

GROVE PARK SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

15 MAY 2024



Welcome to the first Parent/Carer newsletter from the Interim Leadership Team & the Interim Executive Board (IEB)!

As you will be aware, during current absence of the substantive headteacher, two part time interim headteachers have been appointed to lead the school until the end of term in July.

Here is a short welcome from Simon Chandler as Chair of the Interim Executive Board:

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend one of the meetings last week to meet the IEB.

I hope that this newsletter is just one of the increased forms of communication from the school.

Thank you for the support that you have already shown the school and the staff team.

The Board look forward to overseeing improvements at the School over the coming months.

I confirm that Mr Adrian Carver will be taking on the role of Interim Headteacher on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week and Mr Paul Prest will be our Interim Headteacher on Thursday and Friday. They have organised the many responsibilities of a head teacher so that Mr Carver will primarily be overseeing the leadership of teaching and learning and Mr Prest will be overseeing the leadership of structures and organisation. If you have any concerns, please contact either Paul Prest or Adrian Carver in the first instance. These arrangements will continue until the end of July. As soon as we know about plans for September, we will let you know.

East Sussex County Council have confirmed that the planned expansion and re-location of Grove Park's Secondary school phase will be going ahead. The Secondary phase will be re-located to the Church Road site into newly built accommodation, this is subject to further statutory consultation and planning permission being agreed. The current target date for the new accommodation to be ready from is September 2026. Grove Park's Sixth Form provision will continue to be co-located with Beacon Academy at the Green Lane site.

Dates for your diary :

28 June Summer BBQ 6-8pm at Primary

11 July School Prom 6-8.30pm at Crowborough Rugby Club

Important Contact Details :

Main school number: 01892 663 018

Main office email: office@grove-park.e-sussex.sch.uk

We thought it would be helpful to set out a variety of information for you to assist your understanding of the co-leadership at Grove Park alongside the existing members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Apologies in advance for this being very information heavy, there are however, some lovely photographs of activities which occurred last week so please enjoy!

I will be leading the organisation on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Paul will be leading on Thursdays and Fridays. Existing SLT members are all full time.

Paul and I have divided key responsibilities between us and these have been agreed by the board:

Adrian: Curriculum, teaching & learning; parental engagement & questions; oversight of EHCPs & Annual Reviews; staff training & development; performance management.

Paul: Budget & finance; HR; policies; Safeguarding; Health & Safety; website.



**Adrian
Carver**

Professionally, I have spent my entire working life in the field of special education and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND). My specific field of expertise lies with the population of children and young people defined as having moderate/severe learning difficulties, autism & learning difficulties and profound & multiple learning difficulties. I have experience too in leading a generic learning difficulties school (2018 to 2020).

I trained initially as a teacher in this specialist field of education at a time when it was possible to train to work in special education. I have worked as a teaching assistant, teacher, middle leader, senior leader, headteacher and finally executive headteacher in special schools for over 38 years. I have taught across the age range and my schools have for pupils and students from 2 to 19 years. I had been a headteacher for 25 years until my retirement in August 2020.

Since retiring I have been an educational consultant in special schools.

Personally, I grew up with a younger brother who had Down Syndrome, severe learning difficulties and autism. My life with my brother gave me a clear insight into all the services which support or indeed fail to support families through life and especially in challenging circumstances.



**Paul
Prest**

Paul has more than 30 years' experience of working in a range of diverse leadership roles, including over 25 years as a headteacher in primary and all through schools.

He has worked strategically in a senior leadership role in a large Local Authority and has a proven track record of school improvement.

Over the past three and a half years, Paul has worked for East Sussex County Council as an Interim Leader, working strategically with leadership teams and governing bodies in the drive to provide the very best for children and young people.

Paul considers himself to be a passionate and innovative leader, with a strong vision and relentless pursuit of excellence in education

Many of you will be familiar with other members of the SLT:

Sam Berkery is Interim Assistant Head at Primary and **Olly Sagar** continues as the Assistant Head at Beeches and Green Lane.

They will deal with the day to day issues of running the sites.

Sam Berkery



Olly Sagar



The remaining members of SLT are **Alison Chapman** (Business Manager based at Primary) and **Sarah Fitzjohn-Scott**.

Many of you will know Sarah as she has worked with the organisation for some time and who will continue to support Paul and me moving through to July.

Alison Chapman



Sarah Fitzjohn-Scott



As time progresses we will be able to share more information about the organisation in the new academic year.

I will be sending out an invite separately for a coffee morning for all parents and carers to come to meet me informally. This, in common with all communications, will come out via Class Dojo & Arbor.

- Important Information -

In the meantime we would be very grateful if you could spend a little time to complete the attached Parent / Carer survey.

Adrian Carver, Interim Headteacher



Parent & Carer Survey – May 2024

This survey is important as it will allow you to help the leadership team and the Interim Executive Board to assess how well we are doing as an organisation for you and your child. It will also help us understand how best to develop our work in the future.

I would be very grateful if you could fill in this form in as much detail as possible. Do add an additional sheet if you need to. I know forms are a pain because I get to fill in lots! **Your** views are very important to me both in confirming what we do well and what we can do better so **please** take time to fill this in and return it to me as soon as possible. I would ideally like it back by the start of next week.

Many thanks.



Please circle the number which best represents how you feel. "5" is the high/looking good score. If you have any other comments please put them at the end of the form.

Very well - - - - - Not at all well

1. How well do you feel we are currently teaching your child? 5 4 3 2 1

2. How well do we support your child? 5 4 3 2 1

3. How well do we support you as a parent/carer? 5 4 3 2 1

4. How well does the class communicate with you? 5 4 3 2 1

Excellent - - - - - No progress

5. Given your child's specific needs, do you feel they are making progress?
5 4 3 2 1

Very happy - - - - - Not at all happy

6. Is your child happy at Grove Park? 5 4 3 2 1

7. Has your child made any friends that you are aware of? **YES / NO**. Do you know their names?

8. What are the 3 things we are doing well at for you or your child?

9. What are the 3 things we could do better?

10. What do you value most about Grove Park?

11. What questions do you have about the IEB or the interim leadership of the school?

Any other comments you would like to make:

Please give your **name** if you are happy to (but it's not compulsory!): _____

If not, please could you indicate whether your son/daughter is in:

the primary site []

Beeches []

Green Lane []

Please return to the school or college office as soon as possible. ***Thank you again for taking time to do this! Adrian.***

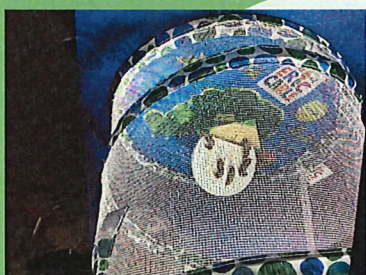
What have Grove Park School students been up to recently?

On Friday 10 May, **Secondary** had a brilliant day in the sun at Hove Cricket ground. Pupils enjoyed playing a range of fun sporting activities. Well done to all pupils for trying their best and behaving appropriately in the community.



Caterpillars

Primary have been studying caterpillars



KS5B at Green Lane were making Lemon Meringue Pie this afternoon.





GROVE PARK SUMMER FAIR



GROVEPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
CROWBOROUGH CHURCHROAD TN6 1BN.

**SPORTS, ARTS AND CRAFTS, GAMES AND
MANY MORE FUN ACTIVITIES!**

FRIDAY 28TH JUNE

6PM - 8PM

