

Already two terms in of a busy, productive and challenging academic year! The students will be grateful of the forthcoming break following their efforts and at times inspirational hard work. There have been several Christmas themed activities on the go this week with students demonstrating their creative sides.

Our focus this year as a school is to further develop our work in supporting student progress and well-being. As such we are taking time to audit and evaluate all that we do and to challenge ourselves to become an exceptional provider of inclusive education.

We are mindful that for this to be successful the support of parents is crucial and we are grateful for the positive relationships we have with our parent body. We are continually looking to improve our communications with parents so please let us know of any suggestions you may have. I am delighted with the way our Facebook page now showcases what is going on at school and we have worked hard to ensure our website has the information you might need and of course we remain happy to take the time to talk and meet with you should you have any concerns to raise or positive messages to give.

As always my continued thanks to the staff here for their hard work and bottomless positivity. In a time of increasing teacher & support staff shortages the students here at Cross Keys are very fortunate to have such a team of dedicated individuals to support them.

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

Mark Beaman
Headteacher



Christmas Newsletter December 2025



Cross Keys Learning in the news!

Honours for Cross Keys Learning at Green School Awards

theisleofthanesnews.com December 9, 2025



“Cross Keys Learning is celebrating a major achievement after receiving multiple honours at the Social Enterprise Kent Schools Green School Awards, held at the Ashford International Hotel.”

Both specialist school sites in St Peter’s and Womenswold were recognised as Green School Award Winners, and the organisation was further awarded the Overall Environment Award for its commitment to transforming unused areas into vibrant, environmentally friendly spaces.

The projects have been led by Anita, Emma and Sandie, whose dedication to gardening, planting and recycling initiatives has made a visible and lasting impact across the two sites. Their work has been particularly inspiring at the St Peter’s location, where an industrial setting has been successfully reshaped into a thriving green space.



A team spokesperson said: “We left the event feeling incredibly proud and full of inspiration for the future. Sustainability remains at the heart of what we do, and these awards are a wonderful recognition of our continued progress.”

We came away full of inspiration for the future. Many thanks to ADM computing for sponsoring our overall award.

Please come and see both the evidence and certificates in our entrance next time you visit the school.



Cross Keys Learning V Ripplevale Football match

The start of Term One saw our first away football fixture against Ripplevale School in Deal. Our newly formed team, meeting for the first time took to the pitch with energy and enthusiasm giving an impressive performance of working well together, communicating effectively, and confidently showcasing their developing skills. Despite a strong effort, Ripplevale proved too strong on the day and claimed the victory. Although the final score did not go our way, students gained valuable experience and should be proud of the excellent sportsmanship they displayed, showing respect throughout the match and congratulating their opponents at the final whistle.



War memorial service

Linking this term's English curriculum theme of conflict and poetry with the solemn occasion of Remembrance Day, students paid their respects to the Armed Forces.

Leading up to the service, students produced poems, diary entries, and wreaths centred on the theme of war and conflict. Womenswold students made poppy's out of recycled materials in addition to visiting the Battle of Britain Museum and Memorial in Folkestone.



The Remembrance Day service involved a reflective walk to St Peter's Church and for Womenswold students, St Margaret's church. At the pivotal time of **11:00 hrs**, all staff and students observed a two-minute silence, a moment to pause and reflect on the immense sacrifices made by the Armed Forces on our behalf.

This deeply personal and educational activity ensures that the lessons of history and literature are brought to life in a respectful and memorable way for the entire school community.

Into film festival

As part of our school's celebration of the into film festival, St Peters and Womensworld students visited The Palace Cinema in November to watch Dog man.

The purpose of the into film festival and our visit is to inspire young people to watch, understand and make films in creative ways, making it a valuable educational experience.

Part of our student's curriculum in Digital Skills is to learn how to make their own animations/stories using code. And so, watching the animated film Dogman, was a great boost of inspiration to our students, with some interested in the production and making of the film.

Furthermore, upon arriving back to school, students completed thank you letters to The Palace Cinema and its staff for the wonderful experience they had and thanking the cinema for allowing us to visit. This also tied into their English lessons about writing a letter. They were looking at different types of letters, what makes up a letter and learning how to write their own.

All students very much enjoyed the trip and all of us at Cross Keys Learning are very thankful to the into film festival for the opportunity.

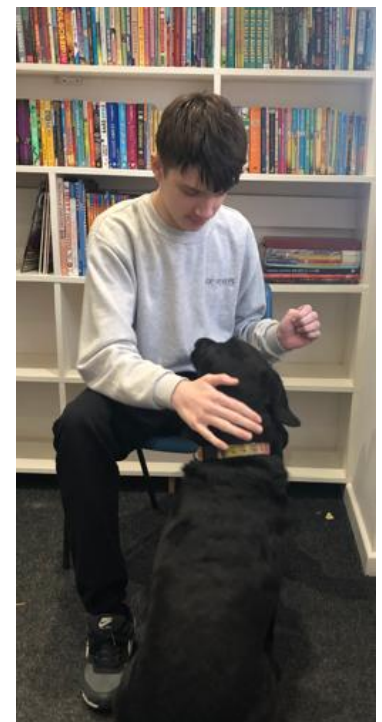


Reading with Wendy and Figo



This term, students at our Womensworld site have been fortunate to welcome Wendy and her dog, Figo, for weekly reading practice sessions.

Their involvement has quickly become a highlight for many of our students. Figo's calm and friendly presence creates a supportive environment that encourages reluctant



readers to participate and helps more confident readers further develop their skills.

Cross Keys Learning In the news – again!

theisleofthanetnews.com November 22nd, 2025

Celebrating Kindness and Achievement at Cross Keys Learning

Students, parents and staff at Cross Keys Learning in St Peter's have helped to raise an amazing £271.18 for Children in Need.

Cakes were sold, donations were made, and students took part in a special kindness challenge. Each form group was set the task of completing 25 acts of kindness, ranging from writing thank you letters, helping classmates, or something as simple as smiling or holding the door for someone.

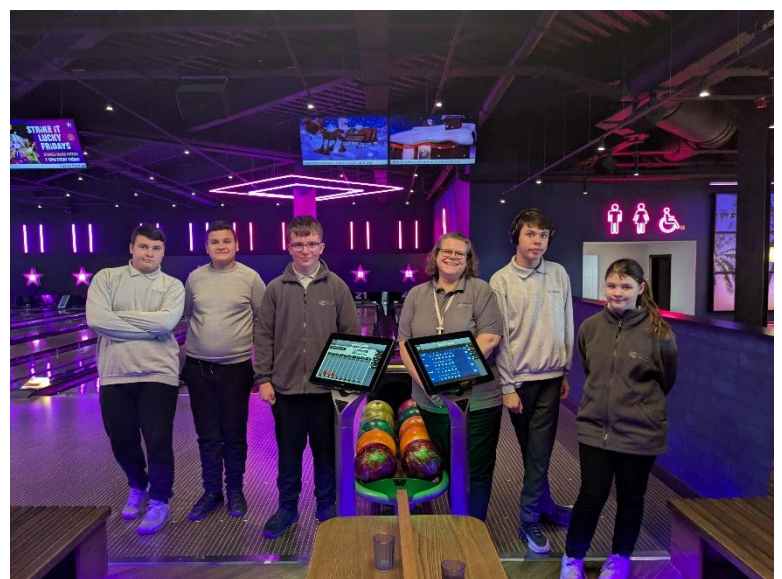
We are extremely proud of every student for completing the challenge and showing how powerful kindness can be. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated and encouraged the children along the way.



Bowling reward trip

Congratulations to Theo, Fay, Billy, Christian, Harry & Adrian who were the winners of this term's reward prize to Hollywood bowl.

Competition was fierce but it was Theo who came out as student bowling champion on this occasion.



The celebration food was well-received too!

Tree Festival at St Peters Church 2025

Students across both sites got creative producing some wonderful decorations to place on the school tree as part of St Peters Church Tree festival. Lots of biodegradable glitter, dried fruit, spices and paper were used to create a wonderful display for the Theme of 'Making it green' with the emphasis on Eco and reusing items. The students enjoyed doing this activity during



their lunch time clubs and were proud of the final tree. Some of the students then took a trip to the Church to set it up the day before the festival. Unfortunately, due to many high quality trees we didn't place this year however it was lovely for the school to be involved in a local event.

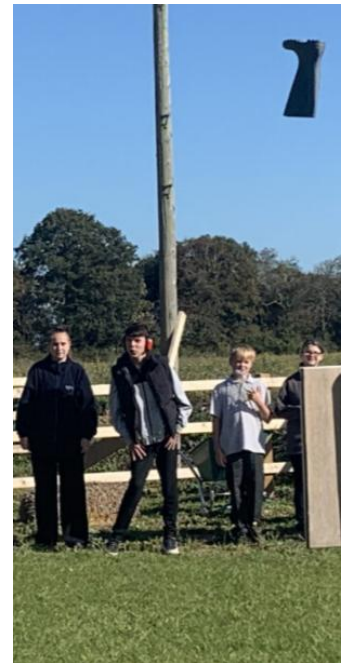


Quex Park



On 6th October, our Lower School students enjoyed a wonderful day at Quex Park Adventure Farm as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. The trip began with a greeting from the farm's animal handlers, who led the students to meet the sheep and highland cows. Their first challenge

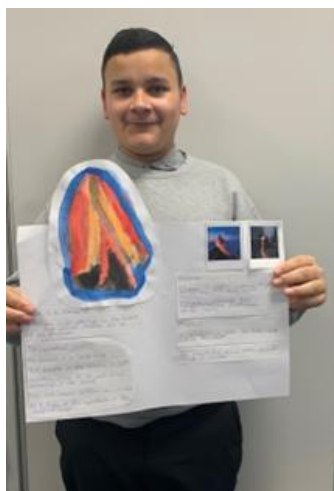
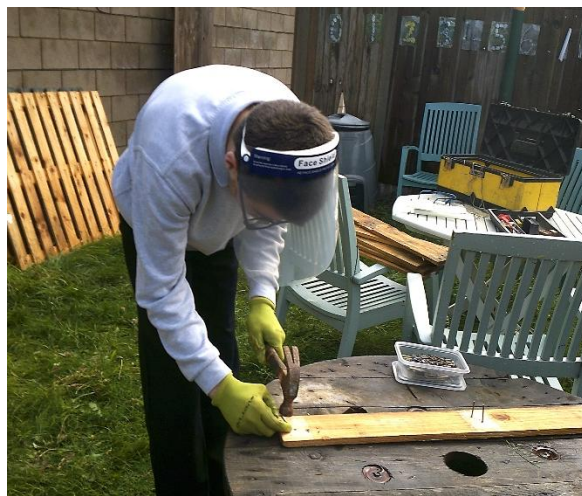
was sheep herding, where teamwork and determination helped them guide two sheep through a series of obstacles. Students then met the farm manager, who gave an engaging talk about farming equipment, processes, and the products made from Quex Farm's crops. The students asked thoughtful questions, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm. One of the highlights was entering the goat pen to feed, stroke, and handle the baby goats. The handlers explained how to care for the animals, and the students loved this hands-on experience. The adventure continued with visits to pigs, chickens, pygmy goats, adult goats, donkeys, and more highland cows. Students had the chance to feed these



animals too, making the day even more memorable. From herding sheep to cuddling baby goats, the trip was filled with laughter, learning, and joy.

It was a fantastic way to connect the Harvest Festival with real-life farming, and fun was truly had by all!

Just another day at Cross Keys Learning....



Rochester castle

Several students visited Rochester Castle as part of their Landmarks project. Students enjoyed the precariousness of the castle steps and the views from the ramparts! They were very careful and considerate of



others when in the castle and were a credit to the school.

We then went for a walking tour in Rochester looking for another local landmark 'The wonky house!' all of the students were encouraged to 'look up' at the dates and architecture of the buildings, patterns in the environments and interesting features, we even saw a little bit of France in the French Almshouses.



It was a very successful trip and we are currently writing a recount in English where the students are using photographs as prompts.

Christmas celebration

After a wonderful Church service led by Reverend Matt and supported by friends of the school, we had our Christmas Fayre which proved to be a truly lovely afternoon and a huge success. Students prepared readings in the church and joined in with the singing, particularly for the school's own Cosmic Christmas song written and led by teacher Clive Sax. Thanks to the generosity of families, staff, and visitors, we raised around £180 for TAG Pet Rescue through stall sales and donations; a fantastic amount that we're incredibly proud of.



There was plenty to enjoy, including a tombola, plant signs for sale, decorate-a-biscuit, higher or lower, name the teddy, and guess the weight of the amazing Christmas cake kindly made by Juliette, along with many other festive activities.



It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in attendance. The students loved proudly showing their families around the school, enjoying



refreshments, and sharing food, some of which they had made themselves. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and full of festive cheer.

It really was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all those who came and supported the students!



Attendance Support

As we come to the end of the Christmas term, we'd like to remind families that Lisa is your main point of contact for anything related to attendance. This includes reporting illness, medical appointments, planned absences, or any difficulties getting your child into school.

If you're ever unsure or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we're here to help and work together to support every child's attendance. Every day counts, and small conversations can make a big difference.

We are also mindful that some students may need some additional support during the break, please direct them to the number on this graphic if you feel that it would be useful to them.



And finally....

We are saying goodbye to Amy Keeler and Julie Collyer at the end of this term. We'd like to thank them for their hard work and support of our students; they will both be missed.

Dates for next term:

January 5th – Term 3 begins

February 13th Term 3 ends

February 23rd Term 4 begins

April 2nd Term 4 ends

