11th March 2025

THE GREYS GAZETTE





Walnut

It's good to be different!

Walnut class have been exploring neurodiversity in PSHE, learning about different neurodivergent conditions such as autism and ADHD. Through discussions and activities, the children have been developing their understanding of how people experience differently. In our lesson about autism, the children explored their sensory preferences by touching a variety of objects and textures, as well as listening to different sounds and rating how they felt about each one.

This helped them to understand how sensory processing can differ from person to person and why some people may find certain sensations or sounds comforting while others find them overwhelming.

Riley: Some sounds were too noisy and made my head feel like I was in a zoo.
Clayton: I really like the sound of nature. The loud traffic was very, very, very uncomfortable. I didn't really like touching the love heart because it was spikey.
Reegan: I liked the birds sound, it was getting rid of my headache.



Bringing Art to Life with Draw with Rob!

Our class has also been practising their art skills by taking part in a 'Draw with Rob' session. The children followed a step-by-step guide to create their own happy ice cream character while building confidence in their drawing abilities.

Once their sketches were complete, they let their creativity shine by colouring them in unique ways.



Reegan: Mine is chocolate flavour because it's my favourite. I liked drawing the dripping syrup.
Janos: I coloured it like mint chocolate chip because it's my favourite flavour of ice cream.
Amber: My ice cream is loads of flavours, with squirty chocolate cream on the top.



Sycamore



This week our class has been busily preparing our sensory garden for spring. Armed with gardening gloves and plenty of enthusiasm, we've been clearing away the winter weeds and adding them to our compost bin, along with fallen apples from our tree.

The flower beds are now ready for planting an exciting variety of crops including strawberries, tomatoes, squash, potatoes, sunflowers and many other wonderful plants that will bring colour and life to our garden in the coming months.

Emmanuel has taken a particular interest in the composting process, enthusiastically declaring, "Sir, I love mixing the compost!" Meanwhile, **Lewis** offered a more candid assessment of the aromatic experience, noting that "It really does stink, sir!"

The rest of the class has been equally productive, with some pupils preparing the growing areas while others cleaned decorative rocks that will add artistic flair to our sensory garden.



We're all looking forward to seeing our garden flourish as the weather warms, providing a wonderful outdoor space for learning and sensory experiences throughout the summer term.

The sensory garden offers our pupils a chance to engage with nature through touch, smell, sight, sound and even taste once our edible plants begin to produce. This hands-on project teaches valuable lessons about sustainability, patience, and the rewards of collaborative work.



Braille





Braille class have started a new topic in English, which is "Shakespeare's Heroes and Villains." They are learning about the language Shakespeare used plus the wonderfully expressive insults that characters used in his plays towards one another.

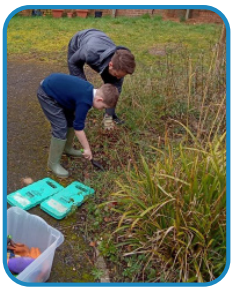
Star enjoyed using the insults, "I chose 'Venomous mad-headed pantaloon', I like in Midsummers Night's Dream the insult 'I am sick when I do look on thee', it's very clear what it means!"
Jake translated an insult into modern day English, "'Thou simpering pigeon livered shrimp' means someone who is small and cowardly who smiles in an annoying way."

In History Braille have begun learning about medieval medicine. They are identifying different aspects of society and how they impacted on medical understanding. The topic will then move onto explaining the different influences on ideas about the causes of disease in medieval England.

Ari said "The church controlled everything, so they influenced what people believed about disease and illness. Peasants would have a poor diet and bad housing which would affect their health."
Cozmin worked very hard to understand how a peasant farmer would have lived in medieval times. "The homes they lived in would be cold and be heated by a smoky fire which would cause lung disease by inhaling, the house would be poorly ventilated."

Thankfully our wonderful Draw and Talk teacher Rachel is back, and Braille have made the most of these much-needed sessions, along with Girls' Group. Star made a beautiful heart shaped cushion for her sister with Rachel as well.

Bonsai





Following half term, Bonsai class has been enjoying our return to school and settling back into our daily routine. It has been lovely hearing about all the super things they have been getting up to whilst away from school.

We've been having a blast gardening together! From pruning to lots of de-weeding, we've learned so much while enjoying the calming and rewarding process of caring for our garden. It's been amazing to see our outdoor area thrive and to share tips and laughs with friends. Gardening has helped us feel more connected, relaxed, and mindful. Plus, watching our garden grow gives us a huge sense of achievement!

We've also had so much fun playing with Clodagh, Miss Kobiela's adorable dog. Spending time with Clodagh has been a fantastic way to boost our social skills. We've learned to share, take turns, and communicate better while playing fetch and giving belly rubs. Clodagh's playful energy has brought lots of smiles and laughter, making our class even more enjoyable. It's amazing how a furry friend can help us bond and grow together.





Additionally, we've been showing lots of 'Green behaviours' and demonstrating many of our school values in Bonsai class. This means we have been earning lots of 'gold pom poms' for our hard work, concentration and kindness. We've proudly spent our pom poms at the Pom-Pom Shop, picking out fun rewards and celebrating our achievements together. It's been a fantastic way to stay motivated and support each other in making 'Green choices'.

We have even been able to go the park twice this week as a reward, everyone was able to line up and crossed the road safely, so we are looking forward to more trips like this in the future.

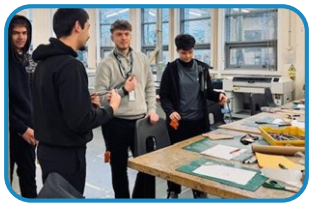
La Chapelle



La Chapelle have been reflecting on the term so far and what achievements they are proud of.

Leroy: I am looking forward to the up and coming trips this term. My boxing sessions with Lee have also helped me be more disciplined.
Lucy: I have enjoyed taking part in my art and hair and beauty lessons. I finished making my box in constructions with the help of Dan.
Courtney: I enjoyed maths with Joe. He has helped me understand trigonometry.
Ocean: I enjoy completing my artwork. I am currently working on a Dog painting inspired by the army. Caroline has been a massive help.
Harmony: I enjoy Art and outdoor education. We visited the aquarium which I really liked. I am working hard to get into a new school.

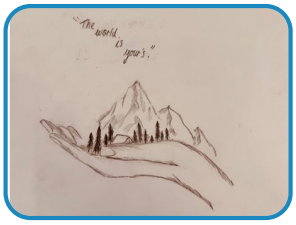
Malala



As we move closer to the end of the spring term, it is a delight to reflect on the wonderful progress and activities that the Malala class has been engaged in this term.

Our students have had the fantastic opportunity to enjoy several enriching trips to Bedford College, exploring the fields of trade and art. These visits provided valuable insights into the opportunities available there, inspiring many to consider their futures with newfound excitement and ambition.

In English, Malala students have been making commendable strides in Non-Fiction reading. With the upcoming GCSEs in sight, their dedication and hard work are truly paying off. Keep up the excellent work, everyone!



We are also incredibly proud to share that some of our students' art has been displayed in the Harpur Centre in Bedford. This marks their first experience of exhibiting their work in a public space—a moment of pride and accomplishment for us all.

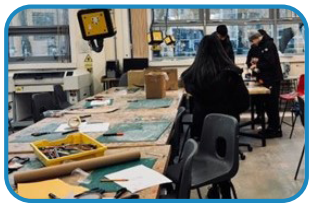
A heartfelt thank you goes to Malala's STA, Adam, whose unwavering support has been indispensable. As pupils prepare for the crucial final term of their secondary education and important exams, Adam has been a cornerstone of encouragement.



As **Anton** aptly put it, *"It helps to have someone who knows how you are getting on in different subjects and when you might need that extra encouragement.*

Ryan also shared his thoughts: *"It is good to have the AQA award to aim for, so your work gets recognised even if you haven't chosen Art for GCSE."* These words remind us of the importance of celebrating every achievement, no matter the path.

Lastly, we extend our best wishes to our Year 11 students as they approach their final months with us at Greys. The weeks ahead will require focus and determination, but we have every confidence that their dedication will bring them well-deserved success.



Well done, Malala class—keep shining brightly!
Tutor: Caroline Deaville
STA: Adam Galicza

Careers and Other News





Careers

Pupils in all years have been lucky to be provided with the opportunity to explore the different departments within our local further educational provider Bedford College. Pupils visited the art and electrical department and the plumbing centre, where they were able to take part in practical tasks and speak to experienced lecturers about courses and what college life is really like.

Serena Francois the careers leader at Greys Education Centre said "I feel it's important to work collaboratively with our local providers to not only help raise aspirations but to remove any misconceptions about college. Starting transitions early plays an important part with ensuring our pupils are confident and workplace ready".

Leroy who was unsure of his career pathway said "I liked the trips to the college. I did not think I would, but I did. I spoke to the teachers and I was actually pretty good at completing the tasks. It got me thinking that it could be something I might do in the future. I know I want to work in a trade now".
Rylee said "I liked plumbing. I was good at that, but I didn't like electrical".

Throughout all the workshops, pupils were fully engaged and the feedback from staff at the college was that our pupils were a pleasure to have on site and they look forward to welcoming them soon.



CV's

A round of applause to the year 10's and 11's for working hard on completing their first CV's. During our careers sessions and discussing what to expect in interviews, one of the common questions asked is "describe yourself using only three words".

Adam said if he were asked, he would describe himself as "intelligent, smart and funny". **Anton** said "Independent, focused and motivated". Next in careers we will be focusing on mock interviews where students will be interviewed by staff and asked common interview questions to help identify areas for development and build confidence.

Philosophy

Arnold and Braille class have started their Easter and Lent AQA unit where there have been some excellent class discussions about Jesus The Son of God and why God sacrificed his only son. We look forward to working our way through the unit and learning more about the history of Easter.

Diary Dates

Coffee Morning and a chat - Thursday 20th March 2025
Last Day of term - Friday 4th April 2025
Pupils return to school - Thursday 24th April 2025