

Easter is upon us and finally the weather seems to have turned a corner. Despite the cold, wet and short days we have been busy as ever here at school making our way to now two thirds of the way through this academic year. The students have been working hard in lessons, completing assessments and had the opportunity to engage with learning outside of the classroom as we have welcomed visitors to the school and conducted various trips out of school.

There have been a number of great visits since the last newsletter; we try to create a broad range of opportunities for students to link the subjects they study to life beyond the classroom and also to reward those students with the best attendance and most achievement points with a fun, social activity. I hope that you get a flavour of the enjoyment students have had from these experiences as you read the rest of this newsletter.

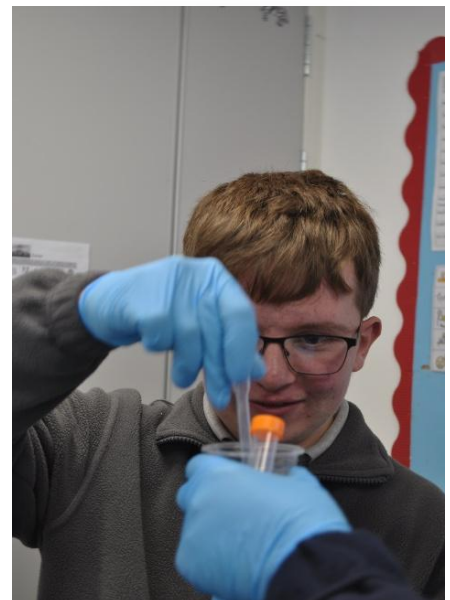
As always we have looked for opportunities to promote a love of reading across the curriculum. Memorable highlights for me this term have been watching students engage in their favourite books and even writing their own stories and plays.

My thanks as always to the staff for their hard work, both making these extra-curricular opportunities available and for their continual 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 keep us updated with any information that you feel is relevant so that we can support both the students and yourselves as best we can.

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. We continue to keep our school website www.crosskeyslearning.com updated with news, information and links for support so please take a look and let us know if there is anything else we can add to the site for you.

Wishing you a Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 20th April.

Mark Beaman
Headteacher



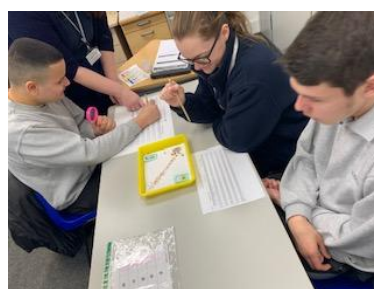
Science Day

On Thursday 26th March 2026, the whole school took part in an exciting Science Day themed around “Curiosity: What’s your question?” We were delighted to welcome Womenswold students and staff, who joined St Peter’s for a full day of hands-on scientific exploration. Working in small mixed groups, students took part in three engaging experiments, each designed to spark curiosity and deepen scientific understanding.

The day began with an investigation titled “How Rich Is Your Habitat?” Students explored the concept of biodiversity by creating three different model habitats using coloured sugar balls. They then used quadrats—just like real field scientists—to sample a small section of each habitat and count how many of each colour appeared. This helped them understand how scientists measure species richness in the natural world.

After break, the focus turned to sustainability with an experiment that involved turning milk into plastic. Students learned about plastic pollution and considered more environmentally friendly alternatives. Using milk and vinegar, they watched a surprising chemical reaction take place. There were plenty of comments about the curdling process—and its memorable smell—but students were fascinated by the fact that they had created a form of biodegradable plastic themselves.

The final activity of the day gave students the chance to explore something truly personal: their own DNA. Using simple household liquids, students extracted DNA from the cells inside their mouths. Seeing the strands appear before their eyes was a highlight for many and helped them understand what makes each of us unique.



The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Students went home buzzing with excitement, having taken part in multiple fun-filled learning experiences that we hope they will remember fondly.

Careers Visit to the Fudge Kitchen

Students recently enjoyed an exciting careers visit to the Fudge Kitchen in Canterbury, where they were given a behind-the-scenes look at the popular local business. During the visit, students learned about the history of the company and how it has grown into a well-known attraction in the city. Staff also explained how the business is run, from serving customers to managing production and sales.

One of the highlights of the trip was watching how the fudge is made. Students observed the traditional techniques used to create the sweet treats and discovered the skills involved in the process. To finish the visit, everyone had the opportunity to taste some delicious freshly made fudge, making the experience both educational and enjoyable. The visit gave students a valuable insight into careers in retail, food production, and customer service.



Garden centre visit



This term Womenswold students visited their local garden centre to buy soils and seeds for their planting project. They explored different types of soil and learned which ones help plants grow best. The students then chose a variety of seeds, including flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Everyone was excited to pick what they wanted to grow in the school garden.

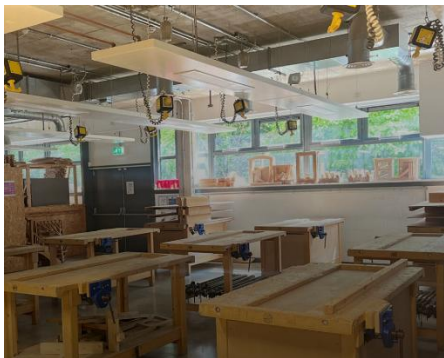


With their soils and seeds ready, the students returned to school eager to begin planting and watch their garden grow.



Post 16 transition visit to EKC Broadstairs

Our Year 10 students visited Broadstairs College on 16th March, where they enjoyed a guided tour of key areas across the campus. The trip gave students a valuable opportunity to experience first-hand the wide range of learning opportunities available.



Students were particularly impressed by the inclusive learning environments on offer. These included a fully equipped training kitchen and a 'learning flat', complete with a bedroom and lounge, designed to support independent living skills. The student social spaces were also a highlight, featuring games consoles and even a piano, which proved especially popular.

Throughout the visit, students asked thoughtful questions about courses, support services and entry requirements. They left with a clear understanding of the pathways available to them and felt inspired by what the college has to offer.



During the visit, students explored several specialist facilities, including the mechanics garage, woodworking studio and plumbing workshop. They also learned about the college's involvement in community projects, gaining insight into how students apply their skills in real-world contexts.



Comic Relief Brings Fun and Fundraising!



Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised a brilliant £73.01 for Comic Relief!

St Peter's and Womenswold celebrated Comic Relief with a day full of fun, laughter and generosity.

Students and staff got involved in a range of activities, including delicious cake sales, a popular lunchtime photobooth with dress-up props, and wearing something red (or non-uniform) to show their support. It was fantastic to see so many people joining in and enjoying the day.



World Book Day

Students and staff at Cross Keys Learning marked World Book Day with a fantastic celebration of books, creativity and reading across the school.



Both students and staff made a great effort to get involved, with imaginative costumes and activities helping to bring favourite stories and characters to life. Throughout the day, students had the chance to talk about their favourite books, share stories and enjoy reading together.

As a school that places a strong focus on reading through its daily ERiC (Everyone Reads in Class) sessions, the event felt like a natural extension of the commitment to encouraging a love of books. World Book Day provided the perfect opportunity to celebrate reading and highlight the positive impact books can have on learning, imagination and wellbeing.

Book shop visits

Last month, St Peter's felt a little quieter as students headed out on a special mission: a visit to Margate Bookshop to celebrate World Book Day. Armed with their official £1 tokens, students were ready to trade their tokens for a new book.

It was wonderful to see so many students eager to choose a brand-new book to take home and keep. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore the shelves, discover new authors, and pick out a book that genuinely sparked their interest.

Reading is such an important and joyful activity, and World Book Day is a brilliant celebration of that.



As part of World Book Day celebrations, students from Womenswold visited a bookshop in Dover for a special trip focused on reading and discovering new stories. During the visit, students explored the shelves, looked at a wide range of books, and enjoyed the chance to choose a book of their own.

Each student selected a book to take back to school, where they spent time enjoying their new reads. The visit helped encourage a love of reading and gave students the opportunity to discover new authors and genres.

Football tournament

Students from local Independent schools recently came together for a fantastic football tournament held at Aylesham Leisure Centre. The event was a great success, with all teams showing excellent sportsmanship, respect, and teamwork throughout the day. It was particularly pleasing to see players shaking hands after each match, demonstrating kindness and respect for one another.



Cross Keys played extremely well and showed some very good football skills and teamwork. The windy weather certainly made things challenging at times, with the ball occasionally seeming to have a mind of its own, but the players adapted brilliantly and kept going with great determination and positive attitudes.

The tournament lasted around four hours, and great fun was had by all who took part. At the end of the tournament, Crosskeys stayed on to play a few friendly matches with other teams, which was a lovely way to finish the day and continue building friendships with students from other schools.

Well done to all students who took part for representing their schools so positively and for making the day enjoyable for everyone involved.



Learn with Lords

This term, our pupils were fortunate to take part in two live Teams sessions with sitting members of the House of Lords, an experience they found both exciting and inspiring.

Upper School enjoyed a lively conversation with Lord Elliot, asking thoughtful questions about his role and responsibilities, while Lower School met with Lord Knight, who previously served as Minister of State for Skills and Education.

The children were fully engaged throughout, relishing the chance to interact directly with national decision-makers and gaining a memorable insight into how our government works.



Lord Knight

Lord Elliot

The Big Writing Challenge

This year the title 'Curious Creatures' was set as 'The Big Writing Challenge' prompt.

For the first time both sites, which meant a higher level of entrants than last year, were encouraged during their English lessons to create an imaginative piece, that included a curious creature either from their imagination or real life. From lovelorn octopi, gorillas, sharks and dogs the students excelled with their stories. This is very exciting for us as a school because all of the students are working hard on their literacy skills and it is becoming evident in the work they are producing.

We were thrilled to hear that Leonard from St Peters and Billy from Womenswold were our winners this year. Congratulations to you both, you deserve every success.



Dear Leonard and Billy,
🎉 Congratulations! You're
a Big Writing Challenge 2026 WINNER! 🎉
We are absolutely thrilled to tell you that your
amazing writing has wowed our judges, and they
have chosen your work to be published in
The Big Writing Challenge 2026 Commemorative
Book! 📖 ✨
This is such a fantastic achievement, of which you
should be very proud! 🎉



I want to be that curious creature, a monkey!

Chad lived in a small town, but this town, it was definitely creepy.

On Friday 13th March 1947, Chad decided to go to the blood-curdling zoo.

He saw a monkey glancing at people and looking away trying not to cause suspicion.

Chad travelled on foot to the monkey, the monkey saw the man approaching and put his hand out of the cage. The man touched the hand; it felt smooth like a bed that was newly made.

The monkey had powerful powers that he wanted to give to Chad. To do this he had a potion that he rubbed on his smooth skin and then when Chad touched the monkey, he knew that the powers would be transferred.

At nighttime, Chad looked out of his window because the powers were slowly getting to him and there was a full moon!

Then he saw something on the news that a curious monkey has died, it looked like the monkey at the zoo.

Chad began to change into a monkey! He climbed out of his window creepily and then he went to the forest. The end... until the next story comes!

By Leonard Horvath

A Curious Creature

One normal day, on a lovely quiet field, there was a curious creature. It was a Field Windmill with soft wheat legs, a wheat tail and sweeps on front and back.



It was a happy windmill; it loved wind and when there is wind, it faces the wind for its sweeps to turn. The Field Windmill eats grain every day to produce flour. The sweeps crush the grain to make flour, but when there is no wind, the windmill can't make flour because the sweeps are not turning.

The Field Windmill loves nature and animals; every day he sees birds fly over him and he wishes he could fly as well!

by Billy Harris

Reward Trip to Flamingo Indoor Golf, Margate

Students from both our St Peters and Womenswold sites recently enjoyed a well-deserved reward trip to Flamingo Indoor Golf to celebrate their excellent attendance and rewards points totals for the term. Three students from each site took part in a friendly but competitive 18-hole mini golf competition. Students carefully kept score as they made their way around the course, showing great honesty, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.



The competition was fierce, but always friendly, and the behaviour of all students was excellent. There were some fantastic skills on show, including an impressive hole-in-one and several holes completed in just two shots! It was a really enjoyable trip and a great opportunity for students from both sites to spend time together, build confidence and celebrate their achievements.



Definitely worth a mention....

Well done to Ladislav, Leonard and Adrian who have completed their training to become Peer Mentors

Reward trip winners this term:

Theo, Adrian, Billy, Fay, Rhys & Christian

Raffle winners this term

Graeme, Harry JS, Rowan, Fay, Elisha, Rhys, Ladislav, Theo, Ben, Harry TK, Will, Leonard

Easter Church visits

Students from Cross Keys Learning Womenswold had a service at their local Church, St Margarets, on Wednesday April 1st.

Reverend Stefan told students the story of easter in three parts – The Last supper, the Crucifixion and the resurrection.

Students had pre-prepared questions which the Reverend took great pleasure in answering.



The Reverend commented that CKL students had been very patient and respectful and gave special praise to Alfie for his excellent theological questions.

The lovely service was drawn to a close with the Reverend giving students a crème egg and reminded students that St Margarets was “their” church and always open to them.



St Peter’s students paid a visit to Reverend Matt at St Peter’s Church where they discussed the Easter story by looking at the stained-glass windows which beautifully show the story.

Students were then shown some very old bibles and several images depicting the parable of the lost sheep and discussed the meaning with Matt. Lower school students

learnt about the Maundy Thursday Service and tried some special bread.

As ever the students were polite and respectful and asked lots of questions including whether Matt was well-paid!

Finally Upper School students went and looked at the ropes at the bottom of the bell-tower and have been invited back on the Church open days to try the bells and to climb the tower.



Parent Zone

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 you may have including requests for support.

Keeping us up to date with any concerns, work with external agencies, medical issues etc. that we should be aware of means we can work together and provide support more effectively.

Dates for next term

Monday 20th April - Term 5 starts

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday, school closed

Thursday 21st May – Year 11 Consultations

Friday 22nd May – End of term 5

Monday 1st June – Term 6 starts

Friday 26th June – Year 11 leavers' day

Monday 29th June – Work experience week (Year 10s)

Thursday 9th July – Ross Country Park Sports Day with provisional overnight camping opportunity

Thursday 16th July – Years 7-10 Parent consultations & end of year celebration.

Tuesday 21st July 12.30pm– End of term 6

Thursday 20th August – Results morning 10am St Peter's site

Immunisation team are due in during Term 5, dates and details tbc.

Attendance

We continue to encourage strong attendance across the school and appreciate the efforts of both students and families in supporting this. Regular attendance plays a vital role in progress, confidence, and wellbeing.



Students with 96% and over attendance in term 4 (no more than 1 day off)

Clayton, Jai, Theo, Billy, Will, Christian, Leonard, Ladislav, Ben, Harry TK & Adrian

Attendance form winners

Term 3 - Dover

Term 4 – Dover & Walmer (Enjoy your Easter eggs!)

And finally.....

Goodbye to Georgia who is moving on to a new role at Stone Bay School. We will be welcoming Megan and Charlene to Cross Keys St Peter's after the Easter break

Georgia



Charlene



Megan

