

Bower Grove News



Jubilee Issue 132

May 2022

Dear Readers,

What a lovely term we have had! We have experienced Francophonie and World Beliefs Focus Days; our Years 6, 7 & 8 have been on residential; our wonderful Elmer Sculpture has arrived; our Year 10's have had their Work Experience week; Year 11's have begun their Entry Level and GCSE examinations; we have enjoyed Year 11's Art and Music Exhibition and we have topped off the term with a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration. I think we need a holiday!



Having enjoyed a surprise assembly earlier this term to celebrate my own 60th birthday—I am letting you know that, after more than 25 years at Bower Grove School, I have decided it is time for me to retire at the end of this school year. In addition Mrs Shalders who has served 21 years, will also be leaving at the end of the year.

It is with great pleasure I can announce that Mrs Cleave will take over as Headteacher in September, ably supported by Mrs Brackstone who will be Deputy Headteacher from September.

I am looking forward to all the events and achievements we will share next term and the opportunity to say farewell in person. Enjoy the Jubilee Celebrations!

Here are pictures of our very own Elma which was unveiled during our assembly at the end of this term.

I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 6th June.

Kind regards

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

The highlight for Governors this term has been our Governor In-Day. A great opportunity for the Governors to join school on a regular working day; to visit lessons, take part in learning walks, meet the School Council and lunch with the Staff Well-being Team. Some excellent feedback from our newer governors who had not attended a day like this before. They were very impressed with the way the pupils received us as visitors, took part in their lessons and shared work with us. A visit to the satellite was also enjoyed where we were able to see some of the pupils at work in the satellite base and others joining their mainstream peers. Once again this was a highlight in our calendar and we are extremely grateful to everyone who worked hard to make the day a success.

Mrs A White ~ Chair of Governors

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CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

Year 10 pupils have started their English Entry Level qualification. As part of the AQA Step up to English course, they will complete a portfolio of work, including formal spoken language presentations. One pupil particularly excelled in his extended talk:

Alfie Nolan in 10F impressed us in his proposal of a Pokémon club, an idea that he has now presented to the School Council. He spoke with great assurance and adapted his tone well to engage his audience, using vocabulary such as 'age demographic', 'synergy' and 'readily available'. A superb, polished presentation – well done!



ART & MUSIC

This term many of our Year 10 pupils have been teaching arts skills to other pupils in the school for their Arts Award Skill Share. For many of them it was completely out of their comfort zone but they did



themselves proud and the feedback from the other pupils was excellent. Here is Layton Chorley-Adams teaching Ellis Wilson how to play 'Back in Black' by ACDC on the guitar.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within Design and Technology this term Year 8 have been generating, developing and producing a Hand Steady Game with L.E.D's and a buzzer.

They have been learning about how electrical circuits work with regard to inputs, processes and output components whilst developing skills in cutting and stripping wires, soldering and vacuum forming in order to create their final piece .



Year 11 College

This term 11L returned to Rowhill School taking part in carpentry, motor mechanics and cycle maintenance. This was after last term's special block of lessons learning about stage and screen make up. Any fears that the pupils had, that they were going to learn about "pretty" make up were soon dispelled. The college tutor, who has worked in both stage and screen worked with the Year 11's to produce fake, cuts, bruises, and gunshot wounds. Some of the wounds have looked so realistic that the accompanying Bower Grove Staff have felt a little queasy at times.

11K this term have returned to Mid Kent College Maidstone and are taking part in the multi skill carousel of lessons, having a go at painting and decoration, plastering, and bricklaying.

After the May half term 11k will return to Rowhill and 11L will return to Mid Kent College Maidstone for their last few sessions before leaving Bower Grove.



Artrepreneur Enterprise Programme Showcase

On Monday 16th May our Year 11 pupils held an event in school which allowed them to showcase their work and all that they have achieved over the past year whilst undergoing the Artrepreneur Enterprise Programme or AEP for short.

At the start of the year pupils chose to follow the AEP with either an Art or a Music focus. Throughout the year in Art pupils created a collage, experienced mono printing for the first time and printed some London monuments as well as diving into the work of Banksy. In Music, pupils took part in workshops for Keyboard, Guitar, Tab Reading, Music Technology, Live Sound and Sound Engineering before learning about songs by The Beatles.

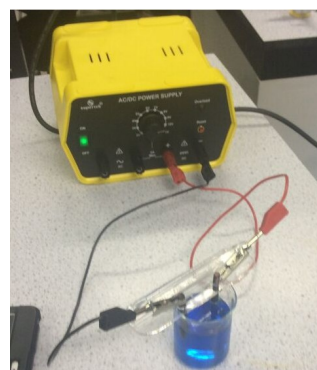
The showcase was a great success with many parents and pupils from other classes coming to admire the artwork and listen to the pupil music playing in the background. The event concluded with a live performance of 'Saw Her Standing There' by The Beatles. All the pupils should be extremely proud of their work and for helping organise such a lovely event.



SCIENCE CORNER

A huge well done to all year 11 pupils who have completed their qualifications this term and to those busy completing their GCSE exams throughout May and June.

There has been lots of practical work happening in the lab this term - KS3 pupils have been testing reactivity of substances and investigating forces and year 10 have completed electrolysis.



Year 6 Residential

This term, Year 6 Pupils in Falcons, Eagles and Squirrels had an exciting time on their residential. The trip started with a visit to Wildwood Animal Park, where pupils bravely walked across a rope bridge above the bear enclosure. Pupils then spent the rest of the 3-day trip at Kingswood, sharing bedrooms with their friends and joining in with lots of activities. Activities included Archery, Obstacle Challenge, Rock Climbing, 3G Swing and Problem Solving.



On the first evening, pupils had a campfire with toasted marshmallows and a special visit from Mr Moor with his magic tricks, then on the second evening, pupils watched a movie in the cinema room with sweets and popcorn!



Everybody had a really fun time and pupils have not stopped talking about it since they got back.

Year 7 & 8 Residential

36 pupils and 9 adults set off from Bower Grove headed for 3 days at the PGL centre in Surrey. The M25 traffic was kind to us both ways and the journey went smoothly. Once at the centre pupils were given rooms in groups of 6 (except the 3 girls!) and participated in activities in groups of 12. Activities included Rifle Shooting, Climbing, Problem Solving, Giant Swing, Raft Building, Low Ropes, Fencing and Jacob's Ladder.



Reece (7s) – “I really liked the Giant Swing because I had done it before and knew it was very high! I also liked sleeping as it was very tiring (of course). I also liked doing the rifle shooting.”



Finn (7W) – “The raft building was my favourite activity as I got to push Mr Lacey in the lake. I really liked it in general!”



All the pupils were well behaved and made the adults' job much easier. Many thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to accompany the group, as a residential with adventurous activities is such a valuable experience. It was a pleasure to see pupils supporting and befriending peers they had not previously interacted with and I am sure some new friendships have been formed.



Year 10 Work Experience



A huge well done to Year 10 this term who all completed work experience at various locations throughout Kent. This is a huge achievement for them both personally and vocationally and they all deserve our immense congratulations.



This year we had pupils attending organisations including Kent Life; The Grange Moor Hotel; Buttercups Goat Sanctuary; ASDA; Lower Grange Farm; Westborough & Oaks Schools; Buzy Lizzies Nursery; Kent Hair plus a variety of other placements including our very own Bower Grove School.



Each pupil was able to learn valuable skills and experience real working life situations. They have also managed to maintain the school's excellent reputation. A very big well-done Year 10, we hope you are already thinking about and looking forward to your next placements in November as Year 11s. If any parents and carers know of any suitable placements that would be willing to take on our pupils for work experience do please let the school know as we are always looking for new and exciting opportunities for your children.

Primary & Secondary Rewards Afternoon

Primary, Secondary and Satellite pupils enjoyed rewards afternoon on Monday 23rd May.

They had on offer: Lego and trains, painting, pot painting and planting, a trip to the park and some students relaxed and watched a film.

The pupils got a chance to choose a fun activity inside or outside of school for the afternoon. Many activities were on offer including; Golf, Bowling, Cyclopark, Football, Gymfinity, ICT, Festival Hair & Nails, Cooking, Dodgeball, Art and many more. The pupils had a great afternoon enjoying their activity with different pupils and staff around the school. Some Year 6's also had the chance to join in with the Senior Rewards.



Oaks & Enrichment—Rolleston Garden

Oaks and Enrichment have been working hard on the Rolleston garden. We have been weeding, watering and planting. We are very grateful to some friends of Bower Grove and B&Q in Larkfield who have given us some lovely plants and herbs. We hope that these will attract lots of birds, bees and butterflies especially Mason bees because they will not sting you



World Beliefs Day – Friday 6th May 2022

Miss Higgins helped us to understand and celebrate World Religions . The day was well organised with many events including a trip to the Gurdwara in Gravesend for Year 9 and 10.



We had our very own Press Team busy taking notes and photos of all the events and the children really embraced the day with enthusiasm and joy.

We invited Mr Singh who spoke to the children in Hedgehogs about the Sikh way

of life. They were really interested to know how long his hair was and he told them that his turban was his “crown”.

The day's activities included making Candle Holders using a range of tools in the DT room, Artistic Temple Creations in the Art Room. Thomas in Tadpoles expressed how he loves painting. A colourful flavour and positive atmosphere was found in the English Room where children enjoyed themselves colouring Mandalas representing Buddhism and had the opportunity to try out temporary tattoos. Over in the Cookery Room, Mrs Libertucci demonstrated simple bread making using a variety of ingredients. The children were able to make their own choices in their toppings including cheese or chilli flakes!



We arrived at the Solidarity Games with Mr White leading a Dodgeball activity. There was a lot of friendly spirit amongst the two teams, whilst in our Dynamite Gym we moved away from the buzz and noise of the Sports Hall to a more tranquil and peaceful environment. Meditation was offered to help understand how relaxation can support our minds to feel calm. We even noticed how the techniques used promoted good sleep. Reece and Tyler commented how they felt better after the session.



Bollywood came to Bower Grove with Miss Percival leading a team explaining how even Dr Dre's use of Indian Music helped with his chart-topping hits. Dressed in traditional bright outfits, the team led the dancing creating a sense of “unity” within Buddhism and Hinduism. Dancing in full swing, even Mr Lacey showed us his dancing skills! Finally, we were met with an explosion of colour on the field with paint flying everywhere. An amazing atmosphere with everyone involved showing respect for each other.

We would like to thank Miss Higgins and her team for a wonderful experience and an amazing day.

The Press Team

Joshua (10F) and John (Enrichment)





On Friday April 29th we (belatedly) celebrated La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie. Each class researched then decorated their door with the flag of a French-speaking country and so the corridors looked really colourful. These were the Top 3!

(Honeybees, Cover Supervisors – Mr Taylor & Ms Luscombe, Hedgehogs)



Special mention should also go to the Primary classes for their excellent dressing in their flag colours – I was very impressed.

In assembly volunteers tried saying French tongue-twisters and translating French sentences and an Inter-House Kahoot quiz with 54 teams saw Mars come out victorious! Just shows how much they had learnt through the week and in the assembly about French-speaking countries! Many thanks to Foxes (Mollie, Kael, Charlie, Harlo and Joey), 7W (Rico, Oliver and Kayden), 8D (Kenzi and Criegon) and Dawid in 9T for presenting in French in assembly.

Squirrels, Foxes, Penguins, Eagles and Falcons had a fun French drama workshop with Henri and Kristina – amazing concentration and effort by all pupils – 75 mins of non-stop French! All lessons across the school had elements of French-speaking countries linked in from ordering from a Parisian takeaway menu or The Hunchback of Notre Dame to counting in French or identifying francophone countries by their flag or location on a map.

It really was a great team effort to make the morning work so well and the atmosphere around the school was really upbeat. Thank you to everyone for their support and engagement.



Recipe to Try at Home

Coronation Chicken

Ingredients:

Makes enough for 4

- * 2 Chicken Breasts—skin removed
- * 1 tbsp Oil
- * 1 Unwaxed Lemon (Zest & Juice)
- * Knob of Butter
- * 1 Shallot (Finely Chopped)
- * 1 Red Chilli (Deseeded & Finely Chopped)
- * 2 tsp Madras Curry Powder
- * 2 tbsp Tomato Puree
- * 100ml/3½ fl oz Dry White Wine
- * 100ml/3½ fl oz Chicken Stock
- * 1 tbsp Apricot Jam
- * 150ml/5 fl oz Mayonnaise
- * 75ml/3 fl oz Crème fraîche
- * 1 Large Mango (Peeled, Stone Removed & Flesh Diced)
- * 5 Spring Onions (Finely Chopped)
- * 2 tbsp Finely Chopped Fresh Coriander
- * Dash of Tabasco Sauce
- * Salt & Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- * Green Salad Leaves
- * 50g/2 oz Flaked Almonds (Lightly Toasted in a Dry Frying Pan)



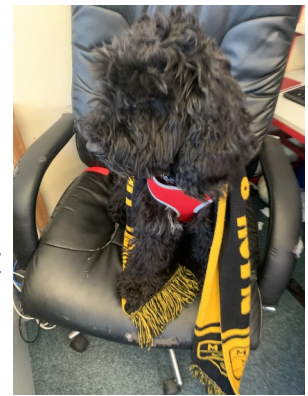
Method

1. Rub the olive oil all over the chicken. Scatter over the lemon zest and season with salt & pepper.
2. Steam the chicken for 20-25 mins or until cooked through. Set aside to cool.
3. Melt the butter in a frying pan, add the shallot and chilli and cook for 5 mins. Stir in the curry powder and cook for 2-3 mins. Stir in the tomato puree and cook for a further minute. Add the wine and simmer until the volume of the liquid has reduced by half.
4. Stir in the jam and stock and simmer until the volume of the liquid has reduced by half. Set aside to cool.
5. Mix the mayonnaise and the crème fraîche together in a bowl, then stir in the curry dressing. Fold in the mango, spring onions, lemon juice and coriander.
6. Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Fold into the curry dressing and season with salt, pepper and Tabasco to taste. Serve with a green salad and scatter with the toasted almond flakes.

Message from Buzz

It has been another fantastic term working with all of you. I have enjoyed walking in the rain recently and jumping in all the puddles. Thank you for taking me out when it has been raining really hard. We have one term left before we can enjoy our summer holidays. How do you like my scarf Maidstone United are Champions! So, let us all be good and enjoy the last term. Stay safe in half term and I can not wait to see you all next term.

Lots of love Buzz



Squirrels Class

Squirrels class have been learning about France and one of its famous painters Claude Monet, so we walked to a beautiful viewpoint in the local orchards to sketch in his Impressionist style. Unfortunately, the weather was not great and our sketches got soggy, but we are going to try again and copy one of the photos that was taken. We all had a good time, even though we got a bit wet. We managed to walk for three miles without complaints and the sun came out towards the end which helped to dry us off a bit and we all chose a treat at the local supermarket as a reward for excellent behaviour.



Pastoral/Safeguarding New Arrivals

Congratulations to the pastoral/safeguarding team on the safe arrival of their 4 baby pigeons: Their names are Funky, Pigeon, Dot and Com. Mother and babies doing well and currently in need of no additional support. On-going monitoring in place.



Bower Grove Festival 2022

We are only 8 weeks away from our Summer Arts Festival, BGStival 2022!!

Those who were here for last years event will know just how much of a special day it was and what it meant to our pupils.

Despite our efforts we have been unsuccessful in raising enough money to put on the festival as we had intended and have now resorted to setting up a GoFundMe fundraiser to help us to put it on.

We are asking for any donations big or small but more than anything we are asking you to get the word out. Please share the link on your socials and send to friends/family who you think would like to help. Here is the link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-make-bgstival-happen-again?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1



Parent Support Group

The next PSG events are:

Friday 10th June—Young People and Safety on Line—Mr M Evans/Miss S Howson

Friday 8th July—Kent PACT—Parents and Carers Together—Mrs A White

Please email PSG@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk to advise us if you wish to attend either of these events.

A massive thank you to all of the people that came to our Sensory and Wellbeing session. It was great to meet you all and share ideas and strategies that might work at home as well as school. I hope to see you for another session soon, Miss Snell.

Parent, Friends, Teachers Association

The PFTA are continuing their efforts to raise money to revamp our Junior Playground. There are many ways that you can help us with our efforts!

Firstly, did you know that you can raise funds from your armchair every time you shop online? There is no cost to yourselves, all you need to do is sign up to Easyfundraising. If you have not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the Easyfundraising website or app straightaway – simply shop online as normal.

Visit our Easyfundraising page to get started:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bowergrove/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e2

We have set up a Bower Grove Fundraising page on GoFundMe. Please share with your friends and family, any donations, however small, will be hugely appreciated!

https://www.gofundme.com/f/bower-grove-school-spring-and-summer-fundraising?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

Dates for your Diary

Mon 6th June	Term Begins	Fri 17th June	Non-Uniform Bottles
Weds 22nd June	Summer Fete 4.30–6.30pm	Mon 27th June—1st July	Collection for Africa
Mon 27th June	Whole School Photo	Weds 6th July	Sports Day
Friday 15th July	Bower Grove Festival	Tuesday 19th July	Term Ends

Staff Leavers

We said goodbye to:

Miss K Mitchell LSA
Miss C Bower LSA
Mr L Fawcett LSA
Mrs L John LSA

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Miss J Tuff LSA
Mr J Gibb LSA
Miss D Hewitt LSA
Mr D Cornford LSA
Mrs O Clarke LSA
Mrs J Howarth LSA
Mrs H Palmer Kitchen Assistant