

We are now two thirds of the way through this academic year and it has been an incredibly busy time since the previous Christmas newsletter. We have had a number of new students join the school and they have fitted in nicely, understanding that we have high expectations of our students both in terms of their academic work but also being polite and respectful around the school.

Yesterday was a whole school reward trip to the cinema where we saw Kensuke's Kingdom which has linked in part to the English curriculum. All of our students were invited to attend this particular trip based on their positive behaviour and I hope that will be the case for the trips we have planned in the summer. It is really pleasing that the number of reward points earned by Cross Keys students for the '5 P's' of Positivity, Perseverance, Progress Performance and Politeness has steadily increased over the term.

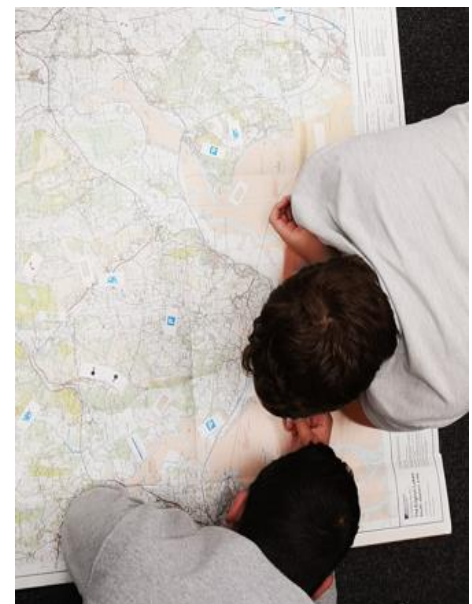
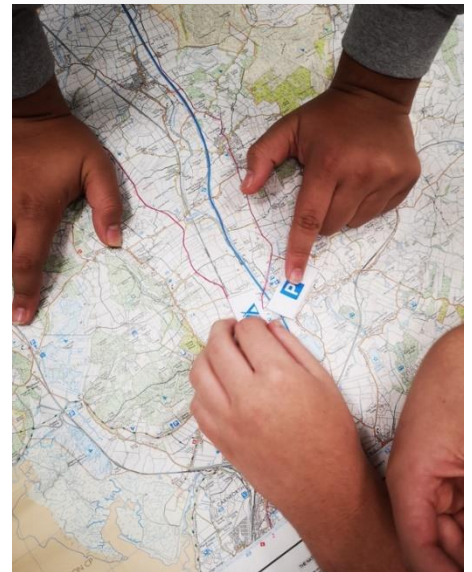
There have been a number of subject based trips since the last newsletter; it's really great to see the opportunities students have been given to link the subjects they study to life beyond the classroom. I hope that you get a flavour of the enjoyment students have had from these experiences as you read the rest of this newsletter.

My thanks as always to the staff for their hard work, both making these extra-curricular opportunities available and also for their day in day out care, commitment and effort. I am also grateful of the support we receive from parents, knowing that working together is the key for ensuring students are happy and successful here at school.

Please don't forget to follow us on Facebook and share our posts with your friends; we want to celebrate the great things that the staff and students do here and let other parents know who we are and what we do. Please take a look at our recently revamped school website www.crosskeyslearning.com. There are sections there for both students and parents and feedback as ever, is gratefully received.

Wishing you a Happy Easter when we get there and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mark Beaman
Headteacher





Canterbury Cathedral visit

On Monday, 3rd March, students from Womenswold visited Canterbury Cathedral. They were given a guided tour of the grounds, where they learnt about the stunning Gothic architecture and the story of Thomas Becket, including the events leading to his brutal death. The students also discovered how the monks once lived, with a particular focus on the herb garden, where they grew ingredients for medicinal purposes.

After lunch, the two groups split. Hever Class explored the cathedral and took some amazing photos, while Windsor Class participated in a workshop to learn more about Christianity. All the students were respectful and asked thoughtful, appropriate questions.



Red Nose Day 2025

We celebrated 40 fabulous years of Red Nose Day this year with a range of activities including “Hunt the Red Nose”, “Wear it Red” and a range of physical challenges. Everyone got involved and came together to support this incredible cause raising over £45 through these fun activities!



Broadstairs Gap Project visit

As part of Yellow Group's project on homelessness and its impact on others, we visited The Gap Project in Broadstairs. The visit was designed to help us understand how this particular project supports homeless people in the area. We brought along food donations and were greeted by Olga, who explained the various roles they perform at the church.

All of the students were impressed by the project's connections with other agencies, which provide a cohesive approach to support those in need. The visit deepened the students' understanding of why people become homeless, and they have begun discussing ways in which we can help.



www.thegaproject.co.uk If you require any further information or wish to get involved.

Support for Cross Keys from local partners



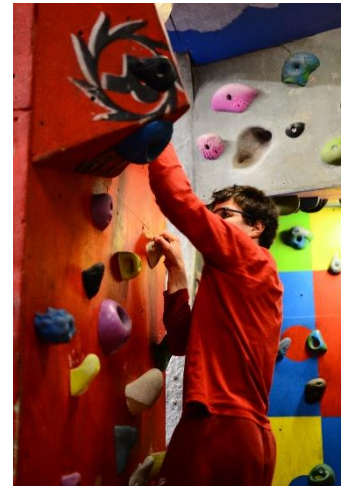
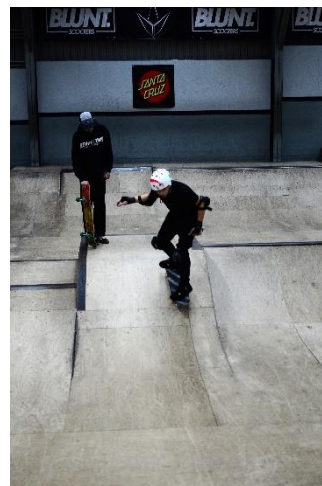
Local business, Ovendens, and The Laurence Plummer Foundation provided much-needed funding for sports equipment for the school with a cheque for £250.00. The new equipment we have planned to purchase will broaden our physical education curriculum and give the students further opportunities to discover the joy of participating in sports. This collaboration is an example of how local businesses and charities can come together to make a difference. It reflects the growing recognition of the importance of community spirit and engagement in promoting social equality.

Revolution Skatepark and Climbing Centre

Revolution Skatepark and Climbing Centre welcomed Cross Keys Learning students for the afternoon of 12th February to participate in skateboarding, scootering and climbing.

The afternoon was a great success, and students were very excited to be trying these activities. Cross Keys Learning would like to thank Revolution for a fantastic day and would like to extend a special thank you to Dan, Sam and the rest of Revolution team for their patience, warmth and enthusiasm.

Cross Keys Learning students are already asking when they can return to brush up on their newly developed skills.



The Big Writing Challenge

Upper School entered the competition with the broad theme, "What a Wonderful World." Students in Yellow Group based their work on Machu Picchu, a topic they had been studying. They successfully incorporated the information they had learnt in their lessons and created fictional stories or poems.

Purple and Blue Groups focused on places they might want to visit in the future. All of the students worked incredibly hard and received praise from the judging panel. Every student was commended, with one student, Kelsey, having her work published in the *Big Writing Challenge* book.

When Kay Devine visited the school to present the prizes and certificates, she said, "I was impressed with how polite and engaged they were, and I was delighted to hand out the certificates and prizes to Kelsey and all of the Highly Commended pupils."

The wonderful world of Machu Picchu

Allow for the sun to shine between,
the months of May and October,
leave early in the mornings,
for your utmost pleasure,

Allow the inclement weather to pass,
You must have patience,
For the mountains to shine,
In all their eminence,

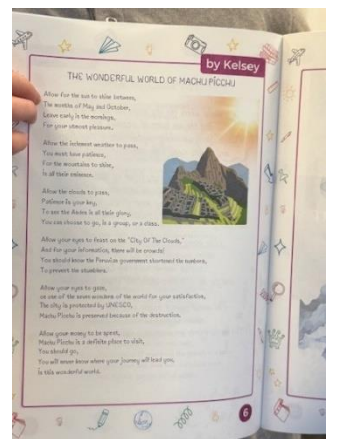
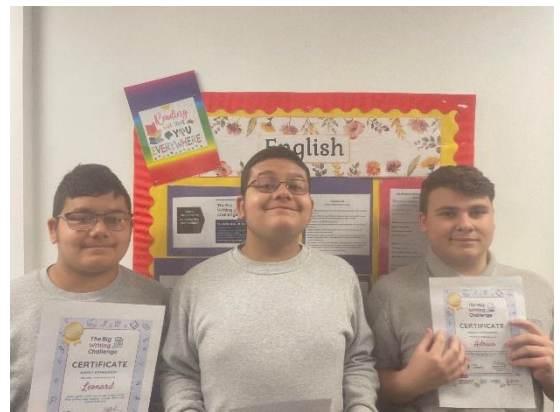
Allow the clouds to pass.
Patience is your key,
To see the Andes in all their glory,
You can choose to go, in a group, or a class,

Allow your eyes to feast on the 'City Of The Clouds,'
And for your information, there will be crowds!
You should know the Peruvian government shortened the numbers,
To prevent the stumblers

Allow your eyes to gaze,
on one of the seven wonders of the world for your satisfaction,
The city is protected by UNESCO,
Machu Picchu is preserved because of the destruction,

Allow your money to be spent,
Machu Picchu is a definite place to visit,
You should go,
You will never know where your journey will lead you,
In this wonderful world

By: Kelsey



Trip to Thanet Reform Synagogue



As part of their studies this term, exploring Judaism, and in preparation for studying comparative religion next term, students at Womenswold visited the Thanet Reform Synagogue in Broadstairs.

Students were welcomed by Rabbi Cliff Cohen. Cliff invited students to explore the Synagogue and ask any questions they may have in relation to what they saw. Cliff was incredibly kind and offered some of the students fidget toys, which supported their engagement during the visit.

After the initial chat, Cliff showed students one of the two Torahs they have, and students were enthralled by the history of it and how a Torah

is written.

The trip enabled students to gain a deeper understanding of the Jewish faith and see the real items and artifacts they had been learning about throughout the term.

After the trip students wrote thank you notes to Cliff and said how much they enjoyed their time at the Synagogue.



Sporting success

Caiden travelled to Eastbourne at the weekend to participate in a Karate tournament.

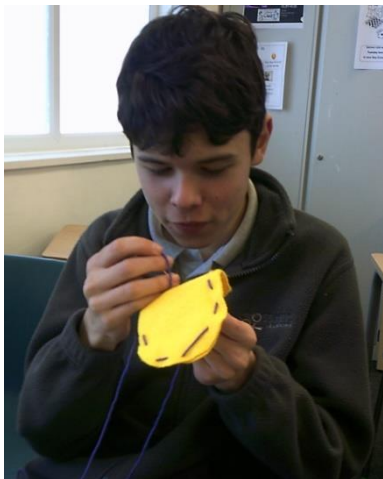
He achieved his first medal for sparring, his second one for his Kata and 2nd place trophy for Kata.

The tournament was held in Eastbourne. Contenders came from Canterbury, Ashford, Folkestone, Hastings and Eastbourne Canton Martial Arts dojo. Well done Caiden – an amazing achievement



A focus on Amber group

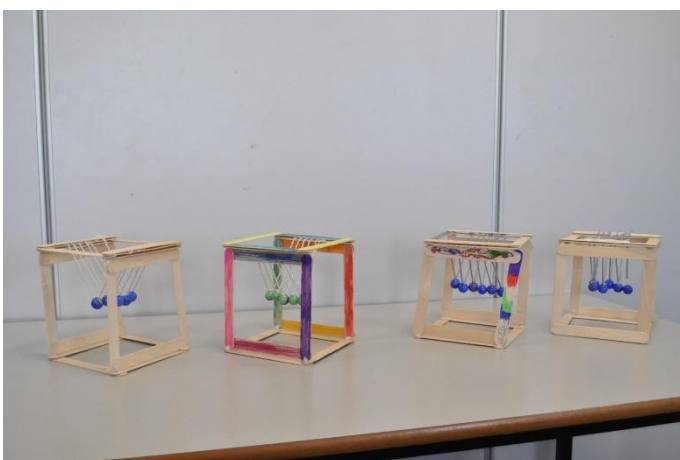
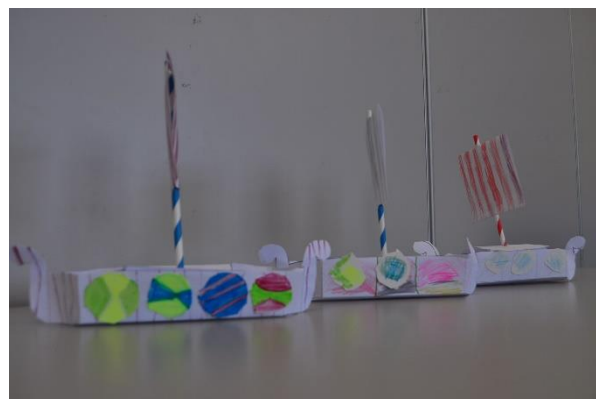
Amber Class embraced their creativity in ILS by designing and making their very own monsters. The students had a fantastic time bringing their imaginative ideas to life, carefully selecting bright colours of felt and using sewing techniques to create unique and quirky monsters.



Throughout the project, they learned valuable skills in design, sewing, and hand-eye coordination, while also enhancing their ability to follow instructions and work independently. The class loved seeing their creations come to life, and each monster has its own personality and charm. This hands-on activity not only exemplified artistic expression but also brought a sense of pride and accomplishment to Amber Class as they proudly showed off their soft toy masterpieces!



The class have been immersing themselves in history by learning about the fascinating evolution of travel and transport. As part of their studies, they recently took on the exciting task of creating their own Viking ships. Using a variety of materials, the students designed and built models of these iconic longships, which were used by the Vikings for exploration and trade. This hands-on project gave students a deeper understanding of Viking history and the ingenious ways they navigated the seas. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activity, and their finished Viking ships are a testament to both their creativity and historical curiosity!



Amber Class have also been exploring the fascinating world of physics through hands-on learning in their ILS sessions. Recently, they took on the exciting challenge of creating their very own Newton's Cradles! The class designed and built these iconic devices, which demonstrate the principles of momentum and energy transfer. As the students carefully crafted their cradles, they not only enhanced their understanding of scientific concepts but also developed

important skills in problem-solving and teamwork. The project sparked curiosity and creativity, with each student eager to see how their designs would work in action.

Parent Zone

Please support our **Plant Sale** which will take place on the dates below outside the school. Proceeds to be split between Demelza House and the Cross Keys Learning Garden

Hosted by Purple group: Monday 28th April 1-2 pm

Hosted by Yellow group: Tuesday 29th April 1-2 pm

Hosted by Blue group : Friday 2nd May 1-2pm



Safeguarding

The excellent communication we have with parents is an important part of our Safeguarding procedures. On our website we have a dedicated section around Safeguarding for parents and we welcome any questions or concerns you may have including requests for support.

As a parent of two teenage children myself, I appreciate how complicated the online world seems to have become and ensuring that children are safe and using social media responsibly is a challenge. We have put [guides](#) on our website to support parents with this which contain sensible suggestions and links to further support should you need it.

Dates for next term

Tuesday 22nd April - Term 5 starts

Monday 5th May – Bank Holiday, school closed

Friday 23rd May – End of term 5

Monday 2nd June – Term 6 starts

Friday 6th June – Year 11 Parent consultations

Thursday 10th July – Ross Country Park activities with provisional overnight camping opportunity

Friday 11th July – School trip to Wildwood

Thursday 17th July – Years 7-10 Parent consultations including end of year celebration.

Friday 18th July – End of term 6

To be confirmed – Year 10 work experience arrangements and Year 11 finish dates. The details of these will be shared when we have them.

