



It's hard to believe that we have already completed two terms of this academic year. As well as a strong focus on learning there has been so much going on, that both staff and students will no doubt be looking forward to the Christmas break.

I have just returned from a trip to Hollywood Bowl along with six of our best attending students who had earned the most achievement points. There was fierce competition and notable performances, especially from those who had never tried bowling before. It was a great trip and from my perspective lovely to spend some time with the students who have worked the hardest this year so far.

There have been over twenty different Friday raffle reward winners too as students have demonstrated the Cross Keys Learning '5 P's' of Positivity, Perseverance, Progress Performance and Politeness. Everything re-sets in January where further trips and rewards are planned.

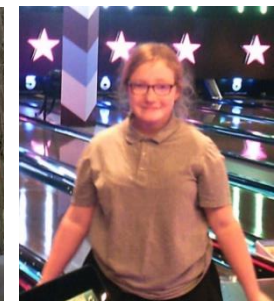
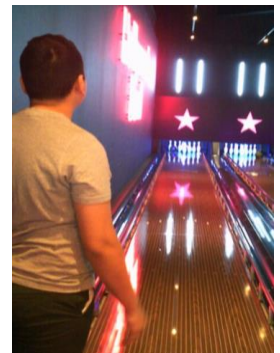
I have been further impressed with how students have engaged with ERiC (Everybody Reads in Class). The school is silent just after lunch where staff and students read together. The ability to read fluently is not just a skill that will be fundamental to their future success it will hopefully be transformational in giving hours of enjoyment. We welcome students bringing in any appropriate reading material from home if it is of interest to them, so get them to add reading material, be it books or magazines to their Christmas wish lists!

The school has welcomed new students during this term who have settled in well. 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.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the staff here for their hard work and dedication. Not only have they supported the extra-curricula activities of the school which we have sampled in this first newsletter, but they have shown daily commitment to improving the lives of the students they work with.

May I take this opportunity from the staff to wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Mark Beaman  
Headteacher



## Folkestone Art Trip

In October Hever students went on an Art trip to Folkestone.

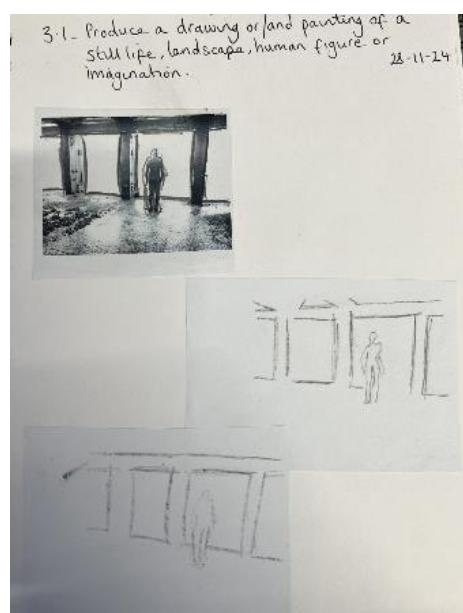
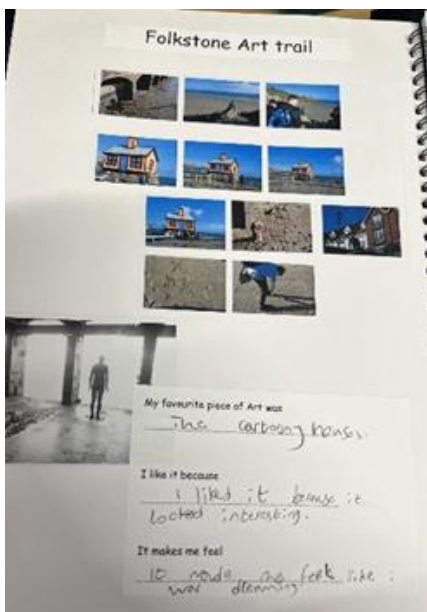
This event, celebrated for its vibrant art installations and community spirit, provided students with a unique opportunity to engage with contemporary art in an outdoor setting.

The trail features a diverse range of artworks created by local and international artists, reflecting various themes and styles.

Students expressed their creativity by using different drawing techniques and photography to capture the various sculptures and installations.

The visit provided students with a rich, immersive experience in the world of contemporary art. It not only broadened their understanding of artistic expression but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among peers.

Below are some examples of the Art created by the students in response to what they saw.



## Mockett's wood Science trip

Yellow and Blue groups have been studying Environments and Ecosystems for their Level 1 Open Awards Science course this term.

As part of their learning, the students went to Mockett's wood to identify biotic and abiotic factors, calculate frequency and distribution and analyse the impact humans have on a woodland. The students were amazing during this practical session.



## Football Tournament

We took a group of students, from both St. Peters' and Womenswold sites, to a football tournament in Aylesham. The students were excited and raring to go. We had a complete mix of age ranges, from years 7 to 11 and were set to play against teams that were years 10 and 11. These games were tough but Cross Keys Learning students held their own and played some fantastic football. Students then played against some of the younger sides and drew a couple of matches.

Considering some of the students were meeting for the first time and therefore had never played football together, they showed some excellent and supportive teamwork and really encouraged each other. The students represented Cross Keys Learning fantastically and are looking forward to the next sporting event.



## Science Trip to Pegwell Bay

Cross Keys Learning students visited Pegwell Bay in October for a science trip. Students entered the hides and explored this diverse ecosystem, identifying various wildlife including small Egrets, Kestrels, Brent Geese and even a few Highland cattle.



### Cross Keys Learning makes the Isle of Thanet News

The school hosted a special visit from Broadstairs town Mayor Mike Garner, who took the time to meet students and staff, tour the facilities, and admire the impressive work produced by the students. The visit was a delightful experience for everyone involved, with students proudly showcasing their projects and discussing their favourite aspects of the school. Clayton gave the Mayor a guided tour of the school and the story, which included our Good OFSTED judgement, made the Isle of Thanet news!



### Christmas Tree festival

This years students at Cross Keys Learning were runners up for the St Peter's Church Christmas tree festival. The theme for this year was "Favourite Christmas Films" and our students chose to focus on 'Home Alone'. Students led the project in creating decorations and designing the tree and showed great teamwork skills and creativity throughout! The tree was taken back to school and re-assembled on Christmas jumper day



## Christmas table decorations

The upper school created table decorations for Christmas as part of their English Speaking and listening activities. We were very lucky to have foliage, baubles and candles donated by staff and family, helping us with part of our reduce, reuse, recycle drive.

All of the students worked well and really enjoyed this 'hands on' experience and were pleased with the overall results. We would like to thank Maria@FMNflowers who donated the technical floristry equipment. The students sent letters of thanks to all of those involved for helping us to make this happen.



## School Christmas Celebration

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and guests at our Christmas event. The students were so thrilled to be able to show off their work and are obviously proud of their school (even if they don't always say it!).

A huge thank you to Matt, the vicar of St Peter's, for making us all feel welcome and for putting together the service. The students were very much involved in contributing answers and participating in the singing.

Well done to Ladislav, Leonard, Jack and Tom for reading so beautifully in front of what must have been a daunting audience; they were great.

Back at school there was a real buzz, with Christmas games, parent consultations and refreshments available; it was great to be part of such a positive atmosphere. We raised over £117 for Demelza House, the students' chosen charity for this year.

Thank you again to all who attended, we know how much of a difference working together can make for our students, so we are grateful of your support.



**CROSS KEYS**  
LEARNING

**18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**  
**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

1.15pm St Peter's church for readings and carols

Back at school from 2.15pm for Christmas Fayre, games & refreshments

An opportunity to see student work & talk to teaching staff.

Please come and support us

The Lead Centre  
Dane Valley Road  
CT10 3JJ



**Dates for next term**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Term 3 starts

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Term 3 ends

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Term 4 starts

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Term 4 ends

**ATTENDANCE**  
**MATTERS**

**Give attendance 100% effort!**