



Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

Birch Wood School – Grange Drive

We're really excited to share with you everything that's been going on at Grange Drive during the summer term. It's been a busy and fun-filled period, packed with exciting activities, celebrations, and lots of memorable moments.

This term, we've marked some important events and celebrated the amazing achievements of our young people. We've also had the chance to head off on several residential, which have been fantastic experiences for everyone involved!

As we head into the summer holidays, we hope you and your children have a relaxing and enjoyable break. Don't forget to check out the key dates in the newsletter to help you get ready for the new term.



Tom Bradley-Hewell

Sporting achievements

The Goldfinches and a group of students from the Lodge took part in the KS3–5 Parallel Disability Athletics Festival at Saffron Lane last week. The event brought together students from a number of schools to enjoy a day of friendly competition, teamwork, and fun in the sun. Our students took part in a range of track and field events, including the sprint, howler throw, and standing long jump. They showed great determination, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Everyone gave their best effort and represented Grange Drive brilliantly – not just with their performance, but also with their positive attitude and support for others. It was a fantastic experience, and we're incredibly proud of all who took part. Well done, team!





Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

The Robins recently took part in an Indoor Bowls Festival hosted by Indoor Bowls Melton Mowbray – and what a brilliant experience it was! The students had a fantastic time learning new skills, developing their technique, and building confidence on the green. For many, it was their first time trying indoor bowls, and they really embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and great team spirit.

A huge thank you goes to the wonderful volunteers at the club, who were incredibly welcoming and supportive. They took the time to get to know our students, offering encouragement and one-to-one guidance throughout the session. Their kindness made the day even more special.

Well done, Robins – you represented Grange Drive so well, and we're really proud of you!



Celebrating Pride at Grange Drive

This year's Pride celebration took place at Grange Drive on Tuesday 1st July, and what a joyful day it was! With the theme *"Celebrating Differences – Everyone Can Sparkle!"* pupils and staff were encouraged to wear their brightest rainbow colours or anything that made them feel fabulous – and they certainly did!

Each class took part in colourful and creative activities throughout the day, before coming together for a vibrant Pride Festival in the hall. It was amazing to see everyone looking so bright and full of pride, celebrating inclusivity, individuality, and acceptance. The atmosphere was full of joy, positivity, and unity.

A huge thank you to Eve and Matt for organising such a fantastic event – it truly was a day to remember! You can see a video of the celebrations by looking on our Facebook page or by clicking the below link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BvR8RB9Qo>



Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

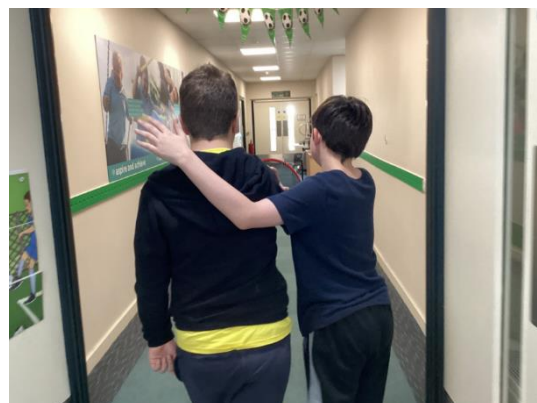
Sports Day

Wednesday 10th June saw one of the most exciting and joyful days in the school calendar – **Grange Drive Sports Day!** The sun was shining, spirits were high, and our amazing students were ready to show off their energy, teamwork, and sporting talents. The day began with a fantastic Opening Ceremony, where pupils proudly paraded through our sports-themed corridors, cheered on by staff and friends. Each corridor then kicked off the morning with their favourite physical activities, from Musical Target Throw and LED Bowling to the ever-popular Water Balloon Launch!



In the afternoon, the competitive spirit came alive as all students took part in a range of inclusive events, earning points for their colour teams – Red, Yellow, Green, and Blue. The Sensory 360 Race, inspired by the Special Olympics, rounded off the day with excitement and big smiles all around. It was a close competition, but congratulations to the **Red Team**, who held onto their Sports Day title for another year!

A huge well done to all our pupils – you made the day so special with your enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and determination. Here's to another unforgettable Sports Day at Grange Drive!





Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Students from Grange Drive, Birch Wood Vale, and Ashton House recently enjoyed action-packed trips to Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and build friendships across our sites.

Throughout the day, students took part in a wide range of activities including the zip-wire, power-fan jump, aerial walk, bell-boating, and paddle-boarding. For many, it was a chance to overcome personal fears and experience something new — all while having a lot of fun!

It was wonderful to see students supporting each other, growing in confidence, and working together as teams.



Heron's Extended Day at Lea Green

The Herons had an unforgettable extended day at Lea Green Learning and Development Centre, filled with excitement, teamwork, and adventure. From the moment they arrived, the pupils threw themselves into a range of activities that challenged their skills and boosted their confidence.

They began the day by taking on the low ropes course, working together to balance, climb, and support one another through each obstacle. It was wonderful to see the encouragement and determination shining through! Afterwards, they enjoyed time on the park, and making the most of the open space.

One of the highlights of the day was trying their hand at firing the crossbow—an exciting new experience for many, requiring focus and steady aim. This was followed by some high-energy fun in the soft play area, where they climbed, crawled, and slid with huge smiles all around. To top it all off, the group raced around on the buggies, cheering each other on and enjoying a final burst of speed and adrenaline.



Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

It was a fun-filled day that brought plenty of joy, built strong friendships, and created lasting memories for everyone involved. A huge thank you to the Lea Green team and Birch Wood staff for making this enriching experience possible!



Lodge and Peacocks Lea Green Residential

The Lodge and Peacocks have had an absolutely amazing time on their residential at Lea Green, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm, courage, and a brilliant team spirit.

Day one was action-packed, with pupils taking on the low ropes, racing on the buggies, and whizzing down the waterslide. It was fantastic to see everyone encouraging one another and stepping outside their comfort zones while having so much fun along the way. After a full day of activities, the students settled down for a well-earned rest—ready to take on whatever came next!

Day two was just as exciting, filled with fun, challenge, and teamwork. The group started with bushcraft, where they built a fire and toasted marshmallows—always a firm favourite! That was followed by parachute games full of energy and laughter. The highlight of the day was the Team Swing, where pupils showed incredible bravery and support for one another, cheering each other on every step of the way. The day ended on a high with some well-deserved fun in the soft play area.

We're so proud of every single one of them for their resilience, kindness, and positivity. What a fantastic couple of days it's been!





Grange Drive



Birch Wood
Vale School



Birch Wood
Ashton House



Post 16 in the Community

The Lodge have continued to grow their enterprise project and strengthen connections within the local community.

They have been making regular visits to Melton Stockyard Market, where students have showcased their fantastic teamwork and communication skills. Visiting on a busier Tuesday gave them the opportunity to engage with more members of the public, spreading positivity and raising money for Post-16 enrichment activities. They thoroughly enjoyed talking to visitors, promoting their items, and making meaningful contributions through their hard work. A big thank you to Stockyard Melton Mowbray for your continued support—it makes all the difference!





In addition to their market success, students in The Lodge also made a thoughtful decision to donate many of the puzzles and games they had received for their enterprise project to the British Heart Foundation. After sorting through their donations, they chose to pass on these items to support others in need. Corwin, a student in The Lodge, summed up the group's motivation perfectly: *"We want to help everyone and smile."*

They also generously donated items to The Hanger Air Ambulance charity shop—another fantastic gesture of giving back.

Well done to all the students involved for your kindness, dedication, and incredible community spirit!



As part of their community pledge, some of our Lodge students have been out and about taking part in a local litter pick—doing their bit to help keep their environment clean and tidy.

Armed with litter pickers and bin bags, the students showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, managing to collect an impressive four bags of rubbish! It was fantastic to see them so engaged and proud of making a positive difference in their local area.

Well done to everyone involved for your commitment to improving the community—your efforts are truly appreciated!



Grange Drive



Birch Wood
Vale School



Birch Wood
Ashton House



Grange Drive Outdoor Area

Students across Grange Drive have been thoroughly enjoying our brand-new inclusive playground equipment, designed to ensure that all students can access, enjoy, and benefit from active play.

The new climbing tower with a slide has quickly become a favourite, with pupils of all ages and abilities joining in, taking turns, and playing together. It's been heart-warming to see so many smiles, shared moments, and inclusive play in action.





Grange Drive



Birch Wood
Vale School



Birch Wood
Ashton House



PMLD Awareness Day

Our pupils had the most incredible time celebrating PMLD Awareness Day! The school came alive with colour, light, and music as everyone dressed in their brightest neon and light-up clothing for a day full of joy and celebration.

The day was packed with immersive, multi-sensory experiences, including a Tac-Pac inspired session led by our wonderful music therapist Neil, a 'rave'-themed party that transformed our corridors into a vibrant dance floor, and a calming 'Space to Sing' session with Kate.



Beyond the fun, the day was also a celebration of our inspirational pupils and the dedication of our talented staff. It also marked the launch of an exciting consultation project with parents and carers to explore how provision for young people with PMLD across the UK can be improved. You can see footage of our rave on our Facebook page below:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/154CUTo5NGw>

Thank you to everyone who took part – you helped make PMLD Awareness Day something to truly rave about!





Grange Drive

Birch Wood
Vale SchoolBirch Wood
Ashton House

Undiagnosed Children's Day

Undiagnosed Children's Day was a time to recognise and support families of children with undiagnosed genetic conditions. It can be an isolating experience, and that's where SWAN UK (Syndromes Without A Name) has played a vital role, connecting families and offering support as they navigate the unknown.

As this year's awareness day fell during our Easter break, we marked the occasion as part of our PMLD Awareness Day celebrations on **Thursday 2nd May**. It was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of SWAN UK and the important work they do, while celebrating the strength and uniqueness of every child in our community.





Grange Drive



Birch Wood
Vale School



Birch Wood
Ashton House



Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

August Bank Holiday:	Monday 25 th August 2025
School Opens to students:	Wednesday 27 th August 2025
Mid Term Break:	Monday 20 th October to Friday 24 th October 2025
School Closes:	Friday 19 th December 2025

Number of school days 78 days

Spring Term

School Opens to students:	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Mid Term Break:	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026
School Closes:	Friday 27 th March 2026

Number of school days 54 days

Summer Term

School Opens to students:	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday:	Monday 4 th May 2026
Mid Term Break:	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026
School Closes:	Thursday 9 th July 2026

Number of school days 58 days

Total school days 190 days