

Laleham Gap News

Easter 2024

Spring Edition



Over the last few terms students have benefitted from travel training to local shopping centres and to the Crab Museum in Margate.

Sheep Ahoy and Monkton Nature Reserve have



Post-16 Continues to Engage and Empower

Our Post 16 provision continues LGS' vision to enable our young people to Learn, Grow and Succeed as they grow in confidence and independence.

provided yet more opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and have been fun for our students to visit.



In addition to all this, and meeting their targets to prepared for adulthood, we have also had work based trips to Tesco and Stagecoach.

Christmas Talent Show 2023

The annual secondary Talent Show was a truly enjoyable spectacle celebrating our fantastic students.

Mr Clements had dusted off his best Christmas jacket and used his well-honed compering skills to introduce a wealth of different acts.

Chloe kicked the show off with a Christmas song and this led on to comedy from Aden,. More comedy came later from Jude, Mark, Christian and Will-in-a-box.



Singing was popular this year. The audience had great fun as Jayden, Chase, Frankie, Isaac,, Lewis, Ethan and more all entertained us with songs.



Strictly Come Dancing has stiff competition from our dancers: Edward, Harley, Alfie and Lola



We also had dancing from Edward; memes from Finlee and Toby; and a performance piece from Isaac. Brave Jake trampolined on the stage.



A huge well done as Mr Milton handed out awards for drama, sports and academic achievement the Lincoln, Jonathon and Chloe.



“
There was an emotional farewell to Mr Ralph as we said goodbye and wished him well in his future Headship.



Laleham Gap vs St Antony's

A confident Laleham Gap squad travelled to St Antony's to take part in a competitive football match. Both teams battled hard and we were able to secure a 1-1 draw thanks to Kieran's many fine saves. Excellent defending

from Max, Ritesh and Leo. There was nonstop running and effort from our attacking players: Nicole, Adeo, Louie, Lucca and Theo scored a well-placed goal.



The team represented the school well and we are all proud of their achievement. We hope to host St Antony's in the future for a rematch.

The Lion King is a Roaring Success



A huge thank you, to all the staff and the drama club for a wonderful production of The Lion King.

The Drama Club had worked after school for weeks to get their version of the Disney classic ready to perform for parents, staff and students.

The songs, costumes and jokes were highly entertaining and everyone

who saw it had a fantastic evening out.

Not only was the performance a great opportunity to see our young people showcase their enthusiasm and talent, their teamwork and dedication were on show too.

The songs were great but the jokes were my favourite bit.

Many staff helped Mr Clements and the cast with the costumes, learning the scripts and getting ready to put on a real showstopper.



Why did you join student council?

I wanted to be able to help with student council after winning Laleham Gap 6, I was the House Captain for Botany. I did try to run in year 7 but at that time I didn't manage to get into the school council. I honestly didn't mind not getting in at that time. I felt excited when I thought my name my get called. When it didn't that feeling just stopped.

We are also invited to bring our own ideas to the student council.

What area would you like to change about the school?

I am not sure that there is much to change about the school. The teachers are all quite nice and the way that they deal with problems is good. I like to take my ideas from other people and pass them forward.

I really enjoy being part of the student council community. It is nice to be with people who have good ideas about improving the school.



Student Council: Focus on Max

I decided to run again in year 8 and this year I managed to get in.

What happens at the meetings?

Usually, our meetings are planned by Mrs Schroepfer and we have an agenda of things to talk about. Mrs Schroepfer, then talks to us about different things which we need to address and we are given the opportunity to voice our opinions and concerns. At the end we asked we are asked if there is anything which we would like to suggest.

Mrs Schroepfer really listens.

What happens at the Student Council meetings?

At the last meeting, Primary House Captains, Secondary Council Members and Post-16 representatives met and discussed children's choice options for school dinners. It turned out that there were more ideas for puddings than actually dinners. Pancakes and crepes were high on the wish list. We also discussed ideas about what activities we could do for World Book Day.

Thank you Max

Without Max, we would not have an LGS news. Max writes most of the articles and keeps his ideas fresh and lively.

So as well as being a valued member of the council, a mature reporter he is an all round superstar.

Could you help Max by joining LGS News Team?



Turner Contemporary workshop January 2024

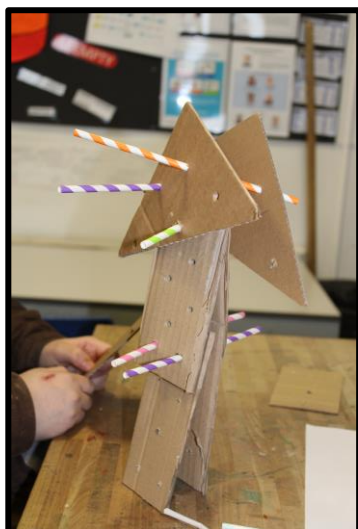


Jo from Turner Contemporary discussing what is 'good' art with Yr9.

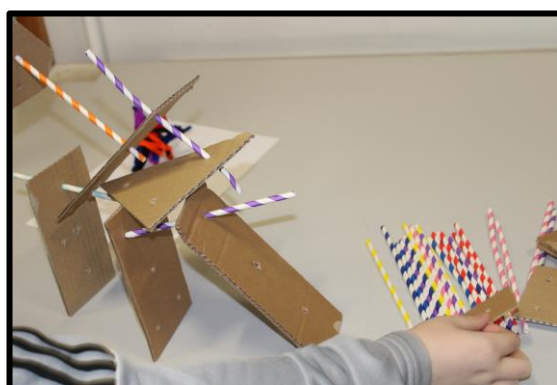
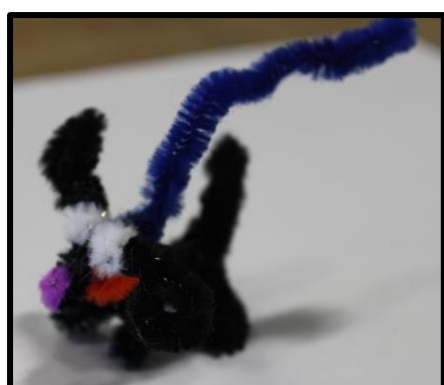


Students were asked to sort and rank art images from good to bad.

[Portfolio X Windmill Community Gardens | Turner Contemporary](#)



The Art department were lucky to have a visit from art educators from the Turner Contemporary. We were joined by Jo and Sharan. They worked with students in Yr7, 9 and 10, introducing the Turner Contemporary's Portfolio competition. This year's theme is **Adapt**. Students had the chance to experiment with different materials and were encouraged to adapt the materials creatively. Lots of exciting creations were made.



The Portfolio Competition is run annually by the Turner Contemporary, its open to anyone between 1 – 25 years living in Kent or Medway. More details and resources are available from the Turner Contemporary website. Do you think you could create something and enter?

Creative Toolkit

Turner Contemporary

Portfolio theme for 2024 is

Adapt

Aged between 1 - 25?

Living in Kent or Medway?

This is your opportunity to get your art and ideas shown at Turner Contemporary and seen by thousands.

Submission deadline
19th April 2024

WINDMILL COMMUNITY GARDENS MARGATE

Kent County Council

Bloomberg Connects

Arts Council England

Canterbury Christ Church University

To enter and find out more visit turnercontemporary.org/portfolio

Focus on Mr Clements

Why did you decide to become a drama teacher?

It was something I was quite good at!! I started performing whilst Secondary School and then in local groups. When I started work at Laleham Gap, I was the Part -time Drama. I got qualified as a teacher at the same time as the Drama Teacher at Laleham got promoted so I took over the position.

Why did you decide to come to Laleham Gap School?

I was working at the Royal School for Deaf Children and a couple of people I knew had left there and moved to Laleham. They said it was really good place to work so when I job came up, I applied for it and got it.

What work goes into making drama club productions?

It starts with the choice of show, it needs to be something that pupils want to do. It also needs to be something we can do in our performing space. Once the show is chosen, I normally rewrite the script to suit our pupils here and edit bits that may not be appropriate or suitable...which is why Spamalot was lot shorter than the West End version!!

Why do you put on these productions?

They are the best part of my job.



How long have you been teaching at this school for?

I started at Laleham in September 1998 as a Residential Child Care Officer, working mainly on the Residential Wing. I also did a bit in Drama lessons and Drama Club. Over a few years , I moved into the classroom more and then did my Teaching Degree. I passed all my teaching qualifications in 2005 and became a 'proper' teacher then. So I've been here 25 years...this is my 26th Year ...a lot has happened in that time!



What is your favourite topic that you teach in drama? Why?

My favourite topic is probably the Horror School but that's because I really like Scary movies and Halloween.

I enjoy all the performing bits particularly that Y10s and 11s do for their BTEC .

If you could teach a different subject at Laleham Gap School, what would it be? Why?

I have taught several different subjects in the school before...I used to do quite a lot of Science at one time

I quite enjoyed that; I used to cover some Maths lessons which were less fun for me!

What is it like being a drama teacher?

Best job in the world

What was your favourite subject when you went to school? Why?

The Secondary school I went to didn't value Drama so didn't do a lot of it, I had to go to college to study it so I suppose my favourite subject at school would have been influenced by the teachers, I had a great English teacher and an excellent Maths teacher so enjoyed those ones.

Do you have anything that you want to add?

'Don't Dream it; Be it' (Extra Commendation for anyone who knows where the quote comes from..)



On Friday 8th March we celebrated world book day at Laleham Gap School.

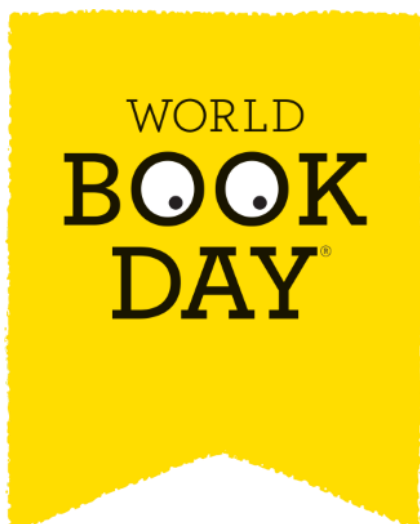
Author Amanda Ray Epe came to Laleham Gap School to talk about what it's like to be an author and the need for diversity in stories.



She visited all areas of Laleham Gap School from primary to post 16.



In Laleham Gap secondary she talked to the student council and a group of pupils who had signed up for her workshop.



She talked about her experience as an author and the opportunities she's had, while also talking about the need for diversity in stories so everyone feels represented.

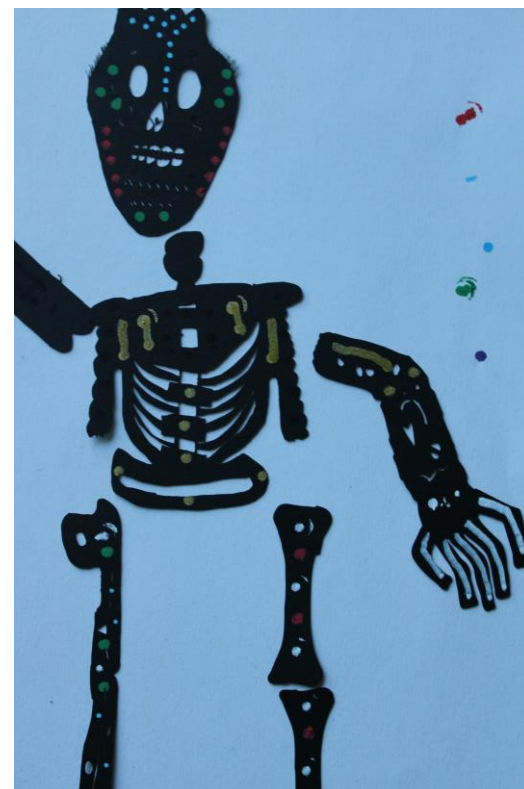
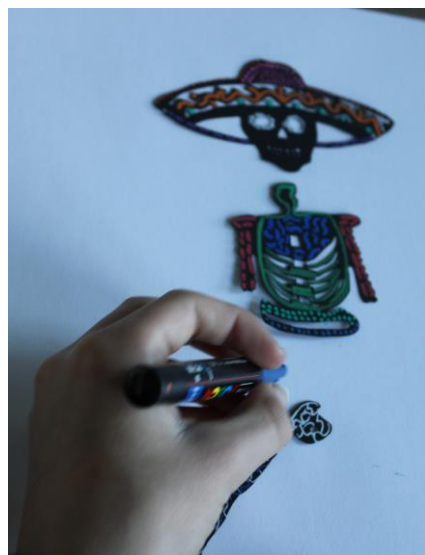


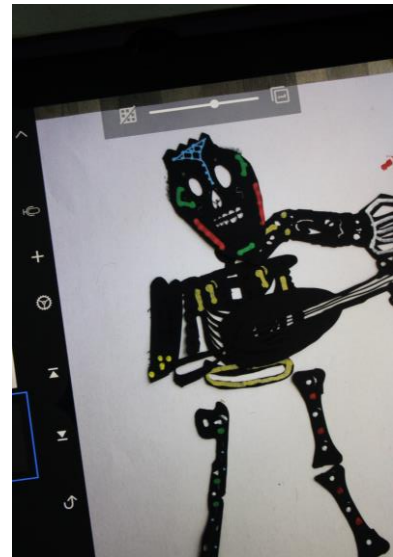
At the end of the workshop, we made plans for our own diversity stories.

Thank you, Amanda Ray Epe for coming to our school!



1927 group animation workshop with 9AC





Students worked with Lydia and Tom, visiting animators, to create their own stop motion animations based on the theme of Day of the Dead. Firstly they drew out characters that were then laser cut in card, they then decorated these using paint pens.

Lydia and Tom then showed students how to make a short animation using their characters, they also recorded music using a selection of instruments.

Lydia and Tom have now gone away to add music and sounds to the animations....watch our school website for the finished animations when they arrive.

The project also includes our Primary and Post 16 departments.

Wellbeing Day by Max



On Friday 9th February we had a wellbeing day. I'll talk about my experience throughout the wellbeing day.

In period one it was form activities for all of year eight. There was selfcare activities like mindful colouring and a positivity jar where you would write positive comments to say to people. There was a movie in the background, and I played top trumps with some of my classmates.



In period two you had the choice to do ping pong in the secondary gym or football in the MUGA, I chose to do the football. A man from inclusive sport was hosting the football. We did football drills, trying to score while blindfolded and then played a match.



In period three you had the choice to do bouncing in the primary gym or cooking in food tech, I chose to do the cooking. We were given the choice to either make sausage rolls or cheese and tomato pinwheels.

In period four we could either do karaoke in the drama

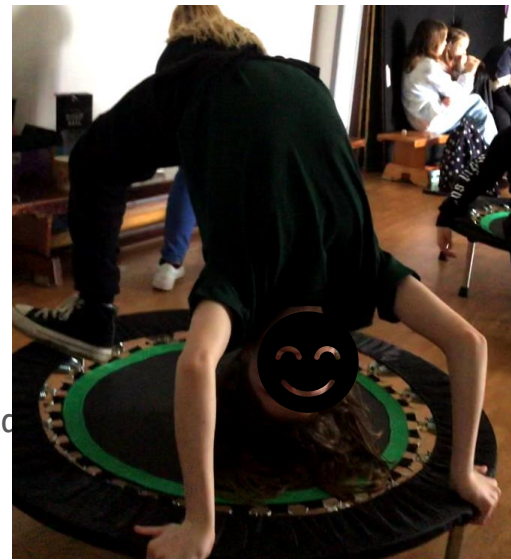


room or art in ACD and fine art, I chose to do karaoke. We got up karaoke videos to sing to on YouTube and there were microphones which we could use as well.





Thank you to the wellbeing team, out of school guests and everyone else who helped making this wellbeing day possible!

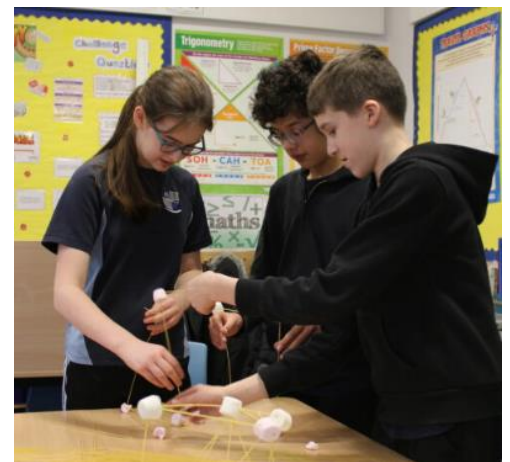


We are so lucky to be taught to look after ourselves.

In period five we could either do sensory in the workshop or sewing in the English hub, I chose to do the sensory. There was a wide range of different activities that we could do from Orbeez to a cereal jungle to encourage exploring and heightening our senses.



The marshmallow and spaghetti challenge, where as a team you had to try to build the tallest tower possible only using marshmallows and dry spaghetti.



Teamwork, problem solving and construction skills.



A Fun and Educational School Trip to Tomato Growers

As the sun peeked through the morning clouds, a group of excited year 10 students gathered in the drama Hub, ready for an adventure. Their destination? A tomato farm! On the 25th of March 2024 we went on a trip to explore one of the largest tomato growers in the UK – Pearson Growers near Ash.

The company is a part of a large APS group the UK's leading supplier of British tomatoes to UK multiple retailers, including our local supermarkets.

We went there as a part of Biology GCSE Combined Science course and the chance to discover various career and work experience opportunities.

Our guide was the operating manager Chris, who is very passionate about his job. He is a STEM ambassador as well and welcomes many school visits to promote science, engineering, technology and sustainability.



We started our tour in the Boiler House that supplies the heat and carbon dioxide to 12.5 hectares of greenhouses.



It is a giant Energy centre, incorporating 15 Megawatts of Rolls Royce Combined and Power Plant engine. This engine uses natural gas to produce electricity, which is fed into the local electricity grid (powering over 200,000 homes).

Heat

The waste heat is used to warm the tomato plants in glasshouses and waste carbon dioxide produced to help nourish them. How clever! They are completely carbon neutral business.

Outside the Boiler House there was a huge thermal tank.

Thermal storage tank works very well with the Combined Heat and Power systems which operate in the day when demand for carbon dioxide is highest, and electricity is required by the National Grid, but the crop doesn't require heat. When the sun goes down, the hot water stored in this thermal storage tank is pumped back into the glasshouses, to keep the crop warm without the need to run a boiler.



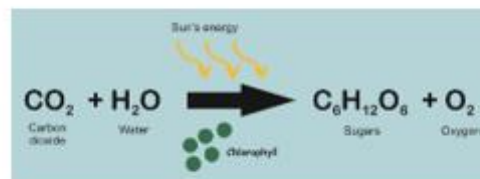


After the Boiler House we went to one of the greenhouses. To follow health and safety procedures we had to wear boiler suits. As Chris explained, it was important to protect plants from any unwanted microorganisms.

Chris led us to the greenhouse, where tomato plants thrived under controlled conditions.



We felt the warm air and saw the drip irrigation system in action. It was very warm to make vines produce the optimum crops.



Photosynthesis is in the heart of the whole process of

tomato growing – when plants use carbon dioxide and water to produce oxygen and tomato fruits.



We've learned that most of their tomato crops are grown hydroponically – a highly efficient way of growing when considering resource management, saving water.



There were many busy bees around, pollinating plants. They are carefully chosen species of bumble bees and work hard to pollinate all the tomato flowers.

There were many other species of insects – to protect plants from diseases and from unwanted or dangerous pests. Pearson's growers don't use any pesticides at all and this makes their tomatoes even more special!



One of those serious pests of tomato crops is this tomato miner with a funny scientific name *Tuta absoluta*.

There are so many career opportunities there - engineer, IT specialist, technologist, ecologist, entomologist, botanist, chemist, physicist, grower. They offer the apprentice programme for 18+ as well.

Specialising in the production and supply of top quality tomatoes grown in the most sustainable way possible, Pearson's growers is a genuinely innovative and forward thinking business.



The school trip to the tomato growers was a success – a blend of education and fun.



Tomato Trivia

Did you know?

- Tomatoes are related to potatoes.
- They were once considered poisonous in Europe.
- The world's largest tomato weighed over 7 pounds!