15th July 2024

THE GREYS GAZETTE





Outdoor Education

After walking and hiking in a range of locations, the year 10 and 11 pupils took on their biggest challenge yet. After a brief stop of at Dunstable Downs we continued on to 'Ivinghoe Beacon' and reached the 'Trig point' at the top.



This is the highest point in Bedfordshire at an altitude of 249 metres above sea level. The views were amazing and you can see six separate counties from here. The pupils were pleased to be there and enjoyed the walk down even more.

Art News

It has been an amazing year for our pupils here in the art department. We have had a record number of pupils entering the GCSE looking at a wide range of artists, subjects, and mediums, including landscape, portrait, and photography. We wish all our year 11s the best of luck in the future, very well done!

It has not only been our leavers who have produced wonderful work though, our Y7s, Y8s and Y9s have also been getting creative. I think you will agree the standard is very high and we have great expectations of them for the coming year. We are very proud of you all! Wishing you a fantastic summer holiday.

To view more images of the pupils artwork click on the link here: **https://www.greys.beds.sch.uk/whats-on**











Hive



As the UK general election approached, we practiced our oracy and debating skills in Worker Bees English lessons. The children developed their critical thinking skills, raised lots of interesting points on topical issues and justified their opinions with valid reasoning.



Mylee argued for home-schooling as she believed children should have more control over their learning content but acknowledged that she would not be able to make friends if she was home-schooled.

Carly argued that TikTok must have a minimum age as the app holds some inappropriate content and that the age should be increased from 13 to keep young people safe.

Music and ICT



ICT

As we have moved through the year in ICT, our Year 11's have been revising and undertaking their Functional Skills exams. They put so much effort into their preparation alongside their GCSEs that we are very proud of them! In other lessons, students have been working across a range of platforms with students looking at presenting research effectively, working within Scratch and developing their understanding of the history of computing.

Music

Students who have been working with Martin and Mark in their music sessions have been producing various pieces of work over the final term. Students have been producing and mixing songs with Mark in DJ sessions and working on transitions between songs. Whereas with Martin, students have been experimenting with various pieces of musical equipment leading to some band work by a few students.

Outdoor Education







Field to Fork - Eco Award

Once again the school vegetable garden produced some giant organic vegetables, massive pumpkins last year and colossal cabbages this year.

Adam and Richard cropped the cabbages and delivered them to Candice in the school kitchen, who was very grateful and used them in the pupils roast dinner this week.



Wildflower Beds

Anton helped prepare a new flower bed in the school and has planted a range of wild flower seeds. This new 'Wild flower bed' will attract a range of pollinators to the school grounds and will contribute towards the schools 'Eco Award' status.

Awards

What a year we have had at Greys! As a school we have worked so hard to achieve our two new awards. Here's a reminder,

The rainbow Flag, after providing an extensive array of evidence is finally awarded to education providers across the country who have evidenced and demonstrated a whole school approach to the positive inclusion and visibility of LGBTQ+ people and who have also shown a commitment to the eradication of LGBTphobic bullying. In our feedback, Greys are also proud to have been told we evidenced exemplary and best practice examples. *"Greys, you have demonstrated an incredible journey of inclusion where you've placed young people, staff and parents at the heart of the work towards creating a more LGBTQ+ inclusive environment." "Your journey has been exemplary, and you have evidenced a depth of knowledge and practical application of inclusive practice."*

Our second award this year has been the Eco schools award. This involved lots of activities in which our students involved themselves fully. We have bat, hedgehog and bird houses in our school grounds that were made by the students themselves in their construction lessons. Raised beds have been constructed and a variety of herbs and vegetables have been grown by the students under the expert eye of Dan, our construction and outdoor education teacher. We are composting, reducing our litter and allowing a part of our school grounds to be a wildflower area, to increase beneficial insects and wildlife. After our evidence was submitted, we received wonderfully positive feedback, here is an extract; *"Thank you so much for submitting such a terrific application. We have loved reading about your journey and are incredibly impressed by all you have achieved. We have no hesitation in awarding you an Eco-Schools Green Flag, congratulations!"*

Science





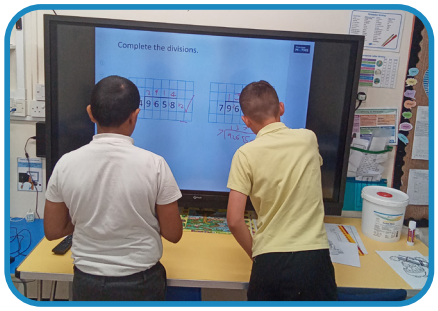
In a thought-provoking session, Greys Secondary GCSE science class Masih, led by Eve Haizel, delved into the complex and emotive topic of organ donation. Engaging in a spirited debate, students shared their perspectives on the ethical, social and scientific aspects of this crucial issue.

Richard, Tryden and George passionately articulated their views, sparking a lively discussion. They understood the importance of organ donation in saving lives and fostering a culture of altruism within society. In addition to this, the students expressed personal beliefs that led them to question the ethical and religious implications of organ donation.

The class debate not only showcased our students' intellectual curiosity and analytical skills but also encouraged them to consider the profound impact of their choices on others. As our students continue to explore ethical dilemmas and societal issues, we are proud to see them engaging in meaningful discussions that promote empathy and compassion.

We look forward to more enlightening discussions and insightful reflections from our students as they continue to explore the boundaries of science and ethics.

Chestnut



This term the pupils in chestnut have worked hard in their maths lessons to crack multiplication and division. They have used their time table knowledge, to answer questions using the formal process and picture. We have worked hard and then used our knowledge to answer word problems and play Prodigy.

The boys have worked hard supporting each other and checking each other's work.

Malala





What a year it has been for the pupils Malala. As we wave goodbye and wish all the best to the previous students of the class, and now that we have welcomed in the new group of students who will represent Malala, it brings us a perfect time to reflect and review a year in which has brought us plenty of memories and cherished moments.

We started the year with GCSE's being the hot topic, and the students planning their potential next steps with myself and Katie the careers adviser, which then enabled our students to visualise their future aspirations and goals with more clarity.

Throughout the year Malala worked really hard and produced some great work in art, With five of the pupils taking part in Art GCSE, they focused on finding inspiration and a creative mindset to deliver pieces which represent their hard work and commitment to the subject

They showed the same levels of commitment in Construction, making such things as benches for the school playground, bat and bird boxes for the local wildlife and learning how to tile and paint a wall. In cooking the students learnt to cook an array of dishes independently and successfully, some even gaining the confidence to take their new found talents out of school and to help out with their parents in the kitchen at home

Malala's students were determined enough to improve and buckle down in their academic subjects to give them great opportunity to pass their exams. We are proud of their efforts and developing maturity and we wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

Hive



English

With the lovely weather, we have been outside looking for different plants and bugs. We have been using different and exciting adjectives to describe them. We are looking to write a riddle poem about an insect for other classes in our school to try and figure out.

Reegan: "I loved the spiky caterpillars"
Riley: "I didn't like the scary bees"

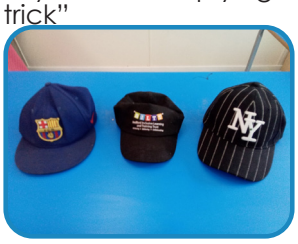


Maths

We have been set a challenge to learn and complete our 2,5,10 times tables. We have a quiz on a Friday each week and as we complete each times table, we earn a badge!

We have been using different resources to help us remember different multiplications, even using paint all over our hands and feet! We painted one hand to count in 5's, two hands to count in 10's. and our feet to count in 2's.

Reegan: "I completed my 10 times table challenge in 3 minutes and earned a medal!"
Riley: "To times by 10 you just have to add a zero on the end"
Lay'ran: "Multiplying by 10 is easy once you know the trick"



Sun Safety

With the wear getting hotter, we have been thinking about the sun and how we can protect ourselves from getting burnt or poorly. So, we have made sure to bring in and apply sun cream each day, to protect our skin and to wear a hat anytime we go out in the sun, to protect our heads. So, we know that we are being super safe at break and lunch times!

Reegan: "Its important to wear a hat so we don't burn our heads"
Omarie: "We have to wear suncream, so the sun doesn't burn us"

Construction



The year 10 and 11 pupils have really honed their construction skills throughout 2024. The pupils came up with a range creative ideas, worked increasingly independently and produced some quality products they should be proud of.

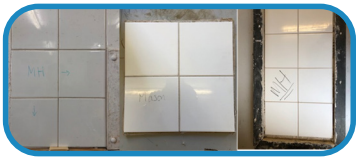


Molly independently constructed her wooden box and decorated it with a beautiful free hand painted finish.



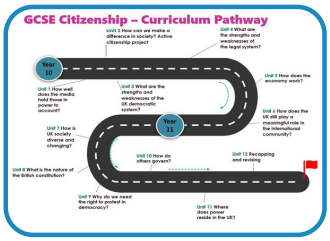
Anton worked very hard to construct an outdoor cat box for his pet cat 'Ninja. As well as the range carpentry skills involved, Anton also ensured a good quality finish with 3 coats of exterior paint to protect from the weather and ensure it survives outdoors.

Richard and Alan worked increasingly independently to create these lovely hardwood chopping boards. The surfaces were planed and sanded to a smooth finish and olive oil was used to seal the wood. Richard worked hard to create the curved corners and handles. These are going to be used to prepare food at home for years to come.



Mason has rapidly improved his tiling skills. He has completed progressively more challenging tasks in a short space of time, including: A 'Four tile board', an 'Eight tile board', measuring and cutting tiles and completing an area of 'Wall tiling'. Note the clean, shiny finish.

GCSE Citizenship



We are excited to inform you that Sarah Mielke will be delivering a further GCSE subject for our long-term pupils!

High quality Citizenship education inspires students with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to play a full part in democratic society as active and responsible citizens.

Through the study of Citizenship students develop substantive knowledge in relation to politics, parliament, power and the law, as well as human rights, justice, equality, the economy, communities and the UK's role in the wider world.

The knowledge and information they gain enables them to make sense of the world, develop their agency and have a voice on important matters of the day.

The purpose of Citizenship is to develop capacities that allow students to become informed, responsible and active citizens. They learn the knowledge required to be able to think critically about complex issues, evaluate sources, weigh evidence, problem solve, take part in debates, advocate their viewpoint, sustain arguments and take forward democratic action on issues and matters of concern.

Teaching is brought to life using real issues and events in local to global contexts. In a society where young people are faced with a wide range of complex and sensitive issues, Citizenship education empowers pupils and equips them to make informed decisions and take forward positive citizen actions with others.

The foundations built in key stage 3 help pupils move forward to key stage four and GCSE Citizenship Studies.

The unique body of Citizenship knowledge equips students with a solid basis for further study in subjects such as Politics, Law, Public Service and the Social Sciences.



Message from Clare Breare - Headteacher

On a personal note, as my time as Headteacher at Greys ends, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of our pupils, who show up ready to be amazing daily.

I want to thank my amazing staff team – from our site managers, kitchen staff, STAs, teachers and SLT (and everyone in between!) who have worked relentlessly to ensure our pupils do well and become the best they can be. Finally, a huge thank you to you – our parents – who are always supportive and go the extra mile for our young people.

Have a wonderful summer break – good luck to our Y6s and Y11s who are leaving for new settings, and I look forward to hearing about Grey's pupils' successes for many years to come.

Clare Breare
Headteacher

End of Term Message

It has been another busy year full of different opportunities and experiences for our children. It began with an enjoyable trip to the pantomime and has continued with a wide range of activities including horse riding, yoga, music lessons, gardening and walks in the local countryside.

The children have experienced new things, learnt new skills and we have had the pleasure of sharing this with them. We would like to wish all those moving on to new schools this September the best of luck for the future.

Jo Tift
Deputy Head



Kitchen News

Candice and the kitchen team have been working hard overhauling not only the menu offer at Greys, but also ensuring our premises are up to scratch!

We had a visit from the Enforcement Officer for Food from Bedford Borough Council on Monday 8th July 2024 and are proud to celebrate that Greys Kitchen now has a 5* Hygiene Rating. A huge congratulations (and thank you) to Candice and the team for all their hard work. Our pupils are loving the new options on the menu, and that they can suggest ideas for meals via Student Council.

Diary Dates

End of Summer Term - Friday 19th July 2024
Pupils Return to School - Wednesday 4th September 2024