



Gareth Suite Newsletter

Newsletter Date:
19/10/15



Meet The Team

From left-right, Colm Redmond Carey, Jack Morgan, Gavin Nestor, Aaron Meade, Shauna Flynn & Ryan Brown.

Welcome to our first Gareth Suite Newsletter. It is hard to believe that our October mid-term break is just around the corner. The past seven weeks have gone by really quickly and during this short period of time

we have all settled well into school life in Grange Community College.

We hope this Newsletter will inform parents and staff about educational matters in our Gareth Suite and inside this issue you will notice some very interesting things we have been getting up to.

Mr. Rayfus, has designed our learning plans and has met with all of our teachers, SNA's and parents. For now we hope you enjoy our new Newsletter.

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New Subjects and Teachers in the Gareth Suite

Students are experiencing new teachers and subjects introduced into the Gareth Suite this year.

Our first year students are taught by Ms. Ni Bhraidaigh (Art, Craft & Horticulture), Ms. McMahon (Music), Mr. Smyth (History),

Ms. Geoghegan (English), Ms. Darling (PE) Ms. McCarty (Meditation) and Mr. Rayfus for (Social, Communication, Literacy and Numeracy skills).

Some students have access to mainstream classes too. Shauna attends nearly

all of her classes. Gavin and Ryan attend different subjects like History, English, Math's and Home Economics.

As other students become more confident and comfortable they too can experience and enjoy mainstream class interaction.

Special Points of Interest

- Please ask to see my student passport in order to find out more interesting things about me.
- In mainstream class I will have my (CSI) workbook and (My Edit Checklist) with me. In this folder I can keep all of my work together so I can keep track of all work that I complete.
- I may need a (Time-Out) break from time to time. I will show you my (Exit Card) if I feel I need to take a break.

My Independent Work Station

This is an example of Gavin (TY) working on his computer at his Independent Work Station. At Gavin's work station he can practice organization skills. Students can keep all of their materials, books and copies safely here.

Each morning students in the Suite set their own daily work schedule. This allows them to keep track of all the subjects they will be working on during the course of the school day.

Most of our lessons in the Suite may involve some form of group work focus. However, from

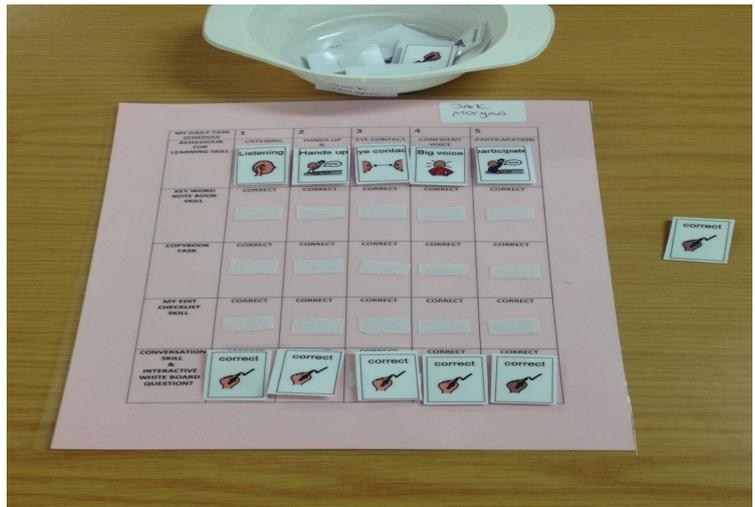
time to time students may return to their work station's in order to complete some independent work or to calm down and relax.



My Daily Task Schedule

This is what my Daily Task Schedule looks like. During class activities students may use their schedule as it reminds them to concentrate and stay on task. Some key skills we are working on include: Listening, Eye-Contact, Big Voice, Hands-Up & Good Posture.

Our schedules are really easy to use and students can keep track of their work as they progress successfully through different tasks and activities.



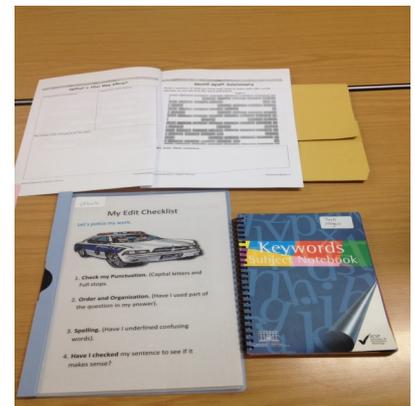
My Keywords Notebook/My CSI Workbook And My Edit Check List

Here are some of the resources students are able to use if they visit and participate in mainstream subject classes.

Students will have their folders with them when they visit class but may need reminding to take out their workbooks and their checklists when they arrive.

Our workbooks are really cool and very easy to use. Students have had lots of practice using their workbooks in the Gareth Suite.

They are really practical too because students can keep track of any work they complete and a record can be kept for assessment for learning purposes also.



Picture Exchange Communication (PECS)

In the Gareth Suite you might see a lot of PECS and wonder what it is used for. PECS is a simple way of communicating non-verbally through images and pictures.

Through using PECS we can develop verbal language skills, behavior for learning skills, our vocabulary bank, sentence structure and understanding.

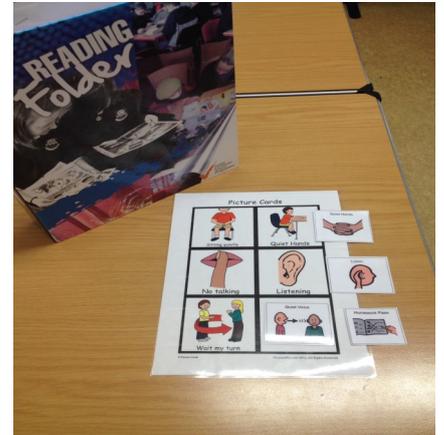
We use a host of other like-minded communication materials too. Experiencing success through these activities help us build confidence and develops our literacy and social communication skills.

We store all of our worksheets and activities that we complete in our Reading Folders.

All of our students in the Suite are inducted into the schools new QQI Level 2 programme. This is really important because this programme is nationally accredited and recognised. When successfully completed students will be rewarded with a state examination certificate of competence.

In addition, first year students are part of the schools JCSP programme. As students grow in confidence some will hope to be

able to take part in some Junior Certificate Examination subjects also.



Ms. Ni Bhraidaighs G. Suite Art Class Project

This a small sample of some Art & Craft work students have completed in the Gareth Suite.

This project took on a horticultural theme and the (Petals of the Flower below) represents each section on the colour wheel.

Techniques used to design and complete this activity involved our students developing their fine motor and dexterity reflexes, muscles and coordination skills.

In addition, students are practicing very important independent and group functioning skills around each other.

Feedback from students has been very positive and confidence gained as a result of their enjoyment and success with this project may enable them to hopefully fully participate in the schools Junior Certificate Art subject.

Thanks to Ms. NI Bhraidaigh especially our SNA's Laura and Roisin.

Our new school crest was designed by students in our Art Department last year and offers a fine example of student innovation and creativity.



Grange Community College

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Labore Vinces



I would like to acknowledge and pay thanks to Ms. Shalvey for all of her help and assistance during the official handover of duties as programme coordinator in the Gareth Suite in September 2015.

I also wish to acknowledge the work and pay thanks to Mr. Sugden who has designed our Gareth Suite Newsletter and has ensured from day one, that all of our digital systems in the Suite are fully operational and functional to the benefit of our students.

Many thanks to the professional and diligent work of our SNA staff who assist our students on a daily basis, Debbie, Deirdre and Louise in the mainstream and especially Roisin and Laura in the Suite.

Thanks to our caretaker Kevin and our cleaning staff Mandy and Adrienne who ensure our Suite is clean and fresh each morning and who maintain the Suite's toilet area. Your work is greatly appreciated by everyone in the Suite.

I am also delighted to announce that Beechpark Services will be visiting our Suite each week until Christmas offering Occupational and Speech and Language sessions to our students. This is a new service to the school and I am hopeful our Suite can continue with this professional service link into the future and to the benefit of our students.

Creative Writing by Ryan Brown (The Egyptian King)

The story begins thousands of years ago set in ancient Egypt, during the time of the Egyptian Gods. During this time there was one god, who had an unusual head.

He had white skin, golden Egyptian robes and the head of a bird known as an Ibis. He was known as Thoth. He was famous for many things like being the god of knowledge, the Egyptian god of wisdom and magic.

He was also well known for being the record keeper of the dead but most important of all there is one moment in his history that he was most famous for.

One day Thoth came across a piece of paper, then he wrote these words "My name is Thoth" thus he had made a great discovery that day. Writing was invented.

Thoth himself was the inventor of writing. Using his own kind of magic he created a being made out of paper, which he named Paper Man.

This gave him the power to talk. He created also the paper people, beings made out of paper that can walk and talk.

There was even a great friendship between the Egyptian gods and the time lords, of Gal Frey falls. Thoth was in a friendship with their leader Rassolin, who believed that immortals lived forever.

But Thoth thought differently then him, as he believed that one day the age of immortals would fade. One day he invented a prophecy through his studying of the human race.

The prophecy spoke of the future it said "one day in the future a mortal man will slay an immortal.

The leader of the time lords, took this as a warning and he started to fear the human race that one day a mortal would overthrow them and they would fade from history.

Thoth also gave the paper people, a home in a pyramid that the people who served Thoth dug deep into the Earth using shovels.

When the age of the Egyptian Gods started to fade Thoth realised his time was over and he entrusted the protection of Egypt to Paper Man. He buried himself inside a tomb and placed himself into a sleep that would only be woken by his followers some time into the future.

To be Continued.....