sky is no longer the limit."

The rocket launch details are below:

<https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/launches-and-events/events-calendar/2018/april/rocket-launch-spacex-falcon-9-crs-14>

As you can imagine, we are both incredibly proud and excited to be part of such an exciting programme!

A short video illustrating the project can be found by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p01JS8CO2w&feature=youtu.be>

Roughshod Theatre Group inspires students



Staff and students were treated to two days of fast-paced, sharply relevant live performances and workshops with Theatre Group Roughshod. Five of Roughshod's exceptional young performers led energetic and entertaining discussions about faith, hope and everything in between. They provoked thoughtful debate by mixing comedy, dramatic storytelling, the spoken word and personal experiences of the actors themselves. Our children and young people thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this inspiring event!

The Punctuation Roadshow performs at GHCS

Punctuation isn't always the most exciting topic of the day but primary and secondary students were treated to a punctuation lesson like no other when Barry, from the Punctuation Roadshow arrived in school to deliver his 'education through entertainment' production! There aren't many live music performances which involve audience participation and singing about ellipses, commas and full stops and but it certainly creates a memorable learning experience. Staff have certainly enjoyed seeing the results evidenced in the students' writing!



Hayley Kish in Y9 said:

"Barrie came into school and he talked about punctuation in a very different way - using song and dance. He put smiles on people's faces. He put a

smile on my face. He made a room full of smiles and laughter."

Year 4 visit to Arbeia Roman Fort

As part of their history topic, Year 4 recently visited the Roman Arbeia Fort. The pupils took part in an archaeological dig, learnt about Roman life in Britain and handled some amazing Roman artefacts. The children had a brilliant day but concluded that a Roman soldier may have preferred a sunnier posting to, say, Sardinia or Sicily rather than South Shields!



Year 1 Trip to Rising Sun Country Park

On Tuesday 27th of March Year 1 went on an exciting outdoor trip to Rising Sun Country Park (even the weather couldn't stop us from enjoying ourselves!).

The children had a fantastic day with a variety of activities, which involved hunting for mini beasts and creating them with clay and natural materials. Children also created an outdoor art gallery using

natural objects they had found and looking for signs of spring. We all had a fun day!



Y10 and 11 Progression visits

Year 10 and 11 students have taken part in a series of presentations over the last few weeks, supporting them to consider all options when it comes to thinking about further and higher Education. We have hosted assemblies from St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's 6th Form, Harton Academy's 6th form and Southmoor Academy's 6th form. A number of students also visited Southmoor's 6th form to engage in some sample 'critical thinking' activities. The students and staff were delighted to receive a copy of a classic novel, and they reported that the visit left them feeling inspired to learn.

Y11 Hoodies

Our Y11 leavers hoodies are available to buy online. Should they wish to, Y11 students may wear their leavers hoodie to school after the Easter holiday. School is open throughout the Easter holiday for Year 11 revision classes. Students have been given timetables and know when to attend for each subject.

Easter 'Egg'stravaganza!

Primary children have enjoyed a week of 'egg'cellent Easter fun and learning (we promise there will no more Easter puns for this newsletter!). Whilst assemblies and R.S. lessons have focussed on the key themes in the Easter story, we have also had great fun creating Easter Bonnets, painting eggs and completing an Easter Egg treasure hunt.

Fantastic Gymnastics

Our gymnasts have had so much recent success we could dedicate a whole newsletter to them! We have 6 national finalists, 6 gold medal and an under 11 silver medal.





The following Regional Finals saw Grindon Hall Students collect an impressive 3 gold, 9 bronze and the regional trophy! What an amazing achievement! Well done everyone and best of luck for the National Finals!



Football

The primary 9 a side team maintained their impressive 100% record after a hard fought but well-deserved victory against South Hylton Primary, on 27/3/18. Going into half-time the two teams were locked tightly at 2-2. However, the second-half saw the lads dig in; Louis Percival continued his rich vein of goal scoring form by completing his hat-trick and Oliver Worthington netting his third of the season, with a fine long range effort to make the final result 4-2. Notable mention goes to Oliver Howe, who played very well down the left-wing against a couple of very competitive opponents.

Summer uniform may be worn after the Easter holiday.

Following the Easter break, primary children may wear summer dresses/shorts. Our new uniform has been on display and have received much positive feedback. It is now available to buy online from:

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/ghcs/>

In the summer term there will opportunities to come into school to view samples of different sizes.

Car access to the school site

As I am sure you will understand, child safety is of paramount importance to us. Even though we already restrict access to the site, there have been a number of 'near miss. Incidents involving cars on site. After the Easter holiday there will be no car access to the site for parents. This is in line with all other schools in Sunderland and also in line with police advice. We thank you for your support in keeping your children safe.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school and to wish you and your family every blessing throughout the Easter break.

School reopens on Monday 23rd April.