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In this Edition

Don't miss out...



Grey Court PA presents:

Comedy

Hosted by Erich McElroy of Crack Comedy

Friday 3rd February 2023

Doors open: 7pm Show starts: 8pm

Licensed Bar Strictly over 18s only

TICKETS: £20 2-person Tapas platters £14

via www.pta-events.co.uk/greycourtschool

Book today!

The Notice Board

School Calendar

22-23 Term Dates 23-24 Term Dates Events

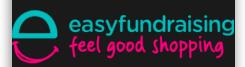
The Uniform Shop

Onen Thursdays

Closed on the 19 January

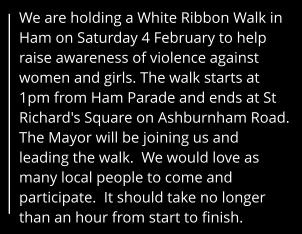
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PA Appeal
GoFundMe
Digital Screens
for Science





WHITE RIBBON WALK from Ham Parade to St Richard's Square on Saturday 4 February at 1pm



Please see the flyer at the end of the bulletin for more details and a QR code.

Abi Jonas, VAWG Community Safety Officer



Grey Court School: This Sporting LifeMr Clements sits down with Mr Willmore

This week I have been busy acting on a Rhodesian diktat to write an article for the *Ham and Petersham* magazine focusing on Grey Court's sporting prowess. Having had not so much as a haiku published in my lifetime (unless I count the honourable mention, I received as a 7-year-old for my *Rupert the bear* short story entry for the local Wl's summer fete) this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up! So, dreaming of the possibility of fame and fortune as a local gentleman writer, I set out to interview the Titus Willmorous of community sport and master of the syntactically compromised one-liner, Director of Sportif, Sir Stephen Willmore!

Grey Court's Director of PE, Stephen Willmore, reflects on his 15 Years at the School and the Sporting legacy he has built.

What is your favourite outfit, Sir Stephen?

Adidas Copa Mundial mouldies, Nike training pants, topped off with a PE department hoodie from my "supplier" and an old bobble hat from my first Grey Court ski trip! The David Gandy wellwear range is at home in the garage!

What's your favourite time of day?

It has to be bleak-mid-winter at 7.30am in the morning when upwards of 250 students regularly turn out shivering in the cold for their weekly team practises! It is the frozen breath of future victory!

The sight of you bellowing instructions at 7.30 in the morning to a bunch of freezing 13-year-olds reminds me of the sports teacher in the Ken Loach classic "Kes."

Ken Loach...yes played left-back for Oxford united in the 60s - bit left-field, right?

Tell us about your first memory of the school when you joined in 2008? I knew we had a talented bunch of athletes when I saw a group of year 11s leap over the wall for quick fag behind Ham library in order to miss double maths.

And what about your first ever pre-school practice - what was the turn-out like? The only person who turned up to my first morning practice was a local squire who used the field to exercise his dachshund.

Dog days indeed so how did you transform an unloved and much derided "bog-standard" comprehensive into the glittering sports behemoth, independent schools are now falling over themselves to visit?

It was a case of imposing standards, self-belief, embedding quality-teaching and Michael Flood!



Your love of data is well known - come on hit me with some GC stats! Grey Court teams won over 70% of the 465 sporting fixtures that were held in 2021/22 and currently over 75% of the 208 sporting fixtures this year.

How many times have we been borough champions, I can't remember? 6 times in 6 years.

And who has been the best sports scholar to have passed through your doors? Dekkers of course. Declan Rice - West Ham captain to you - he's on speed dial. One year I shortened the school day, so he could turn out for the school first XI and make it to his academy training session!

What book are you currently reading?

Michelle Obama's: Becoming and The Athletic.

You are famed for your teacher recruitment strategies - did you find your latest apprentice Matheus Da Silva in a local boxing gym?

True - Matheus was a local boxer - bit like you with your bare-knuckle boxing around the country fayres in your youth Mr Clements - or so rumour has it?

er...I don't like to talk about it...might get flashbacks...but go on...

Adam Ridley, one of my first proteges (you know the softly spoken phase leader) was recruited from the local semi-professional football team I managed on a Saturday. I found him doing yoga one day and I thought you'll make a great teacher Mr Ridley, very flexible. I saw in him qualities he didn't know he had - he was selling fruit and veg from his mum and dad's market stall at the time!"

So, what's your favourite yoga position?

The crouching tiger.

And finally - having won it all - what's next?

What about an Olympic champion? We have a lad who has just won a scholarship to the university of Colorado for his 400-metre prowess? What about securing corporate sponsorship for our proposed first XV rugby tour to New Zealand? What about fostering a link with the Ham Polo club? They must have a community outreach programme! Now there's an idea...

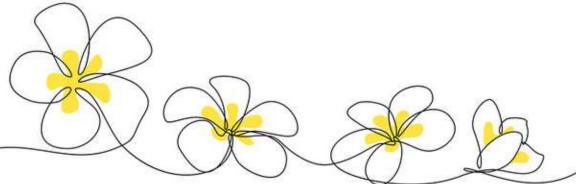
And so, as the tantalising possibility of a Grey Court polo team rears up in my head, I will endeavour to fashion Willmore's wisdom into a polished prose worthy of the Ham and Petersham gazette

Until next week...



oorts' Timetable

Poetry House Competition



Third Place Mother Nature by Amy Curley (Y7) Spartan

Intricate clouds dance in the pure blue sky,
Fluffy lambs scurry by their white, woollen flock,
Charming birds and butterflies flutter by,
The sun sleeps and the stars shine, like nature's clock,

This is Mother Nature.

Gushing water pouring down never-ending waterfalls,
Fragments of the salty sea splash against the wet sand,
To their Scurry, a squirrel calls,
Spider webs stretch from corner to corner, their gossamer patterns never bland,

This is Mother Nature

If only we could protect her, just a little better,

If only we would learn about her more,

Maybe we would live better,

Maybe we could realise, the world is yet to explore.

Is this Mother Nature?

Second Place An ode to Autumn by Zara Flack (Y12) Roman

Through the witching hours, Of a simple October evening, She's carved from tree bark, Shifted red with ageing.

Strands of meadow sift through, Her shivering, obscure wraths. Prancing through a violent crimson, Crunched powder on the downtown paths.

Dusty light spilling through perceptions, She laughs into the gale. Rainfall seeping through the floorboards, Buckets of hefty hail.

I see smoke.

A damp, tired, old cigarette, Wilting from the fingers of a saint. Admires the sun-smeared branches, Filling minds with wine-washed paint.

She devours this crisp icy darkness, Watch as the trees slip down. Water-clogged emptiness, On her head, a brittle, sanguine crown.



First Place Elizabeth Toibayeva (Y9) Aztec

Look at yourself. You're a mess.

And I now struggle to find the love I left for you In your piles of distress, Your blunder or thoughts mixed with your opposite actions, They suffocate me in the pressure of providing for your standards. I always try to correct the mistakes you make every second of every day And yet you don't let me have a say. I do love you but I'm aching. What if I leave you? Would I break you? Leave for a minute and I immediately get to work Twisting the wheel towards our soft Melodies of pure wind, And songs of pure joy Of the animals that once reigned this land, For you are one of them, but you try so hard to take a stand In your superiority as social beings Yet society makes these superbeings That know of what is to come Yet do nothing but push towards it.

I look around in desperation. You are metres behind me, dragging me down, Yet you want me to pave the way From the world you burnt down.

I am talking for your actions, yet your thoughts stand clear, For human is a smart being But humans just cause fear. I see her in your eyes, The hope that you hinder of growth The one that you starve with self-consciousness and judgement, Yet is that fair for what will come?

No one will judge you if you're all dead. So if that's what you want, then leave me on read. Everything I lose ends with her. For if I die, I take you with me, But if she dies, she takes us all.





Year 7

It has been a busy couple of weeks and students have settled back into school very quickly. On Friday Mr Holden (Associate Assistant Headteacher and Line manager for Y7) spoke in assembly about New Year's resolutions. Students were asked to reflect on their first term at Grey Court and look for areas where they may wish to improve. Students should also remember the targets they set themselves on Academic Tutoring Day and be working towards those as the term progresses.

There were lots of bugs, viruses and everything in between going around the school and society before christmas and the New Year. We have been delighted to see extremely high attendance in Y7 since we have returned, and hopefully we have now got through the worst of things. A reminder that we aim for 96% attendance in Y7 and this is an area that the Y7 team will be focussing on over the coming months,

Finally a big well done to all those who won a Tutor Excellence Award last term. We will publish the weekly winner in the eBulletin, so well done to all those who have been recognised this week:

Α	Naomi P	For making a positive start to term in PDW.
В	Ayva D	For participating within all aspects for the for and having a great attitude within other lessons.
С	Swan S	For being a responsible member of the form and being a good friend.
Е	Charlotte V	For always working diligently in PDW.
М	Savannah K-M	For always being friendly and the first to arrive to PM reg!
0	Alice P	For making a great start to life at Grey Court, showing a positive attitude.
R	Scarlett M	For an improved attitude to learning and for always being helpful in form time
W	Jimmy A	For always being positive, kind and helpful to others in the class and staff



Year 9

It has been a pleasure welcoming the students back - they have displayed excellent engagement and eagerness to get back into their school routines this week. Uniform seems to be hugely improved across year 9, however, there has been an increase in the lack of equipment being brought into school. Please remind all students to have the correct equipment for their lessons, and any problems they can come and see anyone from the KS3 team.

Extra-curricular clubs started up again this week, with new sports on offer such as Lacrosse and indoor athletics and a range of exciting non-sports clubs such as Chess and Drama club continuing!

For the next 2 weeks during tutor time, students have been given the option to write a letter to their future year 11 self. This will allow students to reflect on what they currently enjoy, what they could improve on and where they see themselves thriving when they get to year 11. To follow on this theme, Mr Ridley focused his assembly on 'resilience' highlighting the importance of understanding key strategies around persistence, working hard and surrounding yourself with positive people. Options are on the horizon so let's continue to engage and show eagerness throughout the rest of the term! Well done year 9!

Ms Howarth

Year 10

A huge warm welcome back to all of our year 10s. I have been impressed with how year 10 has approached the start of the new year and the spring term - with great attendance and improved punctuality. Long may it continue!

As we enter the spring term, it is a time for new starts and new beginnings. We have had two important assemblies - one about a rethinking of resolutions and how we can make realistic and optimistic changes in the new year and another about resilience and how we build strategies to cope in the face of adversity. I remind and implore parents and students alike to be resilient in their approach to their learning, attendance and goals. If they aren't in school, they aren't learning and taking all the opportunities here to flourish in their GCSE year. We are also unlikely to give permission for students to leave for minor ailments, especially after lunch. I would also like to highlight that students shouldn't contact parents and carers from their own mobile phones as this is against our mobile phone policy.

Attendance this week stands at ***. Winners of the first full week with **% attendance are 10**. Brilliant. Achievement points have been rolling in, showing a positive attitude to learning and we will announce the top tutor group next week.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Clark

Year 11

New year, new me? Well this has certainly been applied to attendance, with Y11 kicking off the year with a wonderful presence. Although this half term is shorter there is still a lot to pack in; in literature spring is the birth of new beginnings and transformations. Please use this term to think about some of the things that you would like to transform or change. Set yourself up with new achievable goals, especially as we get closer to you taking your exams.

Next Tuesday students will receive their mock exam grades. Students will have an assembly delivered by Mr Gordon-Walker on the process of exams and I'm sure some inspiring words as well. Students will receive their trial exam results in envelopes, to emulate their GCSE results day during the summer. This gives students the opportunity to reflect on their work and think about if they need to make any changes in their learning in preparation for the real thing. Additionally, parents evening is this coming Thursday the 19th, thank you to those who have booked your appointments already. Please contact myself if you are having any problems and would like me to book for you.

Lastly this half term I would like us to think about resilience and what it means to be resilient. The countdown is on and as the exams creep closer I need to stress that students need to be present and prepared for these. With this in mind I would like to remind parents that students should not be contacting parents on their mobile phones to go home. As a school we have a duty of care and give students the same care, as if we were their parents. With this in mind if students feel unwell, they must follow the protocol that the school has in place. They must go to the office and wait to be assessed by their HOY, medical or senior member of staff. I kindly ask that parents cooperate with these systems and policies.

Ms Comrie



Stars of the Week Maths & Statistics



Year	Name	Subject	Reason
7	Archie Campbell	Science	Excellent contributions
8	Simi Sohal	Science	Excellent engagement in class
9	Jack Footner	Science	Excellent engagement in class
10	Imogen Tillyer	Biology	Excellent classwork
11	Maya Scahuiu	Biology	Excellent engagement in class
12	Otti Day	Biology	Excellent engagement in class
13	Thomas Hardman	Biology	Excellent engagement in class
10	Zakariya Nawaz	Chemistry	Excellent contributions
11	Morgan Kerr-Elliott	Chemistry	Excellent homework
12	Abbas Ali	Chemistry	Excellent contributions
13	Elizabeth Masucci	Chemistry	Excellent contributions
10	Roger Sullivan-Mayne	Physics	Excellent contributions
11	Mughda Najib	Physics	Excellent contributions
12	Katie Holroyd	Physics	Excellent contributions
13	Lily Abbott	Physics	Excellent contributions
12	Alex Akosa	Applied Science BTEC	Excellent progress in the subject
13	Owen Croxon	Applied Science BTEC	Excellent contributions



VPA News

On Tuesday, 17 January we will be taking 40 year 8 students to the Fortune Theatre to see *The Woman in Black* to support our study of the play in lessons.

The Woman in Black has scared audiences at the Fortune Theatre since 1989. The Woman in Black play follows lawyer Arthur Kipps as he recalls his terrifying experiences to an actor in the hopes of exorcising his fears. With just two cast members on stage, theatregoers find themselves drawn into every word uttered between Arthur Kipps and the Actor as they try to keep their cool with plenty of ghostly apparitions afoot. Sending audiences crazy with its theatrical masterclass in building tension and suspense, The Woman in Black offers audiences a dramatic masterclass.

The Woman in Black has played over 13,000 performances in the West End and been seen by over 7-million people in the UK and after 33 years in London, The Woman in Black has sadly set its final performance date. If you are yet to see this production, get in quick as the production close on 4 March. Click the link for tickets!

Once again, tickets for our theatre trips were snapped up within minutes of letters getting sent out and so, due to the extremely high demand, we will be looking to plan another year 8 theatre trip later in the year and will give priority to those who were unsuccessful on this occasion. Keep your eyes peeled!

VPA Upcoming Events



MOGO Auditions

MOGOs - **Music of Grey Court Origin** is a Music Competition open to singers, bands and musicians from all years.

The theme: IRELAND!

(The finals will be held on the day before St Patrick's Day)

All music in the FINALS must be by an Irish band, singer or musician. (You can audition with any song you like).

PRIZE MONEY: £50

The winner is voted for by the audience and a specially selected panel.

Scan the poster on the next page and sign up to secure your audition slot on 16/18 January.

SOME IDEAS...

- Sinead O Connor
- Enya
- The Pogues
- · The Boomtown Rats
- Clannad
- U2
- Think Lizzy
- · The Corrs
- West Life
- Boyzone
- The Cranberries
- · The Dubliners
- Snow PatrolKodaline
- The Waterboys



Sign up for an Audition Slot



MORE INFO: PMILLAR@GREYCOURT.ORG.UK

FINALS - MARCH 16TH 2023







THE HOMERTON COLLEGE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS COURSE

A FREE ONLINE COURSE FOR ALL YEAR 12 STUDENTS IN STATE SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK

RUNNING ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 5-GPM FROM 13TH FEBRUARY TO 9TH MARCH 2023

TO GAIN THE TOOLS TO APPLY TO HIGHER EDUCATION (with a specific focus on Oxford and Cambridge!)

includes:

- · personal statement workshops
- interview workshops for Arts and STEM
 information on Student Finance

- tips for choosing a course and a college
 a Q&A with current Homerton students, and much more!

TO APPLY, COMPLETE THIS FORM BY MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023



Any questions? Contact Lindsay at: access@homerton.cam.ac.uk





This week in PDW

Year 7 Who was Oscar Wilde and what happened to him?

LGBTQIA+ History

Year 8 What is revenge porn?

Year 9 Instagram vs Reality

Year 10 What is a cult?

Year 11 Male Sexual Abuse

Next week in PDW

Year 7 What can we do to help challenge stereotypes?

Year 8 What is revenge porn?

Year 9 How can we identify eating disorders?

Year 10 What is unconscious bias?

Year 11 RS/Computing



Heatham House young women's group for those 11 to 19 years

Thursdays 3.30pm to 5.30pm

A safe space for young women to come, have fun, be creative and get advice and guidance from female youth workers

Contact Meg Scott for details

E: meg.scott@achievingforchildren.org.uk

T: 020 8288 0950







Congratulations to the year 10 football squad who won the Borough 6-a-side competition today. Well done boys



Thank you George Abbot for hosting the Surrey Basketball Qualifying Tournament on Wednesday. Our U16s had a great extended match against GA winning 37-22. Standouts were Sana and Madi (who scored an epic half court shot in the dying seconds!)

KS3 boys classes have shown great enthusiasm towards their first gymnastics lessons of the year! Looking forward to seeing them develop this half-term.







The U15 boys rugby team have reached the last 16 of the National Bowl with a hard fought 19-7 victory. Max S (2) and Luke S with our tries.

Max S cutting through to score our second try.



Jakob T with another great conversion from the touchline



Luke S driving over for our third try with five minutes remaining





The U13a netballers had a fantastic opportunity to play at the @Lingfield_Sport tournament on Wednesday. They showed great determination and skill throughout the day! Well played all.

Player of the Month SOYS

Aaron has performed brilliantly at table tennis for the school in 2022. In October, he was part of the side that were crowned Borough Champions at Turing House School - defeating every opponent he faced. In November, he played in the regional competition at Whitgift. Here, Aaron demonstrated his true class against some high-level opposition, winning all but one of his matches. This happened to be against the previous National Champion! He will look to get his revenge when he represents the school at the individual regional competition in February. Aaron is currently training at the Graham Spicer Institute in New Malden, honing his skills several times a week. He is a credit to the school when he steps out to that table, bat in hand, to represent Grey Court.



Avery has performed superbly for the school in cross country over the past few months. He formed part of the Junior boys team who won their area Championships in October. He then went on to perform strongly (finishing 7th) as part of the same winning junior team at the North London Regionals in St Albans. Following this, Avery travelled up to Leeds in December to compete in the National Cross Country Cup Finals. He was up against a high quality field with many boys a year older than him, yet came home in a very respectable position to help the Junior Boys team finish 9th in the country! Individually, Avery's most noticeable performances include coming home 6th in the Junior Knole run and 2nd at the Richmond Borough Cross Country held in Richmond Park. He is currently part of Momentum Sports, training at Kingsmeadow athletics track. He also trains every Thursday with the Junior Boys cross country squad at our weekly running club. We look forward to seeing Avery continue his athletic achievements, looking ahead to the outdoor athletics season.



eam of the Month

The U15s made it 8 wins from 9 this season with a superb performance in the Middlesex Plate Final, beating RTS 33-29. An incredible second half fightback at Grasshoppers RFC ensured the team's resurrection from 29-14 down. There was excellent character and fight displayed by the boys throughout, none more so than by Elijah Kadir who claimed our match winning try. A special mention should also go to Jakob Thompson who maintained his composure with two solid conversions. There were two great tries scored by James Alleyne, showing his immense speed and quick feet, while captain Ben Hislop was immense throughout, demonstrating his power and leadership skills. Well done boys!



Month Player of the Girls'

Lily is an all round athlete competing in a variety of sports inside and outside of school. Lily has competed for many years with Richmond Gymnastic Association (RGA), training five times a week in her specialist area of Acrobatic Gymnastics. Her hard work and enthusiasm continues to provide her with a variety of opportunities to compete in several competitions and countries, such as Poland and Portugal. Her dedication to the sport has secured her a place on the Great Britain Gymnastics Squad for the European Championships in 2023, taking place in Bulgaria. As well as being part of the RGA, Lily has been a key member of the Grey Court Elite Gymnastics Academy. She competed in a National Floor & Vault competition last year placing 2nd as well as the National Milano Trio competition placing 4th, just 0.1 off placing 3rd.

As well as her commitment to Gymnastics, Lily is a vital member of the U14A Netball and Athletics team. She can always be relied upon to support her teammates and always represent the school to the best of her ability. Lily is an outstanding role model to younger students and sets a great example of how to communicate and balance academic studies when participating in high level sport.



Within school Chloe has settled in really well at Grey Court and has made herself known to the PE department after attending many different clubs including football, netball and running club. She has been an integral part of the girls year 7 football team, captaining the team to many victories. Chloe is also 1 of 3 year 7 girls to have featured in the year U13 team so far this season, and she has racked up over 17 goals in 10 games! On top of that, Chloe has also achieved 2 MVP awards. She is an exciting footballer and a delight to have in both teams. Outside school Chloe is part of the QPR academy and is thriving after only joining this season.

Chloe has worked hard in Scholarship lessons, developing her tennis skills in her single lesson and also being exposed to boxing and lacrosse. She is a fantastic all rounded athlete and takes great to directions. Chloe tries her best and applies herself to all activities, making the most of each opportunity to develop new skills. Despite the cold, she always comes to class keen to do her best, and as a result has topped the charts as our fastest cross country runner in class, averaging at 10.90 minutes. Keep up the good work, Chloe!



The Elite Gymnastics squad are our team of the month. The squad have worked extremely hard during their sessions so far this year in the lead up to their first competition - The Regional Milano Team Finals. They have demonstrated great team work, communication and organisation skills. Many of our older athletes have taken on the role of coach to help support and develop our younger squad members demonstrating excellent leadership qualities. Across a variety of year groups, the squad has worked together to perform fantastic routines on the floor, in trios and on the vault. Our U16 Mixed and U19 Mixed teams secured themselves a place at the National Finals in March. A huge shoutout to Diana who scored 16/16 of her vault. Well done to all those involved and wishing Mali a speedy recovery!

As the Elite Academy moves onto preparing for their next competition, Regional Floor and Vault, we look forward to seeing many more athletes competing for Grey Court.



Girls'/Mixed Team of the Month



Catch up on some of the great sporting news during the last week of school, 2022













COMMIT, EXCUSE OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

White Ribbon campaigns to end violence against women by encouraging people to make a stand, help raise awareness and call out abusive behaviour. White Ribbon Walks are taking place across Richmond upon Thames.

Richmond Council invites you to take part in the WHITE RIBBON WALK IN HAM

Join us on Saturday 4th February at 1.00pm

Simply turn up to the starting point at Ham Parade outside Sainsbury's and we will be led by the Mayor, walking a marshalled route through Ham Common to St Richard's Square, Ashburnham Road for speeches.

For more information about White Ribbon visit www.whiteribbon.org.uk or just scan the QR Code below.

