

Looking back on our year... 2022-23



What a wonderful year we have had! I am so proud of all that we have achieved together this year, in the best interests of our young people, our community and our staff.

As part of the Grace Way we seek to build relationships far and wide, beyond the classroom and into our community. Being a part of all we have achieved together this year has been a truly fantastic experience and I cannot wait to see what the next year has in store.

Our aim next year is to be even better and to unlock more of our Limitless Potential.

SEPTEMBER

We started the year strong...

This term our students took part in trips to: Hunstanton, Shropshire and Coventry city hall to participate in Coventry Action week

We welcomed our new Year 7 students into their purpose built space and our new Year 12 students (who started with a team building task of baking the best Victoria sponge cake as their first taste of the Horizons programme!) We were also awarded the Diana award and created a student leadership team of anti-bullying ambassadors to further promote Mutual Respect. Additionally, we had our official opening of our incredible newly refurbished library and invited the financial supporters of the Academy who helped to make it happen to come and celebrate with us - with an inspirational address from our contributors. Peripatetic lessons started for students who have a passion for music, whilst we concentrated on getting music and performance back up and running at Grace.

If that wasn't enough excitement we also had our best attended Year 6 open evening with over 400 people coming to see our fantastic school. After all of this, we raised £300 for Macmillan coffee morning and got busy baking to ensure we were giving back to the community.



OCTOBER

We kept the pace going...

We had lots of events during this term including: Sixth Form open evening, Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening, workshops from the Grace Foundation on County Lines and Black History Month and careers talks from IM Group Ltd.

We supported the transition for both Year 7 and Year 11 with evening events that encouraged Intentional Excellence and discussed our students' Limitless Potential. We also arranged for Sixth Form to visit Lincoln university and the Crown court. We gratefully received support from our local Sikh temple who provide Langar Aid, donating fresh vegetables and food to the Academy to be shared with our families, which helped our school community to understand what Mutual Respect can look like in life outside of school. Our new sports team kits, sponsored by Fiera Real Estate, were proudly worn for the first time of the season and definitely have contributed to the increasingly impressive results as we became the team to watch out for – especially our girls' football team

We were enormously proud of our Harvest contribution this year – especially from Year 7, where one student donated 65 cans of fruit and vegetables by himself! Word got around and our Head Boy came to congratulate and thank him for his efforts!

We were also visited by the IM Group and the Grace Foundation to talk about life beyond the classroom to further inspire our young people. Our students were really engaged in both sessions on Black History month and the dangers of County Lines – it is so important to us to educate all young people on life in the real world.



NOVEMBER

We celebrated together...

We came together as a whole community this month with: Sixth Form mentoring, healthy relationships workshops, Remembrance and Diwali and saw our Year 7 football team build upon their winning streak.

This term we celebrated significant cultural events such as Diwali; Miss Kaur used the festival of light to bring more colour into the main street in school – sharing what the festival means in religious terms but also to different members of our community.

Equally, Mrs Leavy took charge of our Remembrance assemblies by bringing in items from her time in Military Service, enabling us to understand what life is really like for service men and women. Additionally, she also arranged for us all to hear "The Last Post" live in school when we gathered to stand in silence before every member of staff and student let their poppies rain down as a mark of respect.

We were really fortunate to be gifted an entire collection of art from a professional artist to display around the school to enjoy and appreciate – hopefully you've seen them dotted around the building, please do talk about this with the students!



DECEMBER

We were feeling festive...

This term we organised: our staff film and pizza night, our community Christmas meal, "Grace Has Got Talent", taking Year 7 to see 'A Christmas Carol', taking Year 11 drama students to the Royal Shakespeare Company and our phenomenal Christmas Fayre!

We were all about Christmas festivities this term – it was contagious! We took 160 students to the Albany theatre to see a live performance of "A Christmas Carol", which was the first time our students had seen live acting on a professional stage! We had over 300 people attend our Christmas Fayre which helped everyone feel instantly festive, whether it was visiting Santa's grotto or riding the rodeo reindeer, every single person left with a gigantic smile. Similarly, our Hospitality and Catering students also spread seasonal joy by cooking a Christmas meal for members of our community, which was hosted by our Ethos team! To end the term we also delivered 78 Christmas hampers filled with goodies to families to help them enjoy the Christmas break, as we continuously focus on our families and how we can support them.



JANUARY

We started our new year with a bang!

This term we concentrated on the future with: Grace Foundation workshops on leadership, external facilitator sessions on Building Healthy Relationships, Year 7 experiencing Coventry University, Student Leaders meeting the Mayor and rewarding Year 11.

This term there was an incredible amount of activity beyond the academic lessons and interventions that were taking place, encouraging students to explore their Limitless Potential. Staff led hugely important assemblies raising awareness of World religions and explaining the importance of safeguarding in relationships.

We took the whole of Year 7 to experience university and helped them to understand what it was, and why it could be the right path for them, which was something that some of them had never thought of! Meanwhile, Key Stage 4 students were invited to Guildhall to understand the world of work and the increasing role of apprenticeships. We strive to help our students to know that there are different educational pathways that they can choose to demonstrate their Intentional Excellence.



This term we had: more university trips, Sixth Form trips to the Coventry Building Society head office, social action trips, the Lily project workshops and Coventry College discussing apprenticeship week with Year 11.

Moreover, we invited the Lily project to work with Key Stage 3 students, concentrating on mental health, raising awareness and helping them to understand how to begin talking about issues. Meanwhile, Mr Driver worked with a team of students to deliver local social action through a local food bank which has helped our families and community.

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MARCH

We looked beyond the classroom...

This term we had: team building sessions with the Army, experiences with exotic animals, World Book Day and National Science week, collaboration with Coventry Building Society to develop our wellbeing garden, not to mention our incredible Careers Fayre supported by Fiera Real Estate, Coventry Building Society and Opus Land!

What a month! We had so many different guests and projects, it is amazing to look back and see how much we achieved. Our students demonstrated Intentional Excellence throughout the month: Karan in Year 11 won Gold medals at the European championships for martial arts and Year 9 showcased their excellence whilst working with the Army. We also provided students with the opportunity to show their skills at the colossal Careers Fayre with over 40 different experts from industry discussing future steps with our Year 11 and Sixth Form students following the release of their mock exam results. Employers such as: Fiera Real Estate, Coventry Building Society, Rolls Royce and Meggitt gave our students advice and encouragement, which was the first time our students had the opportunity to speak to so many professionals about themselves! We also had Mrs Postins dry ice show, which drew over 100 students to the Street! Not forgetting the phenomenal transformation of our Year 7 area thanks to the ongoing support of Coventry Building Society!



As we approached the Easter holidays the staff body rallied again, this time creating and distributing Easter hampers, as we did at Christmas, but filled with chocolate and games! We're aware that the holidays can be difficult and want to support and help our families to enjoy their time together.



We made the start of the summer term incredible with: Coventry Building Society donating tickets for our students to see Harry Styles in concert, an amazing Cultural Diversity day, Razzmataz scholarships, afternoon tea for staff wellbeing, National Dance day and a trip to Buckingham Palace!

It wasn't quite the end of term, but the success and excitement started to bubble! We were in awe of the cultural dress we saw on Cultural Diversity Day - there was an incredible amount of colour! Our students requested that it was earlier in the year in order for Year 11 and Year 13 to be able to take part, which shows how much pride our students have in their cultural heritage! We were also awestruck by the pictures of the Harry Styles concert, that our students were lucky enough to see thanks to our partnership with Coventry Building Society, and equally the majestic views of Buckingham Palace thanks to our work with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Even though this was not experienced by all, these opportunities were given in recognition of the work we have done for our students. We also wanted to recognise the immense efforts continuously made by our staff to create life chances for our students and celebrated the end of the term with staff afternoon tea in our newly regenerated wellbeing garden.



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It is safe to say that, when we look back on the year, the Grace Way is thriving and we couldn't have managed it without the determination and support of our families and staff!



