

Bower Grove News



Issue 138

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

May 2023

Dear Readers,

Thank you to all our staff for writing such wonderful reports on all the activities that pupils have been completing over the term. It is wonderful to read the opportunities that our pupils are given and how much learning benefits from these experiences.

It has been a busy term once again which started with an amazing fundraising event Elvis night organised by our Madeline Chainey raising £1,488 for our school. Madeline is part of our PFTA committee which is such an enthusiastic group of parents and staff who have almost reached their money raising target for the year. Thank you for your continuous support and time in helping the school.



This term we have been fortunate to have two bank holiday Mondays which has meant lots of change for our pupils. You will read about our celebrations for the coronation with our 'Day of Kings' on Friday 4th May.

We welcomed Ofsted to our school on Wednesday 10th May as part of a National research survey into Careers opportunities for pupils. The researcher, who was an HMI Ofsted Inspector, met our staff who explained about the wide opportunities we provide for our pupils. In the afternoon the Inspector discussed these opportunities with pupils and parents/carers of pupils in year 9 – 11 and a pupil who has left our school. Thank you to all those staff, pupils and parents/carers for supporting us by finding the time to meet with the Inspector.

As this term draws to a close and we welcome term 6 on Monday 5th June, I would like to remind you about the pupil Homework project which has been e mailed to you. This is a fun, project-based homework that we offer to all pupils to complete during our half term holidays. The theme is 'Our Community' and we look forward to seeing your projects by Friday 9th June.

Our year 11 pupils have demonstrated real courage and confidence with the start of the GCSE season which will continue into next term. We are really looking forward to celebrating the journeys of our year 11 pupils in our leaver's events prior to their leaving date of Wednesday 21st June.

Next term is going to be a very busy term with planning our pupils transition into new classes. We work really hard with our pupils to support their worries about moving into a new year group as well as enjoying the successes of the learning they have achieved so far.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Half term break and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Monday 5th June.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher

News from the Governors

It looks like we are going to go into this break with the sun shining at last. This has been a really good term for Governors with all our usual meetings and one of our shining highlights of the school year – The Governor In-Day. This is a day that school organise for as many Governors as possible to come in and see school "at work". This year it included joining Assistant Headteachers for a Learning Walk where we got to dip into classes for short periods to see how the pupils are engaging with their lessons; also an opportunity to meet with the School Council who were lovely to chat to and shared some ideas with us. We enjoyed lunch with the Staff Wellbeing Team and were reassured to hear of the many opportunities provided for staff to help them manage their own wellbeing as they dedicate so much time to the wellbeing of our pupils. A particular highlight was a performance from the school choir who delivered a superb rendition of the Coldplay song A Sky Full of Stars – they had clearly done a lot of rehearsals and showed off their talents beautifully supported by Mr Starks on keyboards. Later in the day we received information about attendance, behaviour and the use of Widget within school. Two of our newer Governors joined the day and were very impressed with everything they saw. Thank you to the school Leadership Team for their time in putting together such a varied timetable, the teachers and pupils for accepting our interruptions to their lessons without faltering from their learning, the catering staff for providing lunch and my fellow governors for giving up their time. On behalf of the governors I hope everyone has a good break and stays safe in the sun.

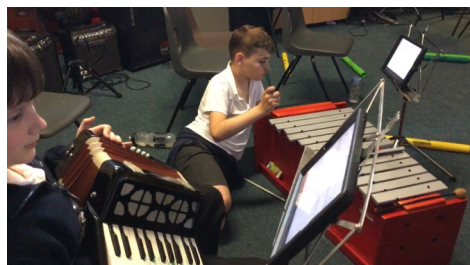


Alison White ~ Chair of Governors

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

In Music Falcons class have been learning a famous piece of classical music called 'O Fortuna' which is part of a larger piece of music called 'Carmina Burana'. The introduction to the piece is instantly recognisable and pupils have enjoyed learning how to play the melody, the harmony and ostinatos which accompany the main tune.



ENGLISH

Year 11 pupils are preparing for their GCSE English Language exams in June. As part of Paper 2, they are required to write an extended non-fiction response, such as responding to the statement: Artificial Intelligence is moving at a rapid pace, transforming the world we live in.

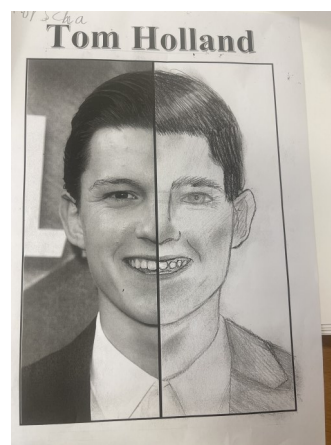
However, does the use of such technology hinder or help humanity? Write the words of a speech to your peers, giving your views on the subject. Examples of pupil's openings are below:

Joshua Saxton: 'Imagine a world in which artificial intelligence is everywhere: in your house, when you go outside, when you go to the shop, etc. That's not a world I want to live in and I will convey to you, my humble peers, the reasons why, and why you wouldn't want to live in that sort of world with me.'

Byron Earl: 'Imagine the world in a century's time: AIs ruling the lands, expanding horizons. AI has accomplished what no human to graze the Earth ever can.'

ART

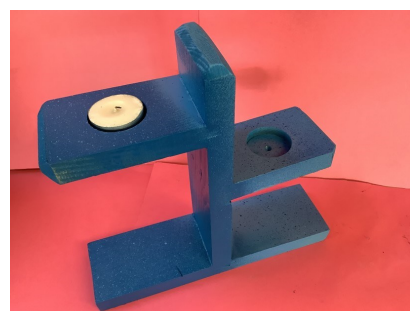
Year 7 & 8 have worked incredibly hard this term developing their shading applications with portrait drawing. They started off the term creating a self-portrait using mirrors and a proportion guide to build up their observational drawing. They then went on to use the grid method to create accurate shapes before beginning to use different grade pencils to apply different tones to their work. They rounded up the term showcasing their progress with a half face drawing of Tom Holland.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Pupils on the City & Guilds Construction Course in Years 10 & 11 are engaging in and developing skills in Housing Joints.

They are using hand tools to make a candle holder which utilised two types of Housing Joints.



Attendance

Golden Table: For every full week a pupil has in school this term, they will earn an entry into the prize draw. 3 students from each Keystage will win a space on the 'Golden Table': Fully festooned with gold tablecloths, cutlery and plates, the golden table will also have treats to eat and waiter service from staff.

Attendance Matters

Currently:

Since Term 4: **71%** of pupils have improved their attendance for this year so far.

Can you improve yours?



Year 6 Transition Programme

Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to experience life in our secondary phase. The transition programme will take place from 3rd - 6th July and will offer pupils the chance to: meet their form teams; access a range of lessons and to take part in some team building activities.



9L Rochester Castle Visit

9L spent a morning in Rochester looking at the castle as part of their Global Learning curriculum. They have been looking at castle locations and features and using Rochester as a case study to learn about how castles were attacked and defended as well as what castle life was like in medieval times. They all know now how 40 pigs were responsible for ending the siege of Rochester Castle in 1215!

On our return to school they had the chance to taste some typical medieval food – rose petal bread, cabbage chowder, frumenty, apple muse and gyngerbrede – with varying degrees of enjoyment!

Thank you to Callum for being such an excellent photographer and thanks also to the staff team (Ms Hick, Ms Woodbridge and Mr Newman) for accompanying the visit. Next term we will be visiting the town again to conduct some Geography fieldwork.



Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) welcomed Henry (75) and Miss Hunt to their Maidstone office to hand over the used stamps that have been collected by pupils and staff over the last year. The staff were extremely pleased with the collection and presented Henry with a certificate and some bookmarks for his classmates. Henry learnt about braille and used a machine to type his name! Thank you to everyone who brought in stamps, we will be starting up the collection again with a new box in the Careers room.



Primary Venture Afternoon

On Wednesday 24th May we had Primary Venture afternoon.

All pupils had a so much fun on and off site, pupils were able to choose from:

Manhunt at Penenden Heath

Cobtree Park

Gatland Park

Nature Walks and Ice-Cream

Arts and Crafts

Sand and Water Play

Class Cinema

Mote Park



Secondary Venture Afternoon

Secondary Venture Afternoon took place on Tuesday 23rd May. The pupils got a chance to choose a fun activity in or outside of school for the afternoon. Many activities were on offer including; Football, Cyclopark, Bowling, Swimming, Computing, Art, DT and many more.

It was a great afternoon where pupils got to spend time with different peers and staff whilst taking part in an activity of their choosing.



Off-site activities were lucky with the weather as well which made the afternoon even better.

The next Secondary Venture Afternoon takes place in Term 1 of the next academic year. Pupils will get more activities to choose from based on their work ethic and behaviour around school.

Foxes Class Trip to the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens

This term Foxes class went to the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens where they explored the tranquil gardens and scented rose garden.

They enjoyed the Maze, running up and rolling down Little Mount Xion and spent over an hour looking for the Yeti.

We were all extremely tired on the journey home.



News From the Plot

The weather is finally warming up and spring has sprung at the allotment. The beds are gradually filling with produce grown and planted by the Impacts groups and Enrichment team. We have potatoes, carrots and tomatoes growing along with some cauliflowers which were kindly donated by one of our allotment neighbours.

We have also been entered into the Glebe Lane onion competition, watch this space for results later in the year.

Pupils and staff have enjoyed some of the rhubarb which has grown enormous and our shed is getting a fresh coat of paint thanks to the Year 9 Aspire Groups.



College Link Friday Mornings

Members of 11C, Oaks and Enrichment classes have had an interesting term at MidKent College trying their hands at Theatrical Make Up and Special Effects.

Pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning has been exceptional and a fun (and some-times creepy) term has been had by all!



Aspire

This term, pupils in 9D have been developing home maintenance skills, such as mechanics and gardening at the local Bower Grove allotment. We have been visited by two local companies: A&E Vehicles and Richard Sutton Landscapers.

Pupils have excelled in practical lessons, learning how to perform a basic MOT and service, including changing tyres, as well as using equipment such as petrol fuelled lawnmowers, strimmers, leaf blowers, and painting the allotment shed.

They have worked fantastically well as a team and been exemplary in the quality of their work.



Year 6 Residential

Year 6 residential was a really successful 3 days. Pupils started their trip with a visit to Howletts Zoo where they listened to a 'Gorilla Talk', saw lions, rhinos, elephants and tigers. Pupils enjoyed a play in the park after their lunch and then went to Kingswood to begin their stay. All activities were enjoyed by both pupils and staff, particularly a very muddy blindfolded activity called 'Nightline', outdoor rock climbing, a giant 3G swing and an obstacle course.

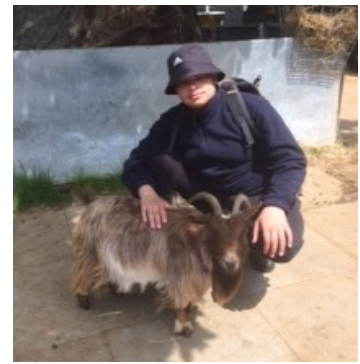


During the evenings, pupils were able to watch a film, play a football match and socialise with their friends. Pupils have not stopped talking about it since their return.

Buttercups Goat Sanctuary Work Experience

"We shovelled the 'poo' to make compost. We changed their drinking water. Peak is my favourite goat—he is a lovely little thing."

Written by Zack Clarke Oaks Class



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 congratulations. This year we had pupils attending organisations including Kent Life; Buttercups Goat Sanctuary; Timpson's; ASDA; Lower Grange Farm; Buzy Lizzies Nursery; Bower Lane Tyres 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.



BOWER LANE TYRES

Kent Life Heritage Park

Badgers class have been imagining life in the time of World War II this term. We have been reading 'The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips' by Michael Morpurgo, about a girl called Lily and her cat who become involved in the allied forces preparation in 1943.



We went to Kent Life to see the Anderson shelter and to go inside the Lenham Cottages which are decorated in 1940's style.

We saw lots of animals too including lambs, chicks, goats and pigs and we got lots of exercise running around the playpark.

A lovely day!

King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

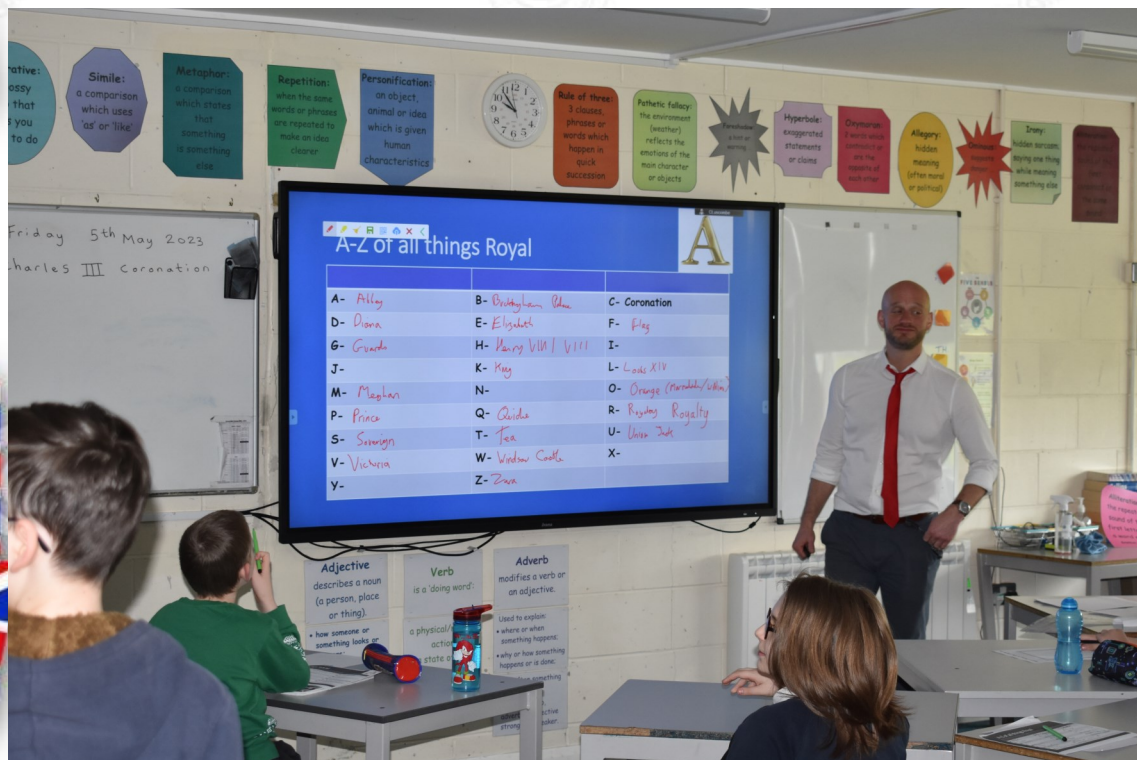
Mad Hatters Tea Party

Primary pupils enjoyed a 'Mad haters tea party' show where they won prizes and took part in pass the parcel.



Coronation Quiz

Secondary pupils had a Royal theme to their lessons and took part in a Coronation quiz in the morning with the winners receiving a sweet treat.



Lunchtime Celebrations



Youth Club Celebrations



Youth club was celebrating the Kings coronation with Royal themed activities and Royal themed snacks.

Lots of our Pupils and Staff dressed up in red, white and blue.



Year 9 Trip to Dunorlan Park

Two year 9 classes enjoyed a morning of boating at Dunorlan Park in Royal Tunbridge Wells where they were able to relax and enjoy being outside in an area which was favoured by Queen Victoria and Edward VII.



Computing Update

In Term 5 pupils have been completing Units of work from the Information Technology and Computer Science streams of the Computing Curriculum. Pupils have completed extensive learning and the following is an outline of what some of the classes have completed.

Pupils in Hedgehogs, Penguins, Eagles and Year 7 completed units that developed their creativity with computers.

Hedgehogs used iPads and the Ardman app to make stop frame animations using Lego sets they had built, capturing movement through photographs and compiling them into animations. Penguins and Eagles both used computer software to draw and create their own animations, after learning how to use some animation software and planning using storyboards.

The pupils in Year 7 planned and created their own audio podcast from a script they had created. They were firstly taught how to use a program called Audacity (a digital audio editor and recorder), how to record their voices, add pre-recorded songs and audio effects. After learning what podcasts were they were tasked with making their own. These proved hugely entertaining to all who listened to them!

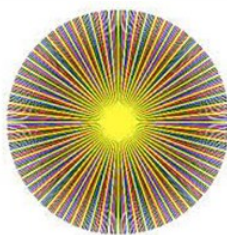
Frogs, Falcons and Year 9 have all been learning how to think like a Computer Scientist. They have all learnt about algorithms (a list of instructions to complete a task or computation). For Frogs this was programming BeeBots with instructions to navigate a course.

For Falcons they completed a number of unplugged activities to understand how and why we use algorithms. These unplugged activities included such things as writing algorithms for making jam sandwiches and checking to see if these worked by making an actual jam sandwich using their instructions. They then went on to using a program called Logo, with the pupils taking control of a "turtle" to draw lines to make shapes and artistic patterns.

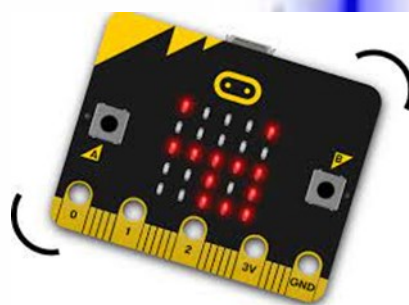
Pupils in Year 9 have been learning about the four cornerstones of Computer Science and programming - abstraction, decomposition, algorithms and pattern recognition. They have learnt about five key algorithms used by programmers for sorting and searching Programming data lists. This theory-based unit is in preparation for teaching the Year 9s how use the programming language Python.



Beebot



Pattern made in Logo



SCIENCE CORNER—TERM 5

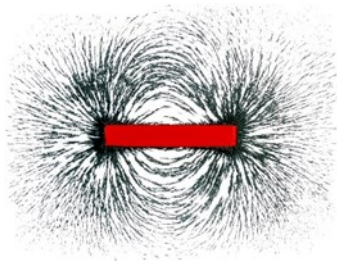
Year 7—Forces/Muscles
Unicellular



Year 8 and Bones -Energy Transfers/
Organisms



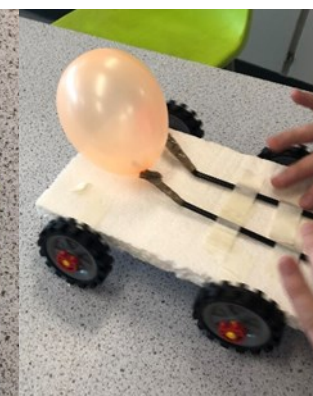
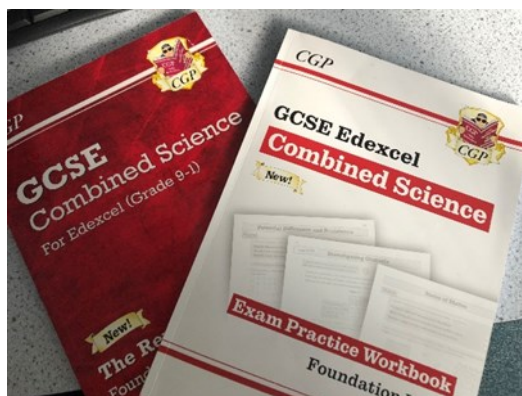
Year 9—Force Fields and Electromagnets/Working Scientifically Skills



Year 10—Separating Mixtures, Breaking Down Substances, Acids and Metals



Year 11—GCSE Revision/Space



PE

Primary School

This term KS2 have been introduced to some of our summer sports like Cricket and Athletics. During our athletics lessons we have been practicing for our Sports Day on the 28th of June. Our other focus has been on competitive games like Basketball, Pickle Ball and Tennis. These sports have really improved our pupil's sportsmanship.

Each term a KS2 class goes to Swimming. This term Foxes had the opportunity to show off their water skills and they have swum some amazing lengths. All Foxes class will be receiving certificates for their great efforts.

KS1 have been focusing on following rules within attacking and defending games and understanding that losing is a part of sport. As a department we have highlighted the importance of sportsmanship to ensure everyone is happy once a game has finished.

Secondary School

In the Secondary School this term we have had KS3 focusing on Cricket, Athletics and Rounders on a Tuesday afternoon. It has been a great opportunity to get our pupils out on the field and enjoying the sun. In their single lessons KS3 have been focusing on competitive games like Touch Rugby and Netball. The improvement from Week 1 to now has been remarkable.

This term 9D have been Swimming and they have been focusing on their different types of strokes to ensure they can swim the furthest distance they can. They will all be receiving a certificate for their fantastic participation and distances.

On Monday afternoons this term KS4 have had the opportunity to choose what they would like to do. Their options have been Cyclopark, Golf, Dynamite Gym or Table Tennis. There have been great levels of participation in all activities and giving our pupils the choice has ensured enjoyment which helps our Year 11's through their term of exams.



Just a reminder to everyone our Sports Day is coming up on the 28th June and will be coming around quick. There will be letters to go to each pupil in the school explaining the process. Primary sports day will be in the morning and Secondary sports day will be in the afternoon. In case the weather is hot we would like for our pupils to keep hydrated, to wear a hat and for sun cream to be put on. All the details will be covered in the letter.

Frogs Class

Frogs class have been working together to discuss how to develop and extend the learning opportunities in our 'Outdoor Classroom.'



The pupils shared the things they enjoy playing and the things they like to do in the outside area. The staff team have spent a long time listening to the children, researching and gathering resources to develop this amazing space that we are so lucky to have. We already have a super slide and a double size sand pit.

The children have been enjoying having the construction toys to role play in the sand pit. We have talked through the 'Rules of play' when in the sand pit.

The children have been using our performance area to find their alter ego. They have enjoyed using the props such as; guitars, microphones, wigs, glasses, pom poms, tutus and keyboards to show off their amazing talents.



Frogs Class



We have set up a home corner. The pupils have enjoyed playing with the babies; caring for them and making sure they are fed and changed. They love taking the babies for a long walk around the playground stopping off at the 'ice cream shop' on the way.

We have been using our water trays for various purposes. We have really been enjoying the Lego and trying to make complicated modes of transport.



One of things we really wanted was a 'Mud Kitchen.' Our new mud kitchen has been placed near our camp fire role play area. We have been making all sorts of foods for our Frogs teachers. We especially like the 'muddy choccy cupcakes.'



This term in Science we have been focussing on 'Growing Plants.' We created our own flower pots using recycled milk cartons. We decorated them with felt tip pens and put holes in them for the water to drain. We planted different coloured flowers and have been watering them each day.



Watch this space for even more exciting developments to our 'Outdoor Classroom.'





Recipe to Try at Home

Tuna Pasta Bake

Ingredients:

200g Pasta
1 tablespoon Olive Oil
1 Onion
50g Mushrooms
1 Tin Chopped Tomatoes
1 Tin Tuna
1 Mozzarella Ball



Equipment Needed:

Saucepan, Colander, Frying Pan, Fork, Wooden Spoon, Small Knife, Chopping Board, Oven Proof Dish

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°, Gas Mark 4
2. Cook the pasta in boiling water for 12 minutes and drain in a colander
3. Wash the mushrooms and slice
4. Peel and chop the onion
5. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and cook gently for 5-10 minutes until soft
6. Add the mushrooms and cook for a further 5 minutes until golden
7. Add the tomatoes and juice
8. Mix together the pasta, tomatoes and Tuna
9. Tip into an ovenproof dish
10. Scatter over the mozzarella and bake in the oven for 20 minutes until heated through

Parent Support Group (PSG)

This group is organised by Miss Higgins and is established to provide support for our adults at home and outside agencies. These are the next workshops which you are welcome to attend:

Term 6

Friday 23rd Jun 10-11am

PACT with Amanda Oliver

West Kent Quadrant Ambassador for Kent PACT (Kent Parents and Carers Together). Amanda can tell you about the work of Kent PACT and how they get the voice of parents heard within the local authority education and health departments. Under the Children & Families Act 2014, each Local Authority has to have a parent carer forum to represent parent/carer voice at key meetings around all things SEND related – Kent PACT is the forum for Kent.

To book your place on these workshops email psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

Parent, Friends, Teachers Association (PFTA)

The PFTA are continuing their efforts to raise money for our Sensory Quad Area. 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:

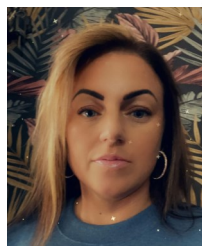
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bowergrove/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e2

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

Coming soon!

Hi my name is Becky Gravenell. I have been fundraising and Chair of the PFTA for 5 years. This summer, I am planning something quite bold and very different to raise money for Bower Grove School. I will do a sponsored 'Wing Walk'. Watch out for more information, because I am definitely going to need your help and support.



'Time to Talk'

This year we are working in partnership with HearSay Charitable Trust based in Maidstone to provide a support group for our adults at home.

This is an opportunity for adults at home to share their worries and concerns confidentially within the group, whilst meeting other adults who share a similar parenting journey.

The aim of the group is to empower and give you the confidence to make changes and enable your children to achieve their full potential and improve the relationship you can have with your children.

The group will be informal, non-judgemental and run by a counsellor acting on behalf of HearSay.

We look forward to meeting you and supporting you. Sessions are run at Bower Grove School from 10.15am – 11.45am. The dates are as follows:

Term	Frogs, Hedgehogs and Foxes	Penguins, Falcons, Eagles, Squirrels & Satellite
Term 6	Friday 30th June	Friday 7th July

Please either email school (office@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk) or write in your child's school planner to let us know if you would like to attend.

If you have any further questions about Time to Talk please contact Mrs K Candy, Assistant Headteacher.



We strongly encourage parents/carers and their pupils, to investigate Post 16 Providers as early as Year 9 and Year 10 so they are fully equipped with the information they need to make the correct decision in the subsequent years.

Reasons to visit a College Open Event

1. Find out stuff you do not know – Got lots of questions, open days are there to give you the opportunity to ask them.
2. Get an idea of what life is like at College – By going along and meeting staff and current students, you'll be able to get a feel for the place and whether it's likely to suit your young person.
3. Understand what qualifications are available and what Pupils need to achieve in their GCSEs to get a place at College.
4. Tours of the site – see the classrooms, kitchens, and workshops that your young person will be working in.
5. Find out how to apply – talk through the application process and even get help to make the application.
6. Avoid issues further down the line. – An early application will give you and your young person peace of mind
7. Get help with the practicalities –Attending an open event will give you the opportunity to talk to Support Advisers who can provide information on transport and bursaries.

Up and coming Open days are happening at :-

Ashford College (EKC) – Thursday 22 June 2023 4pm – 7pm

Chatham Mid Kent college – Saturday 18th November 10am – 1pm

Maidstone Mid Kent college – Saturday 25th November 10am – 1pm

Please go on-line to individual college websites to find out more details and register your interest.

Please check out our Facebook site for updates.



Well done and good luck for our year 11s that are sitting Exams and getting ready to move on to new and exciting adventures in further education, mostly at college that is close by, so don't forget to visit us.

Some dates to remember:

Monday 19th June Leavers meal @ Grange Moor Hotel

Tuesday 20th June The Big day out at Thorpe Park

Wednesday 21st Leavers assembly and last day for our year 11s



Staff Leavers

We wish the following staff good luck in their new ventures

Miss A Gates	LSA
Miss D Croombs	LSA
Mr J Waterson	LSA
Mr D Cornford	LSA

Welcome New Staff

Miss J Malyon	LSA
Miss A Syer-Thompson	LSA
Miss H Squires	LSA
Miss N Hunt	LSA
Ms A Andreulli	LSA
Mrs J Koden	LSA
Mr T Fagan	LSA
Ms S Fellowes	LSA
Mrs E McGuinness	LSA
Ms Z Harding	(after half term) LSA

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th June	First Day of Term
Wednesday 5th July	Summer Fair
Wednesday 28th June	Sports Day
Friday 14th July	Music Focus Day
Wednesday 19th July	Last Day of Term

Please do not forget to follow our
Bower Grove Facebook Page

