

Laleham Gap News

Autumn 2025

Fond farewell to our Year 11s.



As the academic year draws to a close, we say a fond farewell to our incredible Year 11 students. This moment marks the end of one important chapter at Laleham Gap School and the beginning of exciting new journeys ahead. We are immensely proud of everything you have achieved — not just in the classroom, but in the ways you've grown, overcome challenges, and supported one another. Your determination, resilience, and kindness have left a lasting mark on our school community.



Though it's time to say goodbye, remember that Laleham Gap will always be a part of your story. We hope you carry forward all the confidence, skills, and memories you've gained here, wherever your path takes you next. On behalf of all the staff and students, we wish you the very best for the future. You will be missed — but never forgotten. Good luck and goodbye, Year 11!



Fantastic Sports Days and Summer Fairs at Laleham Gap School

Laleham Gap Schools annual Sports Days and summer Fair were a huge success, bringing the community together for fun and fundraising. With clear skies and warm sunshine, the events raised an impressive £1,800 for the *Friends of Laleham Gap* charity.

The sports competitions were a highlight, with students of all ages showing off their athletic skills in races and relays. The energy was contagious, and it was great to see the kids cheering each other on, demonstrating incredible sporting ability and school spirit. Both the fairs offered something for everyone, with inflatables, a BBQ, candy floss, and a slush machine. Kids had lots of fun on the inflatable obstacle course while families enjoyed delicious food and sweet treats.



Fantastic Sports Days and Summer Fairs at Laleham Gap School



The lively atmosphere was made even better by the music provided by Year 7 student Nico, who did an amazing job as DJ. His great selection of tunes kept everyone dancing and added to the fun, making him a real star of the day. The sense of community was evident throughout, with families, teachers, and students all coming together to support the event. The £1,800 raised will go towards important projects for the school, and it's heartwarming to see the Laleham Gap community so engaged. Overall, they were fantastic days full of sports, entertainment, and generosity. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and attended. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Mr Milton – interviewed by Max

We had the chance to sit down with Mr Milton, our Head Teacher, to learn more about his journey in education, his time at Laleham Gap, and even his favourite holiday destination!

Q: Why did you decide to become a Head Teacher? A: I've been a teacher for over 20 years, and I'm passionate about the quality of education and the curriculum. As a classroom teacher, you can make a difference in one room at a time. As a Head Teacher, I have the opportunity to positively influence how the whole school works—which was a big reason why I wanted to take on this role.

Q: Why did you choose to work at Laleham Gap School? A: When I applied, the school had a residential provision—which really appealed to me, as I've worked in residential schools before. I was also drawn to the school's specialism in supporting young people with communication and interaction needs. My background includes working in SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) settings and in schools for pupils with profound and complex needs. This role has allowed me to bring that experience here—and to keep learning myself.

Q: How long have you been at Laleham Gap School? A: It will be eight years this Christmas.

Q: What's your favourite part of being Head Teacher? A: Football at lunchtimes!

Q: And your least favourite part? A: Meetings with Kent County Council.

Q: What are your hobbies? A: Cricket.

Q: Where is your office? A: You're in it!

Q: How many hours a week do you work? A: Every week is different, and that's one of the reasons I enjoy it. I'm usually in school for three or four days a week, averaging around nine hours a day. I also work from home for at least an hour every day and spend time in meetings or supporting other schools. I never do fewer than 50 hours a week—and try not to go over 60!

Q: What's an average day like as Head Teacher? A: There is no average day at Laleham Gap—that's what makes it so exciting!

Q: What role do you play in special days, like culture or wellbeing events? A: I love getting involved—especially when it means dressing up and having fun! One of the great things about being Head Teacher is that I can make sure these special days happen. I can get them into the calendar, ensure staff are available, and help make sure they run smoothly.

Q: What's your favourite memory at Laleham Gap School? A: There are too many to choose just one—sorry!

Mr Milton – interviewed by Max

Q: If you could change one thing about the school, what would it be? A: I'd make the school grounds bigger. I'd love to have more space so that we can offer more activities and be even more imaginative and creative.

Q: If you could add a subject to the school curriculum, what would it be?

A: Vocational subjects—like motor mechanics, bricklaying, hair and beauty, social care, and catering. I'd love to offer more hands-on courses to all pupils.

Q: If you could add something new to the school dinner menu, what would it be? A: Crispy fried duck.

Q: If you weren't a Head Teacher, what job would you like to do? A: I wouldn't want another job—but if I could pick a dream one, I'd play international cricket for England. That's probably not going to happen though!

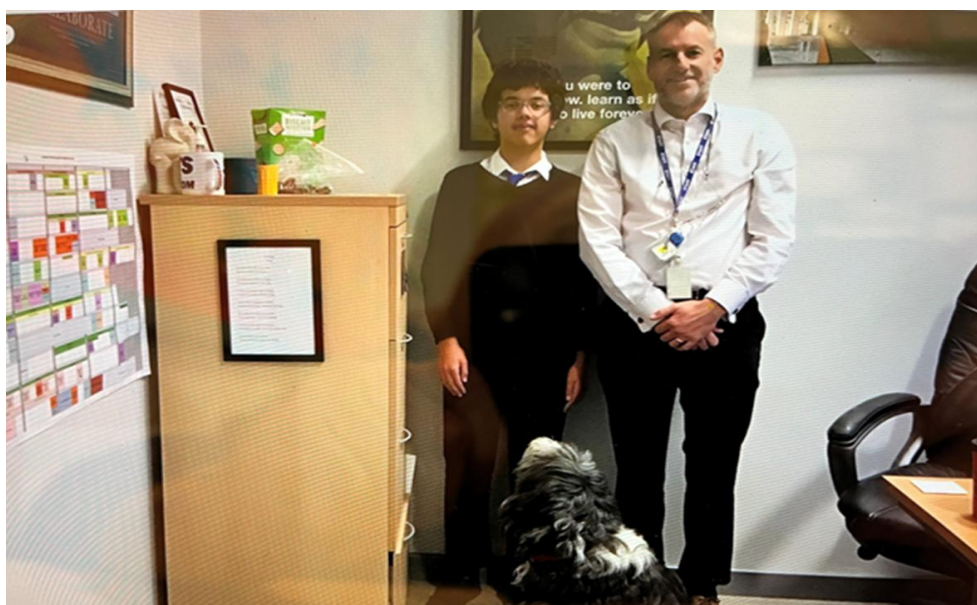
Q: If you could teach a subject here, what would it be? A: I'm a science teacher by training—mostly Chemistry and Biology. I'd stick to those because they're what I know best.

Q: What was your favourite subject at school? A: Design Technology. I really liked the teacher—Mr Green—and we had lots of freedom to choose our own topics.

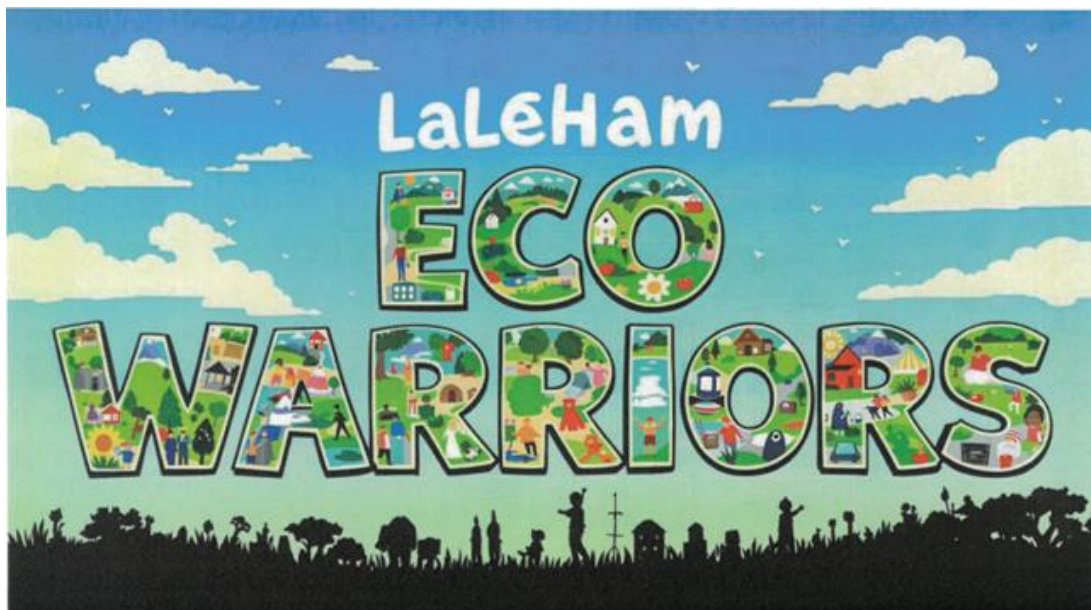
Q: Favourite holiday destination? A: The Cairngorms in Scotland. Every visit is different, and it always feels like a unique experience.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add? A: I love working here and hope to continue for a long time to come.

Thank you to Mr Milton for sharing his thoughts—and for being such a valued part of our school community!



Laleham Gap Eco warriors



Here at LGS, we take our environment very seriously. We have planted trees around the school, planted flower bulbs, recycled milk cartons to hold these flowers, collected crisp packets and used pens for charities and many other activities.

This summer we had solar panels installed on the school, we will have more information about these throughout the year, but they are already making our electricity for us. This was the crane that was needed to help install them!

Laleham Gap Eco warriors



We wish to continue this with a big push to recycle plastics and to address littering and to help with this we are launching the Eco Warrior Group. Posters were designed and placed around the school; here are a selection of them.

Watch this space for more information about what the Eco Warriors get up to next !

Protect THE



EARTH
Join the Eco
Warriors Today!

Head teacher's awards 2024/2025



This year's Head Teacher Awards has been one of the hardest to choose, with so many pupils showing remarkable excellence, kindness, and dedication.

However, after much thought, the awards for 2024/25 go to:



Leo Friend - Sporting Excellence



Louis Harling Bennett - Performing Arts



Phoebe Stocker - Academic Progress

Congratulations to all of you — we are so proud of your achievements!" 🎉

Year 11 Work Experience

Our Year 11 students began the year with an outstanding week of work experience, completing placements across 24 different organisations. The opportunities on offer were varied and engaging, and we have received excellent feedback from both students and employers.

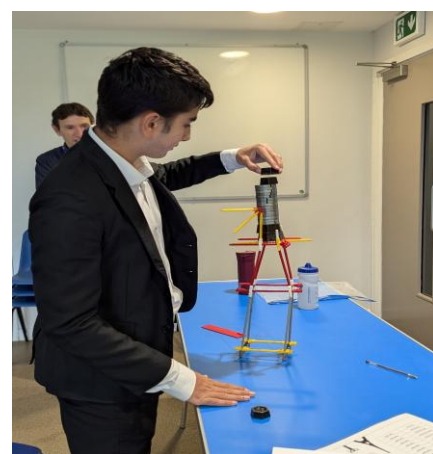
Some students chose to take part in multiple placements to explore different career pathways, while others immersed themselves in a single workplace experience.

Our students were welcomed at a variety of placements including Ambition Sport, Animal Rescue, Tescos, Ramsgate MOT Test Centre, Crystal Magic, Windmill Community Gardens and many more.

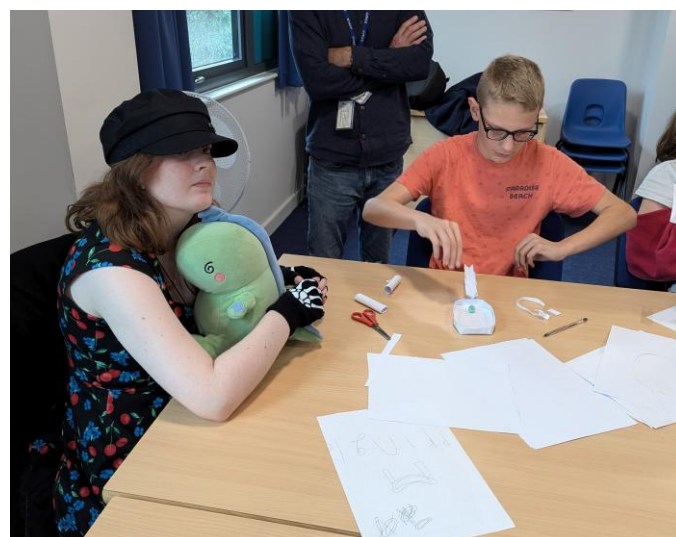
We are incredibly proud of every student for the professionalism and commitment they demonstrated while representing themselves and our school. A huge congratulations to all involved!



Supajam



Group placements and Laleham Gap Primary



Year 11 Work Experience Pictures



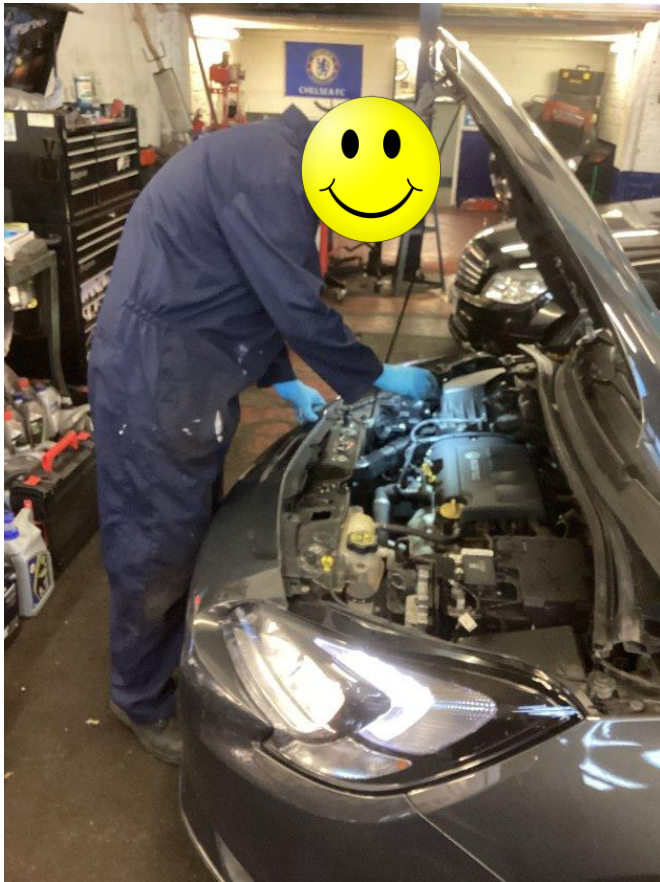
LGS students enjoying a variety of placements.



Year 11 Work Experience Pictures October 2024



Year 11 Work Experience Pictures



Ramsgate MOT Centre
(picture on left).



Iwade Primary
School

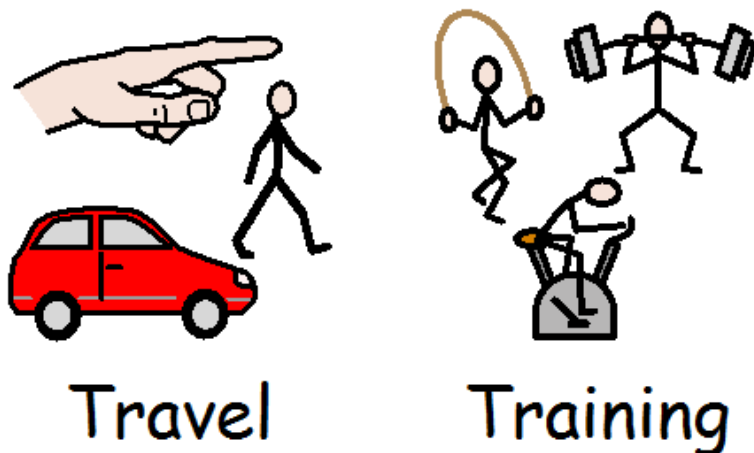


McDonalds

Travel training in post 16 by Thurston

The Post 16 students started travel training in the second week of Term 1. This was supervised by the members of staff. First, they walked to Sainsbury's, where they went to the café and had the opportunity to roam around the store. Then they walked back to the school.

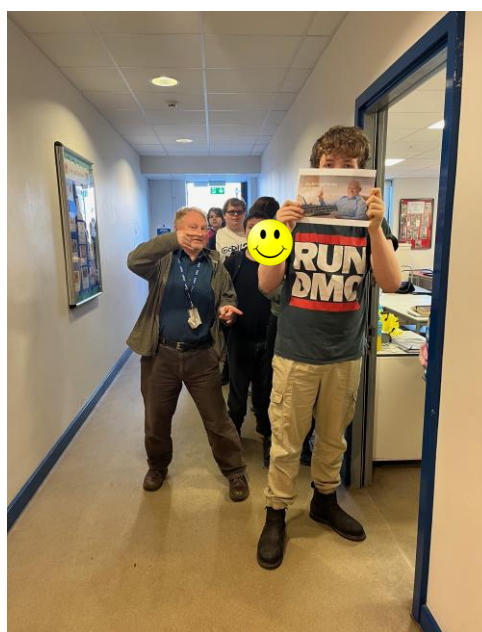
The next week, the students walked to Westwood Cross with staff, where they split into groups of two and went around the shops. The staff waited for the students at Coffee Corner because they felt the students were responsible enough to go on their own.



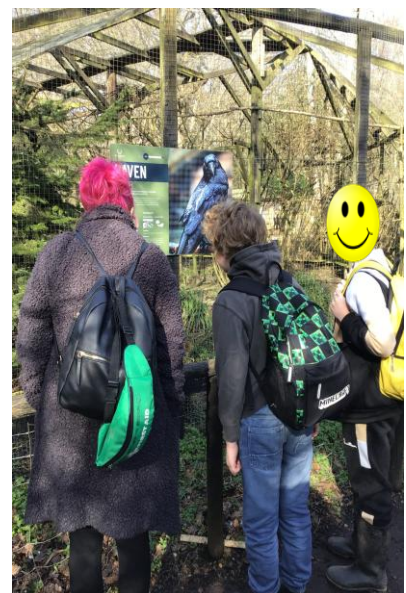
Children In Need bake sale



The school held a fantastic bake-off sale in support of Children in Need. We raised a brilliant amount for the charity, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious treats on offer. The event was filled with excitement, generosity, and plenty of smiles!

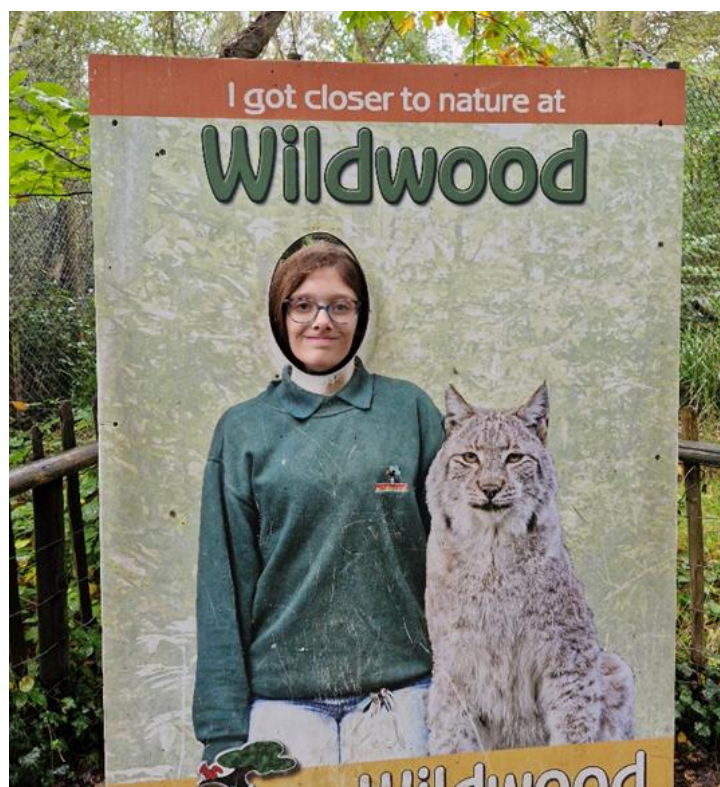


Strive Wildwood Trip



Our Year 7 Strive class enjoyed a wonderful day out at Wildwood, embracing the wide variety of animals and insects it has to offer. The students were engaged, curious, and enthusiastic throughout the visit, making it a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

8HS Wildwood Trip



Germany wellbeing day pictures

The school held a German cultural wellbeing day, where many students had the opportunity to try a variety of traditional German foods. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.



Student council election preparation pictures

Student Council Time Induction - Year 7

Our Year 7 students showed great enthusiasm during their Student Council induction session. They eagerly got hands-on with activities, and some began preparing to take on their new roles within the council. It was wonderful to see their excitement, teamwork, and willingness to contribute to our school community. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make throughout the year!



Shrek the musical - A smash hit!

Back in February, our students wowed audiences with a fantastic performance of *Shrek the Musical*. From the hilarious characters to the catchy songs and colourful costumes, every moment was packed with energy and fun.

The cast and crew were absolutely brilliant, showing incredible talent, teamwork and commitment. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, everyone played a part in making the show a huge success.

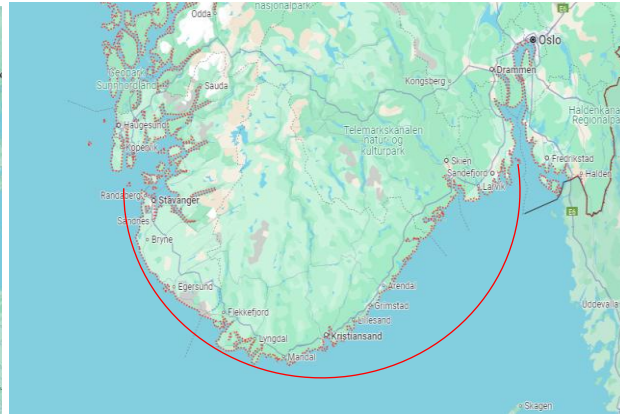
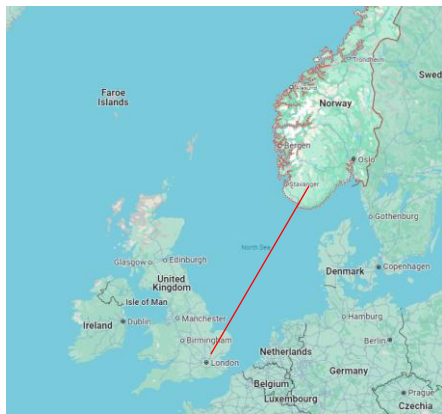
A massive well done to all involved — we are so proud of you!



Miss Care's Rowing Adventure



Just a few days after we broke up for the summer, I got on a plane and travelled to Stavanger on the West coast of Norway for a 270-mile, 7-day rowing adventure!



I went straight to the harbour to meet my crew (all strangers) and see the rowing boat, Roxy. Roxy is small, very small and was my home for the next 7 days and nights, rowing in shifts: 3 hours rowing, 3 hours sleeping, 3 hours rowing, 3 hours sleeping, three hours rowing, three hours sleeping, for 7 days.

There were 12 of us on the boat, 6 people slept while 6 rowed. I still don't know how we managed to squeeze ourselves in the tiny cabins, sleep and eat - it was very cosy!

We ate 'astronaut food' in other words, dehydrated meals we had to add water to for them to be edible. Some were quite tasty, and my favourite was macaroni cheese, the bean casserole didn't stay down!

We set off in quite blustery conditions, strong wind and a lot of swell which unfortunately made a lot of us very seasick. I was particularly bad as my anti-seasickness patches made me drowsy. I was nearly falling asleep when rowing and would crawl along the deck to the cabin where I collapsed into sleep wearing all my safety equipment, clothes and shoes only to be prodded 3 hours later to get back up and start rowing again. This continued for the first 24 hours, and I felt terrible. My crew and I were at severe risk of dehydration, so the skipper decided an unplanned stop on shore. The Ultra Marathon runner on our trip had enough, he caught a bus and waved us goodbye, "not getting back on that" he said.

Miss Care's Rowing Adventure



Norway is beautiful, lush green hills, clear blue seas, picture perfect scenery, clean, organised (and very expensive). After two nights ashore, removal of anti-seasickness patches, restaurant food, lots of sleep, and strength restored, we got back on Roxy. Back to the 3 hours rowing, 3 hours sleeping, 3 hours rowing, 3 hours sleeping, through the night, 3 hours rowing, gazing at stars, 3 hours sleeping, listening to poems recited by our skipper, 3 hours rowing, 3 hours sleeping in the sunshine, 3 hours rowing, in the rain, 3 hours sleeping, talking nonsense, 3 hours rowing, singing songs, 3 hours sleeping and repeat.



When you don't feel sick, when you're feeling strong, when you're with likeminded people and the wind and tide are with you, you fly. I had the best time and a true challenge and adventure. However, I no longer feel the need to row the Atlantic, coastal and river racing suits me fine. Lessons I learnt:

- Don't get on a bus and leave at the first problem, it can only get better!
- Try it, you might like it
- Teamwork makes the dream work
- Sing, smile and embrace adventure

Lantern Festival



Come to the Newington Lights Festival

Free community event, everyone welcome.

Lantern Parade
Indian Dhol Drummers
Samba Group
New Orleans Style Band
African Djembe Drummers
Brass Band
Stilt Walkers
Fireworks

Friday 18 October 2024
Meet at the Community Centre at 5pm
Parade leaves at 6pm
Ends at The Royal Harbour Academy - Upper Site with a firework display at 7pm

For more information
Find us on Facebook
@NewingtonBigLocal
or pop in and see us in the community centre

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND COMMUNITY FUND Starlings NEWINGTON COHESION + FUTURE FOUNDATION

Royal Harbour Academy - Ramsgate Arts Primary School - Laleham Gap school - Newington Community Primary School

On Tuesday 1st and Friday 4th October 9CF were invited to a lantern workshop where we would make lanterns that would be displayed at Newington Lights Festival.

Newington Lights Festival happened on Friday 18th October starting at the community centre at 5pm. Next, they had a parade that left at 6pm. Then the parade ended at The Royal Harbour Academy at 7pm where there was a fireworks show.

When making the lanterns first we made the base out of willow and tape.

Next, we made decorations out of willow to put inside the lanterns.

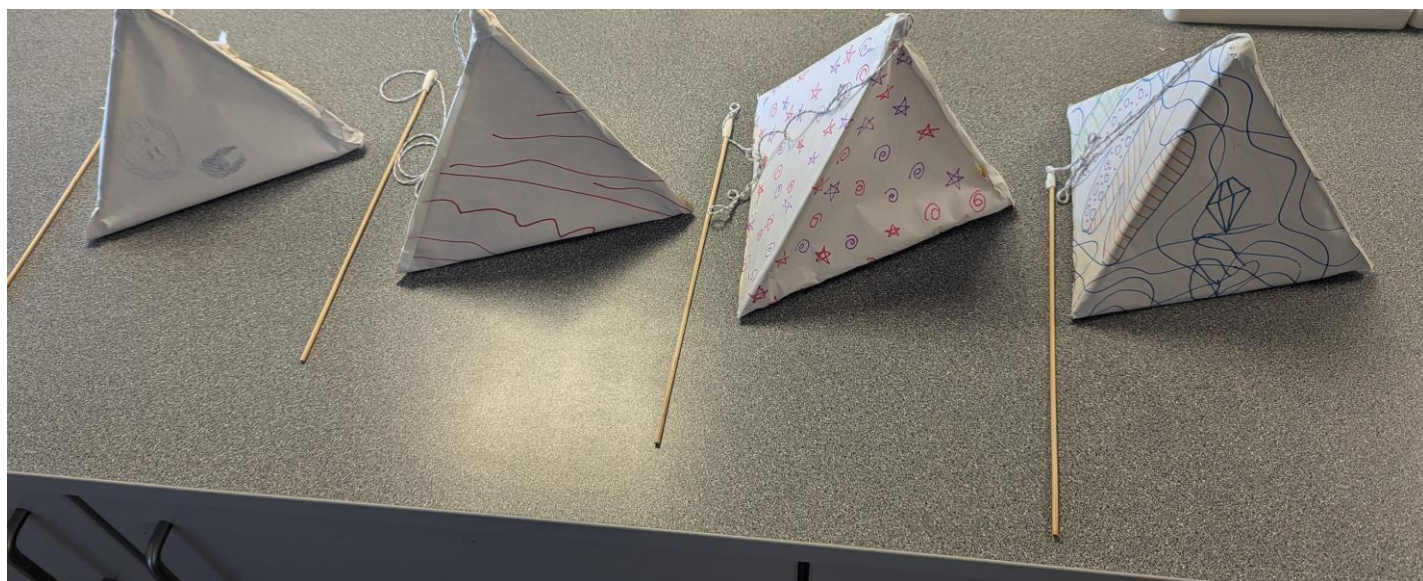
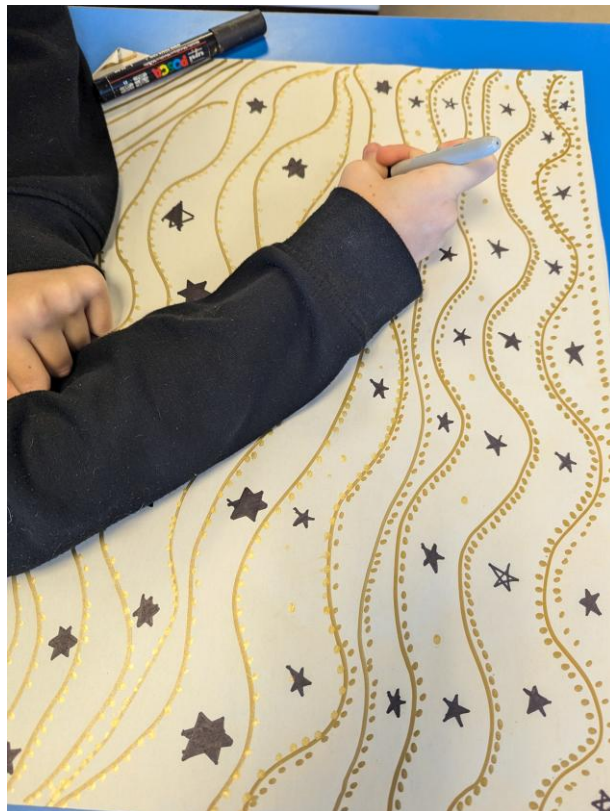


Lantern Festival

Then, we glued paper to the lanterns to protect it in case it rains. We glued it on by putting a sponge in glue paste and dragging it across the paper. After that we laid the paper over the lanterns to cover them.

Finally, we planned out designs and made them on the lanterns with paint, felt tip pens and felt.

Thank you to Newington Lights Festival for sending people to help us make lanterns and to everyone else that was involved.



Forest school at Laleham Gap School

Where Learning Comes Alive in Nature!

At our Forest School, every child from every year group gets the chance to embrace the great outdoors and discover the joy of learning in nature. Led by the wonderful Mrs Russell, our sessions are filled with laughter, adventure, and hands-on experiences that children will remember for years to come.

Children enjoy a range of exciting activities including **messy play**, **fire making**, and the always-popular **toasting marshmallows** over the campfire - all while sipping on warm, comforting **hot chocolate**. Whether it's exploring the woodland, spotting birds, or simply squelching in mud, there's something for everyone, whatever the weather!

Come rain or shine, Forest School is a time to have



fun, fun, fun, connect with the natural world, and grow in confidence, creativity, and independence - all under the careful guidance of Mrs Russell, who ensures everyone is safe, happy, and truly **at one with nature**.

It's more than just outdoor learning - it's an adventure every child deserves.

Forest school pictures



Year 8 Coastal Walk

On the 1st of July, what may have been the hottest day of the Summer—bright sun blazing, with just enough sea breeze to keep us alive—Year 8 set off on a spectacular coastal walk from Joss Bay to Kingsgate Bay, Broadstairs. Sunscreen was applied, water bottles clutched like treasure, and off we went along one of Kent's most charming stretches of shoreline.

The chalk cliffs loomed to one side, dazzling in the sunlight—and hiding surprises! A giant ammonite fossil emerged from the cliff face, in Kingsgate Bay, prompting gasps and picture taking. Nearby, seaweed waved like emerald ribbons in rock pools, and quite a few jellyfish left on the sand by low tide, reminding us to admire them from a polite distance.

The walk wound past hidden coves and dramatic sea arch. Students wondered aloud about pirates, smugglers, and how on earth those sea caves were carved.

Our reward? Joss Bay's soft sand, cool water, and—yes—ice cream. Sweet, cold, and thoroughly earned, it was the perfect end to a coastal adventure. Staff were especially impressed by the enthusiasm, curiosity, and community spirit Year 8 brought to the day.

This wasn't just a walk. It was a celebration of learning outside the classroom, of the beauty found in nature's details—from ancient fossils to slippery seaweed—and of the joy that comes from walking together under a very big, very blue sky.

Some comments from students and staff about the trip:

"The trip gave us a lot to learn about. Learning brilliant facts about chalk, Holland house and the Witness arch. We enjoyed a bashful day at the beach. We had ice cream and fun in the sun for all of us, and staff. We will never forget this cool day!"

"I liked the ice cream and the walk and the seashells I found."

"I loved seeing the patterns the tide had made on the shore".

"I have lived in Thanet 7 years and learnt things about Kingsgate I didn't know before. A well organised trip! Well done, Ms Hagon!"

"It was very fun! I loved hearing about Smugglers' caves."

"I loved getting away from school and seeing all the Smugglers' caves!"

"The best part was skipping school and getting ice cream and seeing the tunnels."

"I'd say the best part was learning the past of the bay"

"The best part was the ice cream!"



A Huge Thank You To Keel Toys



We are absolutely thrilled to share that **Keel Toys** has **generously contributed to a brand-new minibus to our school!**

This incredible gift will make a huge difference to our day-to-day work, helping us transport members safely and comfortably to activities, events, and essential appointments. It opens up so many new opportunities for connection, support, and community engagement.

We're so grateful to Keel Toys for their kindness and commitment to supporting local causes. Thank you for helping us go the extra mile—literally!

Margate Football Club by Max

Some of the year 8's, 9's and 10's were invited to play a football match against TOPS at Margate Football Club.

We had an early lunch at the start of 4th period in the maths hub.

Next, we put on our shin pads, football socks, and water bottles filled up.

Then we checked that we had everything and went on the minibus to Margate Football club.

Once we got there after some long traffic we headed to the cages and met TOPS for the match.

After around 30 minutes of playing Laleham Gap School won 2-1 against TOPS.



TOPS headed off afterwards, so we said goodbye to them, and we got a team picture before we headed back to school.

Luckily, the traffic was smoother, and we all sang along to the songs on the radio on the journey back.

Thanks to everyone who organised the trip and we hope we can soon have another match again!

Willowbanks

During Terms 5 and 6, students from 7CK, 7DJ, and 7FE enjoyed a few brilliant afternoons at Willowbanks. They explored the grounds, tried fishing, toasted marshmallows over a firepit, and even fed baby ducks. The trip gave everyone a chance to enjoy nature, try new things, and build confidence through outdoor learning.

Here's what some of the students had to say about their experience:

"It was very fun—lots of places to visit like the beaver wood at the beaver-bitten tree, the cloud-white blossom trees by the pond, or the river by the café. I walked to the end where a tyre swing is attached to a tree and up the hill to another river—with ducks sometimes!" "My favourite experience was when I fed the baby ducks with something I didn't want to, but they managed to encourage me to do it anyway."

"Five stars in my opinion. I went to Willowbanks with 7DJ in Term 5 and it was lots of fun! We did fishing, roasted marshmallows, and fed ducks in the lake. I'd recommend Willowbanks to people who enjoy fishing and camping stuff. I'd definitely come again." — Chris, 7DJ

"Willowbanks was one of the best experiences of my life. Now I love fishing! You can go on swings, walks, collect beaver wood, and even cross over logs. There's food and marshmallows at the end. I really recommend it." — NK, 7DJ

"Willowbanks is a great place. There's fishing, food, fun walks, wood carving and more. I went with 7DJ on Fridays. It's a fun, safe place with great adventures!" — Jude Goldfinch, 7DJ

"My experience at Willowbanks was really nice. I found out I really enjoy fishing—it had a calming atmosphere. The food was good too. I'd rate it 8/10. Really good. Would definitely visit again."

"I fed baby ducks and went fishing. I thought it would hurt the fish, but it doesn't—they actually get help. There were beaver wood logs to walk on, and tyre swings. I really enjoyed it and think everyone would." — SH, 7DJ

"At Willowbanks, you can go fishing, feed ducks, walk around the forest, and collect beaver wood. My favourite part was pushing my friends on the tyre swing. I'd rate it 4.7 out of 5 stars." — Ilovetoread13

It's clear that the students had a memorable and meaningful time at Willowbanks. We're so proud of how they embraced the outdoors, supported one another, and represented our school brilliantly.



Year 9 Science Museum trip

Year 9 trip to Science Museum, London

On the 27th of November 2024, despite the rainy weather, Year 9 students embarked on an exciting educational trip to the Science Museum in London.



The journey by coach was long, but the students' enthusiasm remained undampened as they navigated through the bustling streets of London, many of them seeing the city's iconic Christmas lights for the first time.



We had our lunch first in the top gallery



Waiting to enter the Wonderlab

The day began with the "Wonderlab" interactive gallery, students had the opportunity to engage with hands-on experiments and demonstrations. They explored the principles of physics through activities like creating giant bubbles, experimenting with electricity, and even launching rockets. One of the most thrilling experiences was the friction slide, where students learned about the forces of friction and gravity in a fun and interactive way. The interactive nature of the exhibits made learning fun and memorable.

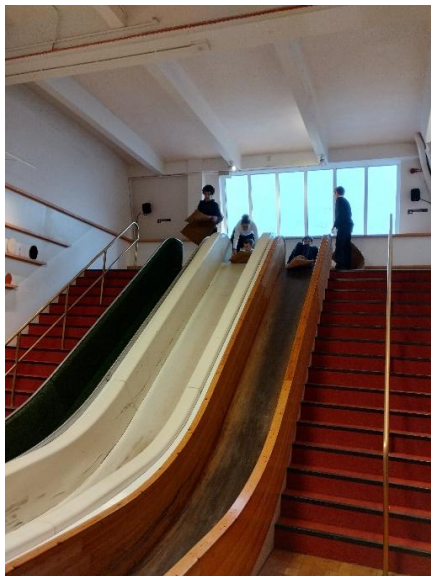
Year 9 Science Museum trip

Wonders of the Wonderlab – The EQUINOR GALLERY

The Equinor Gallery was packed with over 50 hands-on experiments and experiences.

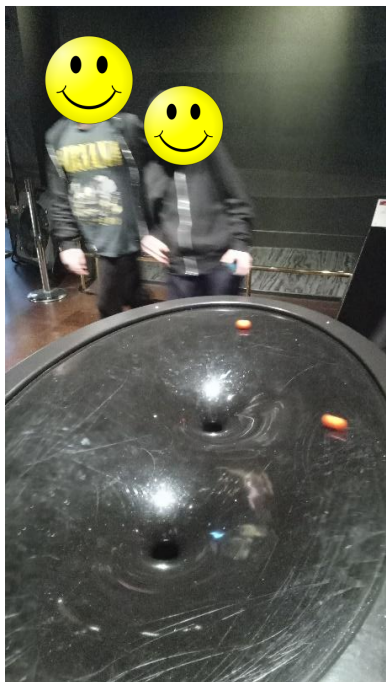


Friction slides – was very popular with all



Spinning around

The exhibit enriches learning across the seven themes of Forces, Electricity, Light, Sound, Matter, Space and Maths. There are loads of opportunities to get hands on with real scientific phenomena.



Investigating gravity – double gravity well.



Making and checking out bridges

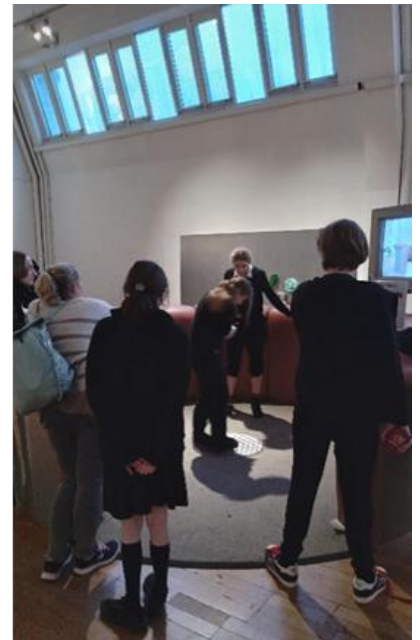


At the Chemistry Bar

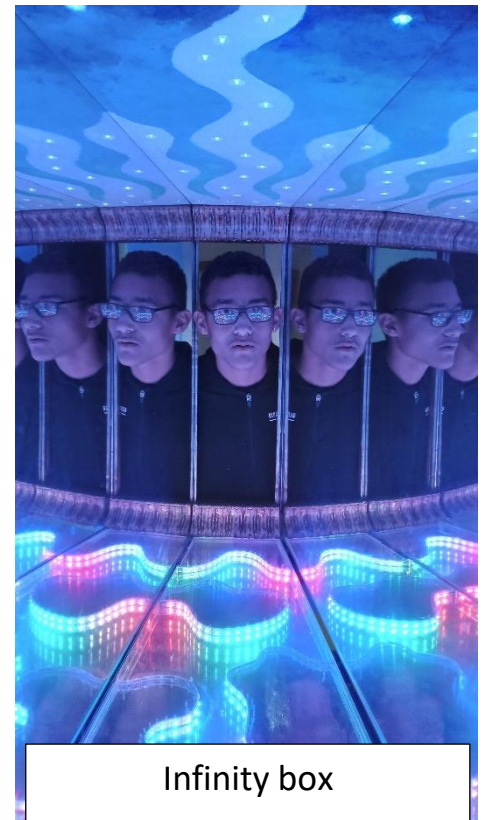
Year 9 Science Museum trip



Pulley up!



Orbiting the Sun, enjoying our Solar system and many stars above...



Infinity box



Exploring the Sound waves generator

Year 9 Science Museum trip



Infrared images

After the immersive experience of the Wonderlab we went in different directions in smaller groups to explore the amazing galleries.

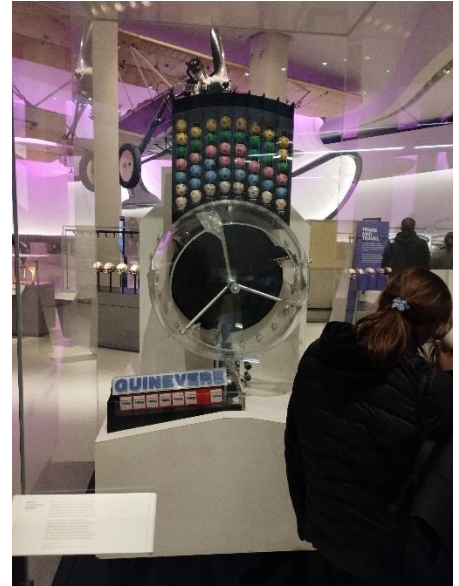


Some students also visited the "Clockmakers" gallery, which showcases the history of timekeeping and features an impressive collection of clocks, watches, and marine chronometers. The intricate designs and engineering marvels left the students in awe.

Year 9 Science Museum trip

In the "Winton" gallery, students discovered the beauty and importance of mathematics in everyday life. The gallery's striking design, inspired by mathematical principles, and its engaging exhibits helped students appreciate the subject in a new light.

National lottery machine – Guinevere 1994



Other galleries visited included the "Information Age" gallery, which explores the history of communication and information technology, and the "Medicine" gallery, which delves into the history of medical advancements and their impact on society.



Year 9 Science Museum trip

Throughout the day, our students were brilliant with a keen interest in learning. Their enthusiasm was evident as they asked insightful questions and eagerly participated in the activities. The trip not only enhanced their understanding of scientific concepts but also encouraged them to think critically about the world around them.



Year 9 students enjoy summer sailing fun!



Our Year 9 students were all smiles as they took part in this year's summer sailing events. With the sun shining and perfect conditions on the water, we couldn't have asked for a better day.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy the outdoors, build confidence, and try something new—all while having a great time with their peers.

A huge well done to everyone who took part!

Year 9s' Careers fair

LGS Students Attend EHCP-Focused Careers Fair at Canterbury Academy

On Friday 1st March, some of our LGS students had the fantastic opportunity to attend an EHCP-focused Careers Fair hosted at Canterbury Academy.

This event was a brilliant experience for our young people, as it brought together a wide range of specialist providers from across East Kent. These organisations have extensive experience supporting young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Post-16 education and training pathways.



In addition, representatives from the East Kent group of Colleges were present, offering invaluable advice and guidance to help our students make informed choices about their next steps.

We are incredibly proud of our students for making the most of this opportunity and grateful to the organisers for hosting such an inclusive and informative event.

Telt Choir

Term 6 marked our annual invitation to participate with our school partnership (TELT). LGS is the only special school, but the annual choir day is where we can really integrate with other students and make our voices heard.

Our students did not disappoint. They had a solo song, *We Will Rock You*, which they performed beautifully and due to the nature of the song we had the crowd on our side with their foot stomping to accompany us.

We were able to listen to each of the other 5 schools who performed a range of solo songs before we all came together at the end to perform *Eye of the Tiger* which we were also able to learn the Makaton signs for.

For our communication and interaction students, it was a lovely way to start the summer term with the various ways we can be heard.

Well done to all the students involved and thank you to Bromstone Primary School for hosting this event.



Year 5's get invited to science jamboree.

Year 5s from Leopards and Tigers class were invited to the 30th Science Jamboree at Pfizer. We were able to take part in different hands-on investigations, with our favourite being the fingerprint investigation. We were able to use iron filaments to dust and identify different fingerprints. The staff were all really friendly and helped us to have a great time!



Science Jamboree

