

So here we are at the end of the academic year! Another incredibly busy term with lots going on both in the classroom and various trips and activities supporting the curriculum and providing enrichment opportunities for the students.

We have said farewell to our Year 11 students amongst which there were many notable exam successes and some more results to follow during the summer. We wish them well as they move on to post 16 education and life beyond Cross Keys. We endeavour to ensure that students leave us prepared for both the transition to the next stage in their education and also for the wider world.

We have used this year to build upon making sure that the curriculum the students receive is both suitable and ambitious which has enabled us to provide additional activities and opportunities knowing that we have a sound foundation at the core of what we do. You will see from the numerous entries in this newsletter the extent of the activities that students have participated in since Easter. My thanks to the staff for making these extra-curricular opportunities available and for their daily commitment & positivity.

The end of term has finished with sports day followed by an overnight camping experience which was well received by all who attended. We hope to build on this success next year with greater numbers staying overnight and more participation in the singing! Please don't forget to keep up to date with school life by following us on Facebook.

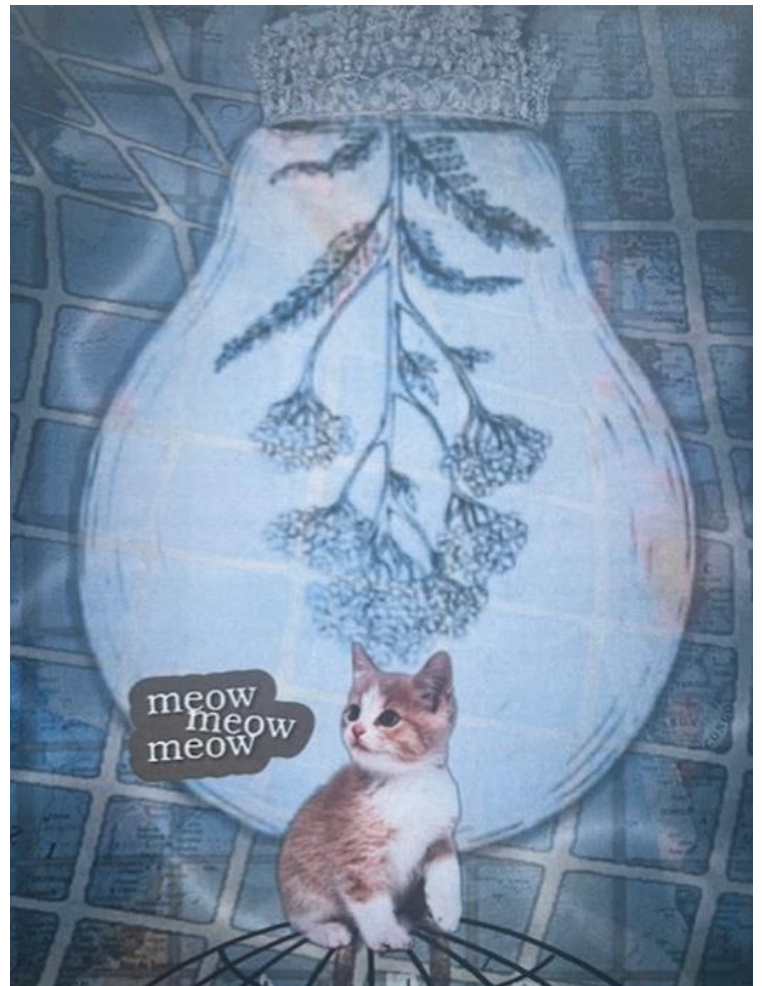
It would be remiss of me not to mention the tragic passing of Alicia from our Womenswold site. The piece of art produced by Alicia here was in response to the brief of producing something surreal – I think it shows nicely her sense of humour which shone through. It truly has been a very difficult time for staff and students who worked with her, and I would like to thank parents for the numerous messages of support we have received.

As I write this we are preparing for this evening's parent consultations – I hope that you are impressed with the work that the students have been producing and we thank you for taking the time to come in and talk to us – it really is important to both us as a school and for the students who want to show off what they have achieved.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 2nd September

Mark Beaman

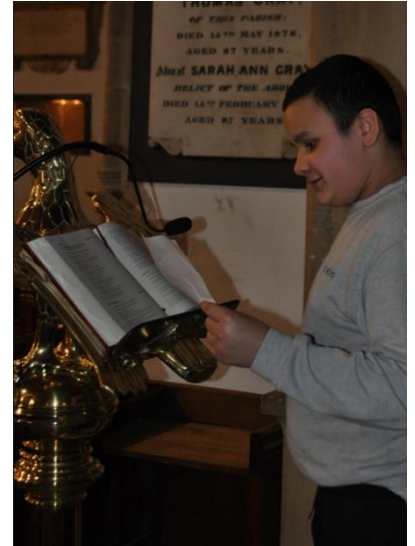
Headteacher



A Visit to St Peter's Church – Full of Curiosity and Wonder!

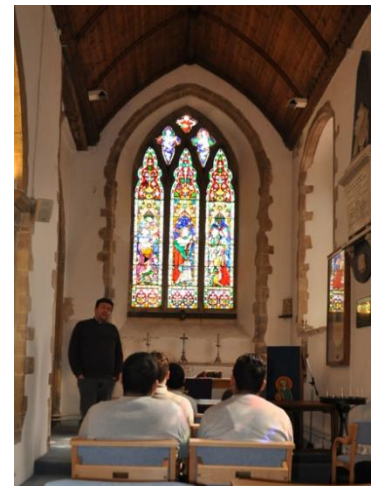
On 4th April, our students had the chance to visit the beautiful St Peter's Church in Broadstairs—and what a visit it was! We were warmly welcomed by the vicar, Matt, who gave students the chance to explore the church, dive into the Easter Story, and ask all the burning questions they had about his role, the building, and anything else that sparked their curiosity.

The visit began with a fun treasure hunt, helping students get to know the layout and unique features of the church. Then, in a lovely moment of freedom, Matt encouraged them to simply wander and explore. Some students found themselves drawn to the intricate stained-glass windows and the stories they tell, others were intrigued by the plaques honouring those who had passed, and a few were completely fascinated by how the church's grand organ was even installed!



It was such a joy for staff to see the students so engaged—completely absorbed in the atmosphere of the church, discovering its stories, and showing a genuine sense of awe and wonder.

Later, students gathered for a Q&A with Matt, and the questions just kept coming! Some were keen to discuss the Easter Story and even shared what they already knew about the crucifixion and resurrection. Others were curious about the daily life of a vicar or the rich history of the church itself.



We wrapped up the visit with a heartfelt goodbye—but the students left with even more questions than when they arrived. And really, that's the best kind of ending. May their curiosity continue to grow!

First Aid training with the Red Cross



During upper schools First aid unit within health and wellbeing, we were visited by Babs from the Red Cross. Babs explained some basic first aid, like cuts and burns and then students were talked through the recovery position where some students volunteered to complete the steps and successfully placed their partner into the recovery position. Students also had the opportunity to practice CPR on the 'Annie' doll. Students really enjoyed the session and were able to show off their knowledge and skills and put it into practice.

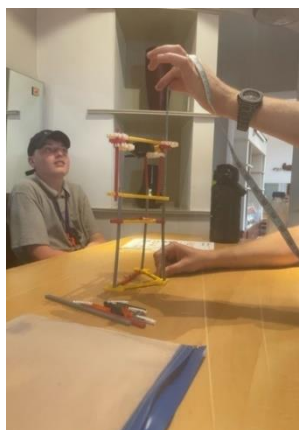


Pizza Express visit

St. Peters Upper School enjoyed a pizza making experience at Pizza Express to understand the dough making process and the different ingredients used for toppings as part of their Catering courses. The Pizzas were then enjoyed as a picnic in the park after leaving the restaurant.



Preparing for the future



Our Year 10 students had a fantastic time at the Careers Event hosted by Life Skills Manor this term. From exploring job roles to practising interview techniques and meeting local employers, it was a brilliant day full of learning, confidence-building, and future-thinking.



Work experience



All of our students did themselves proud at their various work experience placements; the feedback from the employers was overwhelmingly positive with offers of future work and payment for some !!

Jack and Isaac were placed at Dane Valley Vehicle Services, getting involved in all things motor vehicle mechanics, Len & Lad prepared for their future restaurant business with catering placements.



Adrian had a glowing report from his contribution at Clayspace studios and Rhys did so well at B.Lane Groundwork and Landscaping Contractors he was asked to stay for a second week. Well done all !!

Art competition entries

Students were invited to enter UCA, You Create Competition, this year's theme was Dreams and our incredible students showcased their creative talent with some exceptional Art.



"Whispers of Wind"

This hanging sculpture is a deconstructed interpretation of a windmill. In breaking down its familiar form, Billy invites viewers into the in-between—where dreams are not yet reality but already shaping the air around them. Like wind itself, unseen yet felt, this piece is a quiet homage to possibility.

"Silence of peace"

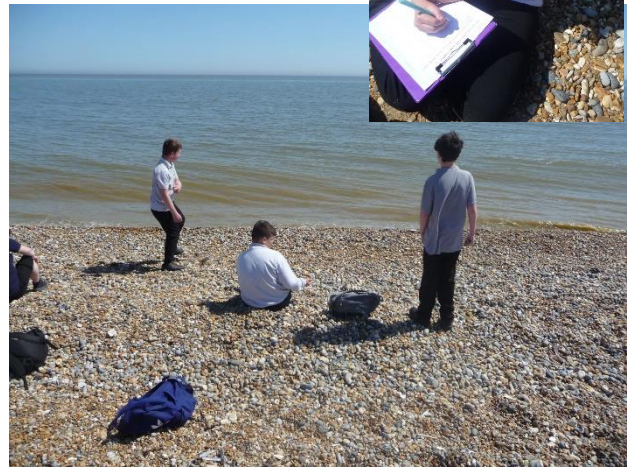


Through this fusion of fiery colour and quiet form, Ethan captures the yearning for stillness in nature—a dream that feels both deeply personal and relevant to so many. It's a powerful testament to how silence, like art, can be profoundly expressive.

Sandwich Bay outdoor learning



Womenswold students had a multi subject trip to Sandwich bay. Windsor class took part in an outdoor science lesson on different types of plants that grow on the beach and how they stay healthy, whilst Hever class had a maths lesson on collecting and transferring data.



VE day celebrations at Womenswold



Plant Sale Success

At the beginning of the year, the upper school vocational classes planned to come together and set up a plant sale. Throughout the year, the groups were taking cuttings and planting seeds to create plants for the sale.

Yellow Group were tasked to create a visual display, and practice customer service skills.

Blue Group were tasked with dealing with customers, communication and problem-solving skills.

Leeds Group were tasked with setting up a display, selling products and dealing with customers.

The plant sale ran over 3 afternoons, and each day the proceed amounted to approximately £40. The total was £121.77 which will be shared equally between the schools chosen charity Demelza and purchases for the school garden.

All tasks were completed with great results with particular success to Yellow group's mobile plant stall which visited a number of businesses and staff locally.



RHS Gardening Award

We're so proud to share that we've now received our Level 5 RHS Gardening Award — the highest level!
We're now the proud owners of:

- ✓ A certificate
- ✓ A plaque for our garden
- ✓ Seeds
- ✓ £150 in vouchers

These rewards will go straight back into our ever-growing gardens, helping us build even more next term.



Both the St Peter's and Womenswold gardens are blooming beautifully, and we've even grown our first tomato! Well done to everyone involved — your hard work is paying off!



Visit to the Turner Contemporary

Upper school St Peter's students visited the Resistance Photography Exhibition at the Turner Contemporary in Margate. The exhibition showcased thought-provoking work, focused on important social issues including anti-war movements and women's rights.

Students explored the gallery and had opportunities to take photos, engaged with the artwork and completed their workbooks – reflecting on what the photographs meant and the messages behind them. A great opportunity for learning through art and discussion.



Pickleball

PE this term included the opportunity to learn and play the increasingly popular sport of Pickleball. We were fortunate to have Sheena Maclean Bell, a Pickleball champion and a contact of the school through the Child Centred Policing team to coach the students. The students had an amazing time taking part in these sessions and thanks to Sheena's generous donation of paddles and balls, we'll be able to continue enjoying pickleball as part of our PE activities.



Mini Golf reward trip

A trip to Quex park mini golf was a well-deserved reward for those students with excellent attendance and the best achievement points. Everyone showed off their putting skills with smiles and laughter all around in the warm sunshine. The friendly competition between St Peter's and Womenswold added an extra dash of fun with St Peter's victorious on the day.



A focus on Windsor class

Beautiful Batik

This term's topic in Art and design has been fabricate and students were fascinated to learn how the technique of Batik has been used around the world for hundreds of years and has now been adapted into modern textile design. With inspiration flowing, they designed and made some vibrant artwork that brought cheer and smiles across the classroom.

Fay commented, "It is so exciting to see how our designs turned out, I didn't think they would look so beautiful!"

Spectacular SPAG

Students actively engage with SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar) through interactive group games that make learning both fun and memorable. These collaborative activities encourage peer learning, reinforce key concepts, and help students apply their knowledge in a practical, hands-on way.

Engaging English



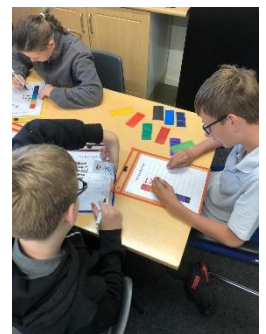
This term, students embarked on an exciting English unit exploring the theme of space, with the imaginative novel *Space Boy* by David Walliams at its heart. Through engaging reading sessions,

lively discussions, and creative writing tasks inspired by the story, pupils used their comprehension, vocabulary, and speaking skills. The topic ignited curiosity and encouraged the class to think beyond the stars while strengthening essential English skills along the way.

Outdoor learning

Students enthusiastically participated in outdoor learning lessons that

brought classroom concepts to life in the heart of nature. They had the opportunity to explore the rich and varied ecosystems surrounding the school site, ranging from woodlands and wetlands to meadows teeming with wildlife. This hands-on experience deepened their understanding of biodiversity and ecological relationships, while fostering curiosity, teamwork, and a genuine appreciation for the environment.



Ross Wood Campsite and Wildwood trip

What a fantastic way to round off the term. Last week was full of energy, laughter, and memorable moments as students took part in Sports Day, an overnight camping trip, and a day out at Wildwood.

Sports Day was packed with fun and friendly competition, from traditional races like the sack race and egg-and-spoon, to the much-loved three-legged race.



It was brilliant to see students cheering each other on and giving it their all. A big thank you to our PE lead, Toni, and all staff who helped make the day such a success.

Some students stayed behind to enjoy a night under the stars during our school camping trip. With marshmallows, hot chocolate, campfire songs, and plenty of teamwork during decamping, it was a real adventure.



The week ended with a wonderful visit to Wildwood, where students explored the park, learned fascinating animal facts, and spotted everything from bison and wild boar to otters and polecats (a favourite for many!). We finished the day with some well-earned fun in the playground before heading home, tired but happy.



Class reading

We have been very lucky this year to have our reading volunteer support students across the school. We have had a big push on reading this year with the introduction of ERiC (everyone reads in class) the staff and students have enjoyed sharing books for ten minutes each day after lunch and we will continue with this practice next year. Wendy has been a big part of our success this year. Thank you, Wendy.



Parent Zone

Key dates for Academic Year 2025-26

September

2nd – Term 1 starts

October

10th – Term 1 end

27th Term 2 starts

December

18th – Parent/ carer consultation afternoon

19th – Term 2 ends -12:30 finish for students

January

5th – Term 3 starts

February

13th – Term 3 ends

23rd – Term 4 starts

March

6th March – Book week dress up day

April

2nd – Term 4 ends & reports sent home

20th – Term 5 starts

May

4th – Bank Holiday

21st May - Year 11 Parent/carers consultations

22nd – Term 5 ends

June

1st – Term 6 starts

TBC – Year 10 & 11 Work experience

26th June – Year 11 leaving day

July

16th – Parent/ carer consultation afternoon

21st – Term 6 ends – 12:30 finish for students

Safeguarding & Parent support

Please use our website www.crosskeyslearning.com should you need any support over the summer break.

The “Supporting parents” section contains many useful links to provide information and advice on a variety of topics should you need it. Please keep in contact with us prior to the return to school on anything we may need to know to ensure your son/daughter’s successful start to the new academic year.

