15th July 2025

THE GREYS GAZETTE



Ash



This year, the children at our special education centre have taken part in a wide range of exciting and enriching outdoor learning activities. These experiences have not only supported their physical development and communication skills but also helped foster a deep connection with nature.

One of our major projects has been **coppicing and working with willow**. The children learned how to safely cut and manage willow trees and used the harvested branches to create beautiful **willow fences** around parts of our garden area. These hands-on sessions encouraged teamwork, fine motor skills, and creativity.

We also took part in **tree planting**, giving the children the chance to understand how we care for the environment and help it grow. Alongside this, we worked to **create a wildflower meadow**, spreading seeds, learning about pollinators, and watching the area come to life with colour and wildlife.



The children have been involved in **cutting back bushes**, **picking fruit**, and exploring the changes in the seasons during our **nature walks**. These regular walks have given the children a chance to observe local wildlife, collect natural materials, and enjoy sensory experiences in the fresh air.

Outdoor learning has been a highlight of the year and a vital part of our curriculum. Every child has taken part in meaningful, hands-on activities that support their personal development and help build a love and respect for the natural world.



Outdoor Education



Kempston Riverside Bike Rides 2025

The majority of pupils at Greys started their last outdoor unit of the year ' Introduction to Mountain biking'. They have been making the most of the warmer, dryer weather conditions in the Summer term.

Pupils start with short, flat rides and gradually build up their skills, confidence and safety awareness to ride on a range of off - road surfaces and varying gradients.

The lessons at Kempston Riverside park include riding on gravel tracks, grassland and some steeper downhill steps and uphill slopes at Great Denham park.

Grafham Water Bike Ride 2025

Those pupils who are excelling at mountain biking and have appropriate fitness levels enjoyed an extended day ride at Grafham water in Cambridgeshire. It was perfect conditions for riding the 8 mile loop around the lake and the pupils maintained a steady pace for the duration, with a couple of essential drink stops in between.

They rode safely on a variety of surfaces, with some minor uphill sections to test the leg muscles.

It was a lovely day out and also a special farewell trip for two members of staff, Lee and Kyle, who are leaving Greys after several years service and are heading to pastures new. They will be sorely missed by staff and pupils and we wish them well on their new adventures.



La Chapelle



As Year 10 comes to a close, the students in La Chappelle have truly shown what they're made of.

Throughout the year, they've made fantastic progress in all subjects – from Maths, English, and Science to Construction, Boxing, Cooking, Citizenship, Philosophy, and Careers. They've developed practical skills, explored big ideas, and engaged in learning with growing confidence.

Their behaviour and attitude have come a long way too. They've matured, supported one another, and learned how to navigate challenges with more focus and self-control.

They've also enjoyed some great school trips, representing La Chappelle with pride and showing just how much they've grown as a group. Destinations we visited – Harry potter world, Rushmere park, Bedford University, Grafham Waters and Woburn Safari Park.

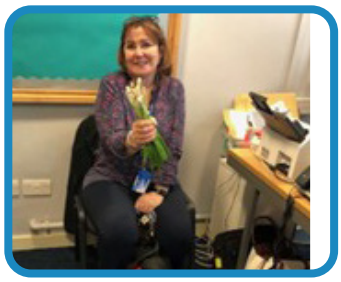
Now, they're preparing to enter Year 11 – their final year of school. It's a big milestone, and they're more than ready. With the right mindset, they can finish strong and step into their futures with confidence.

We're proud of everything they've achieved so far – and excited to see what comes next.

The La Chappelle Team

Leroy: Boxing has helped me release stress and focus more in school. It's taught me discipline too. This is the first time I've actually felt like teachers believe in me. I've made progress because I feel supported.
Harmony: I didn't think I'd ever enjoy school, but this year has been different. I actually look forward to some lessons now. I've improved in English a lot. I used to hate writing, now I'm more confident in my work.
Mason: The school trips were sick – they helped us bond as a group and gave us something to look forward to. I've enjoyed construction the most this year. I like working with my hands and learning real skills I can use in the future.
Courtney: I'm proud of how far I've come. Year 11 is my last year and I am going to make the most of it.
Lucy: Art has been a calm space for me. I can express myself without having to talk, and it's helped me build confidence in my creativity.

Vegetable Sale









It's that time if year again and the Greys vegetable beds are in full bloom. This year our most successful crops are the spring onions and lettuces. We are selling bunches of these and the profits are going to Children in Need.

As you can see, many staff and some pupils have taken produce home. The spring onions are a real hit with someone saying they were 'the nicest spring onions I've ever had'.

Candice is using them in the school kitchen for salads. Adam and Kian are using them in cooking lessons to make a 'Caesar salad'.

The tomatoes and potatoes will be ready after the next spell of sunshine for people to take home.

Tree Sale



We were donated over 30 native British tree saplings three years ago by Bedford Borough Council. The pupils, including Bella, pictured, have helped look after them and the saplings have grown into healthy plants, now reaching 3 - 5ft. These trees need more space, watering and maintenance and are outgrowing their pots, so they need planting in the ground or into larger pots.

We have decided to sell some trees to raise money for Children in Need. These can be planted in gardens or school grounds and we have a range of species including:

Oak, Ash, Cherry, Birch, Hornbeam, Rowan, Hawthorn, Hazel, Liquidamber and several others. These trees would sell at over £20 each in a garden centre.

We are offering individual trees, freshly potted and potentially delivered, for the bargain sum of £5.00 each. All proceeds go to Children in Need.

If you are interested in buying a tree for a good cause, please contact:

Dan McGrath, Teacher, Greys Secondary
Email: dan.mcgrath@biltt.org or Phone 01234 408477

Bonsai







Commando Joe

We have been taking part in Commando Joe missions, which are exciting, character-building challenges inspired by real-life and fictional explorers. These missions have helped us develop important life skills such as resilience, empathy, self-awareness, and positivity. Each challenge has encouraged us to work together, solve problems, and support one another. We've really enjoyed linking these missions to different books, and helping the characters complete tasks that reflect these values. It's been a brilliant way to bring stories to life while learning how to be the very best versions of ourselves.

Lincoln: Resilience is not giving up.
Omarie: Empathy is when you don't say 'ha-ha, I won' if you beat someone. It might make them sad.

Transition

Recently, we found out our new classes and teachers for next year. We spent a transition morning with them, taking part in fun activities and getting to know our new classmates. It was a lovely opportunity to make new friends, explore our new classrooms, and feel more confident about the exciting changes ahead. Everyone came away feeling happy, excited, and ready for the next step in our school journey.



Dexter: I get to stay with Mr N!
Mason: I'm with my friends!

Technology



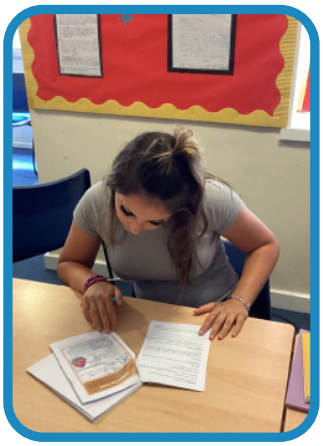
In class, we have also been using technology to support our learning. We've really enjoyed using Prodigy to practise our maths skills in a fun and interactive way. Looking ahead, we're excited to trial a brand-new game called Teach Your Monster to Read, which will help us with our phonics and reading development.

Darius: I'm such a big level! (on Prodigy)
Archie: I'm getting better at maths.

Summertime

As the summer holidays approach, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved rest. It's been a busy and brilliant year in Bonsai Class, and we are incredibly proud of how far we've come on our learning journeys together.

Braille



We'd like to reflect on a busy, exciting, and memorable year with our Braille class students. Whether it was trying something new, building confidence, or smashing personal targets—this class has grown in so many ways. Being Greys, we have obviously had many different students in our form who have successfully moved onto their new schools, but as the academic year ends, we will concentrate on our current lovely cohort: Bella, Tommy, Ivan and Jack.

In outdoor education Bella showed the boys that mountain biking isn't gender specific! She engaged wonderfully and showed a lot of maturity and skill. Bella has really tried to challenge herself in English lessons. Through Literary Bingo she has developed a stronger mastery of literary devices, which will benefit her in her move to her new mainstream school. Bella has engaged wonderfully in her art lessons and has produced some work which showed emotion and originality, and she is a talented cook.

Bella responded, "Staff listen at Greys, they actually listen if you've got into a situation, they support you to resolve it. They understand us. I love that we have a double session of cooking. Boxing is good to let your anger out."

Ivan and Tommy have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from being with Rachel in Draw and Talk sessions. Their creative flair has shone brightly. Ivan has started to make better choices regarding his attendance in lessons, and this developing maturity is being praised by us all.

Jack is our newest member of the form and has settled in well, he is excelling in boxing and outdoor sessions. His aspiration is to be a boxer after all!

Jack said, "I love when Dan takes us out for a long bike ride, it's great to learn about safety while we are enjoying ourselves. I've enjoyed myself in Art, I've used paint medium to produce a landscape, I've not done that before."



Braille form team, Kyle and Sarah, hope they all have a safe and enjoyable summer break and come back refreshed to begin a new year in September.

Primary News

This term the pupils in upper key stage 2 at Primary have participated in 4 sessions at Kempston Outdoor Centre. The pupils have absolutely loved paddleboarding, swimming in the river, wall climbing and boulder racing. They have supported each other well, giving encouragement and advice when needed. All the pupils have listened and followed instructions working in small groups and sharing ideas on how to succeed.

Matthew: I loved playing on the paddle boards.
Jack: I enjoyed wall climbing but loved the paddle boarding.
Carly: I loved paddle boarding and playing in the river.
Elijah: Paddleboarding made my hands sore but I found it calming.







Boxing



As the academic year comes to a close, we're incredibly proud of the hard work and progress made by our Boxing Mentorship Program students. This year particularly, Leroy, Daniel, Cozmin, Kevin, and the others that have attended have shown dedication and growth, both in the ring and in their personal development.



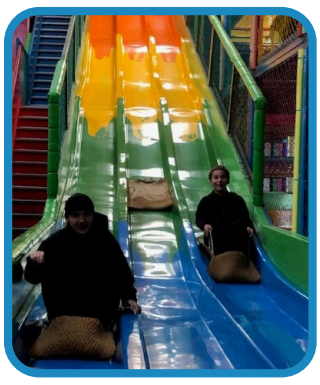
Leroy: Completed both the **Preliminary** and **Standard Boxing Awards**, demonstrating great agility and leadership throughout the year.
Daniel: His unwavering commitment and positive attitude earned him his **Preliminary Boxing Award**, and he has been a supportive team player.
Kevin: Focused and disciplined, Kevin achieved his **Preliminary Boxing Award** and has become a role model for his peers.
Cozmin: Overcame challenges with resilience, earning his **Preliminary Boxing Award** and steadily improving his technical skills.



Pupil Voices:
Leroy: Boxing has taught me discipline and focus. Completing my awards is a proud moment.
Daniel: This program has helped me build confidence and stay focused on my goals.
Cozmin: It's been about pushing my limits and staying disciplined. I'm proud of my progress.
Kevin: Boxing has helped me learn control and resilience, valuable skills for life.

We look forward to continuing this journey next year and welcoming more students into the program. Thank you to everyone who has supported us!

Careers



To conclude the summer term, KS3 pupils were invited to our local wildlife park Woburn Safari Park as part of their work experience programme with SSG. Not only are they home to around hundreds of exotic and endangered animals but they are a multi award-winning visitor attraction with over 500,000 visitors annually.

Woburn Safari Park is part of the larger Woburn Estate, which is owned by the Duke of Bedford. The park employs a range of staff, including animal keepers, retail and catering staff, and those in visitor and guest services. The park offers various career paths, including those focused on animal care, customer service, and even corporate partnerships. Throughout the day, pupils met with the education & conservation team where they were able to explore all the different career opportunities, learn more about the responsibilities as an employee and ask any questions. Some fantastic questions were asked such as "What electrical machinery do you need to use as part of your job?" – **Rylee** and "What is the hardest part of your job?" – **Nylah**

To finish we were able to complete the road safari drive where we saw camels, tigers, lions and giraffes to name a few.

Bella: The trip was fun. I loved seeing the elephants. They were cute.

Malala

A Year in review Malala 2024-2025

As the school year comes to a close, it's time to reflect on the incredible journey of the Malala group. It has been a year of growth, adventure, creativity, and more than a few muddy bike trails.

From the thrill of downhill biking with Dan and Joe to classroom triumphs and creative breakthroughs, Malala pupils have shown resilience, humour and heart. Joe has proven himself not only an outstanding Maths teacher but also quite the acrobat on two wheels, while Dan has dedicated countless hours to honing their construction skills and driving them across the country to experience learning beyond the classroom.

The Year 11s have had a truly memorable final year. Thanks to the amazing efforts of our Careers Lead, Serena, they've attended a series of excellent career-focused trips, including a magical visit to the Warner Brothers Studio Tour, where they witnessed the sheer ingenuity behind the making of the *Harry Potter* films.

In Citizenship, under the guidance of Sarah, they have explored the complexities of law and politics as well as experiencing the importance of making your voice heard through student council. Meanwhile, Rachel, our calming, crafting expert and Draw and Talk therapist, has been a steady presence, offering support and reassurance as exam season approached.

With the ever-enthusiastic Adam, pupils have learned valuable life skills in the kitchen, while Lee has been a consistent inspiration in the gym, helping students box away their stress and channel their energy positively. Chantelle has led the way in PSHE with passion, sparking reflection and awareness. Guest speakers have added another layer of learning, helping students understand how to stay safe and informed in today's world.

In the lead-up to exams, core subject teachers Sandie, Joe, and Eve have gone above and beyond, offering their unwavering support and a steady stream of croissants to help keep spirits high on the days of their exams. Their dedication has helped Malala students walk into their GCSEs with confidence.

In Art, several Malala pupils completed their GCSEs with flair, producing remarkable and inspiring work. Their talent has already sparked admiration from younger students:

"Molly's work is amazing! I really want to be able to do work like that." Courtney, Y10 "Anton is so talented. He has worked so hard; it has really paid off." Leroy, Y10

Of course, none of this could happen without the care and dedication of the wider team. Gloria is always just a cuppa and a kind word away when emotions run high. STAs Julie, Kyle and Owen have offered care and encouragement across tutor group boundaries, and Malala's own Adam has stood as a constant, guiding them from class to class and always ready to listen with patience and empathy.

But it is not just about the learning, it is also about the people who make each day happen. From the ever-kind Candice and Iryna in the kitchen, to front-of-house stars Julie and Mandy, who manage everything from taxi chases to uniform washes, the support team has been the unsung backbone of daily life. Their care has helped Malala pupils thrive.
We could go on, but perhaps it is best to leave it to the pupils of Malala themselves to show how great their year has been:

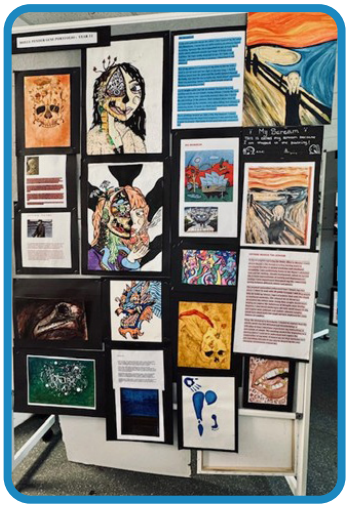
Anton: "I have loved going out on the bikes and have really surprised myself with the work I have achieved in art." **Ryan:** "I have been given the support I needed to get a place at college. I couldn't have done it without Greys." **Molly:** "I would never have come back into school again if it wasn't for their belief in me, and now I have passed my Art GCSE!"

We also thank our Headteacher, Vanessa Millar, for ending the year on a high by organising a fantastic Year 11 send-off: an escape room adventure chosen by the students themselves. What better way to conclude a year full of twists and triumphs?

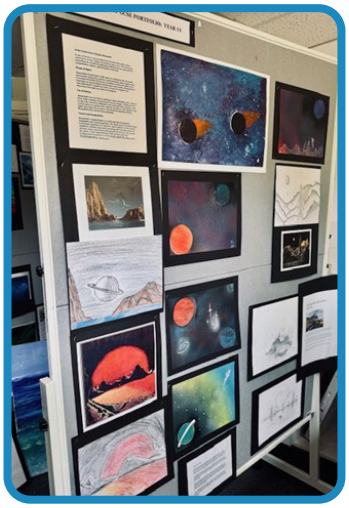
To all of the Malala group, we are incredibly proud of everything you've achieved this year. You have embraced challenges with courage, chased possibilities with determination, and grown into yourselves with creativity and strength. As you step forward into your next adventure, know that your journey is only just beginning, and we will be cheering you on every step of the way. You will be missed, but we cannot wait to see where life takes you next. In the words of William Shakespeare, "We know what we are, but know not what we may be."

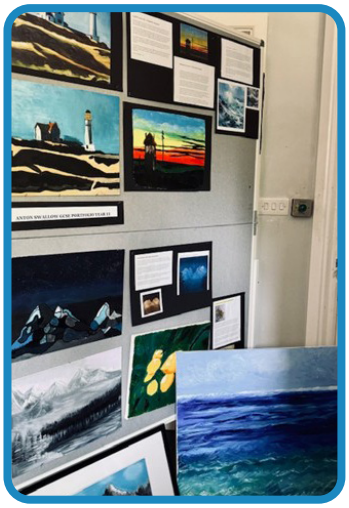
Good luck, Malala. The world is your oyster!

Tutor: Caroline Deaville
STA: Adam Galicza









Walnut



Calm Minds and Confident Bodies
Yoga sessions have become a calming highlight. The children have been stretching, balancing and breathing their way through guided routines, learning to connect with their bodies and emotions. They have embraced each movement with enthusiasm. It is a peaceful and positive way to start the week.



Clayton: We were doing yoga poses and Minecraft poses.
Janos: The poses were hard.

Music Rocks
Music has taken an exciting new turn with the introduction of ukuleles. The children have loved getting to grips with this cheerful little instrument, learning how to strum, hold a steady rhythm and play their first chords. It has been a real boost for their confidence and listening skills. They are developing musical awareness and having lots of fun along the way. We may have some future performers in the making.



Janos: It's fun. I like playing music.
Riley: Ukuleles are fun because they make different sounds and they're easy to use.

Water Play Gets an Upgrade
You might remember our last newsletter featured the fun we had with water squirters. This time we have gone even bigger. With upgraded squirters in hand, the children have taken their water play to the next level. There has been laughter, teamwork and some wet hairdos. It's the perfect way to enjoy the sunshine while supporting turn taking, sharing and social interaction. The smiles have been as big as the splashes.

Jude: I like squirting them in the air to get me soaking wet.
Janos: They're really fun. They have more ammo.
Clayton: They're way more fun that the little ones.

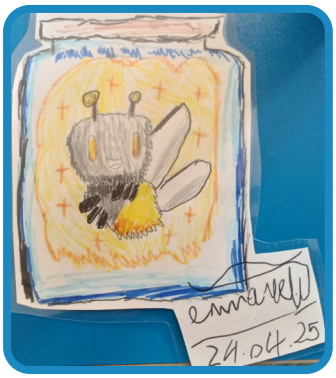
Sycamore

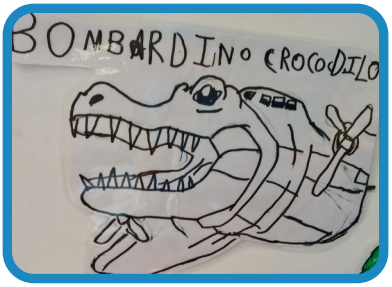
Sycamore have been reflecting on their artwork and what they have enjoyed most.

Elijah: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is Bombardino Crocodilo. The thing I have enjoyed most about art this year is being able to draw my favourite characters.
Tommy: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is my Nintendo Switch. The thing I have enjoyed most about art this year is having my teachers help.
Tyrese: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is my square boxes. The reason this is my favourite is because I made 2 perfect squares and I have been able to use pencils and not paint brushes.
Layran: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is my colourful slushy. The thing I have enjoyed most this year in art is that I have been very creative.
Emmanuel: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is my firefly because it is very creative. The thing I have enjoyed most this year is getting back to experiencing my art skills.
Lewis: My favourite piece of artwork I have done this year is my dragon because it looks 3D and I love dragons. The thing I have enjoyed most this year in art is using my creativity











Hair and Beauty

Harmony a year 10 pupil from Malala has been the only pupil to ever complete the whole Nail Art – Application of Gel Polish Unit. To complete this, Harmony was required to create a portfolio of nails using a variety of techniques such as applying glitter, creating hand painted designs including marbling and flowers, the use of foil, striping tape, and stickers.

Harmony finds Hair & Beauty interesting and is considering a career within the industry post 16.

Harmony: I like these lessons because I love to do nails and lashes in my spare time. It lets me be creative in a different way. I would definitely do this as a job in the future.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings have been adjusted. We will be holding the usual first and third Thursday of the month sessions. The first Thursday we will be holding speaker sessions.

- 4th September 2025 - BBPCF - Who are they, what they do and what services they provide
- 2nd October 2025 - Autism Bedfordshire
- 6th November 2025 - Everyone's gang - Talk on gangs and their orgnaisation
- 4th December 2025 - Emily Hurst - Bedfordshire Police - Lost boys and County lines session (VR Headsets)
- 8th January 2026 - Tyrone Elliot - Camhs - Attachment, Trauma and mental Health
- 5th February 2026 - F4YP - What they do and how they are accessed
- 5th March 2026 - SSG - what they do, who they are, what services do they provide and how they are accessed
- 7th May 2026 - Aquarius drug and alcohol services - Drugs, and what they provide as a service
- 9th June - Carers in Bedfordshire - Who they are and what services do they provide

On the third Thursday of every month, we will be running a 9-month parent workshop on challenging behaviours and attachment and trauma. Dates are -

- 18th September 2025
- 16th October 2025
- 20th November 2025
- 22nd January 2026
- 26th February 2026
- 19th March 2026
- 16th April 2026
- 21st May 2026

All dates are being held at Greys Education Centre, Manor Drive, Kempston, Bedford MK42

9.30 am - 11.30 am speaker dates
9.30 am – 12 pm workshops

Any interest for either to email me at **gloria.mills@billt.org**



We hope that all families have a good summer break and we will welcome pupils back to Greys on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Diary Dates

Last Day of Summer Term - Friday 18th July 2025

Pupils Return to School - Wednesday 3rd September 2025