



Laleham Gap News



A Student Publication by Laleham Gap School

Play space takes shape



Primary Play

All the hard work put in to raise funds to improve our outdoor facilities has paid off. Children in primary can now have great fun on the new sensory play equipment which was installed this term. Costing in excess of £30,000, this includes sensory timber trail and ropewalk, two large bucket swings, two slides and an enclosed trampoline.

Many thanks go to all those responsible for making this happen, including the Wooden Spoon Society, Big Lotto fund, the Albert Burn's Children's Trust Fund, the Kent Reliance Provident Society Fund, Barclays coin drops in Asda and Waitrose, and of course, the tireless effort of staff and students at Laleham Gap, who mounted fund-raising events such as quizzes and fairs.

Secondary students have also benefitted from new equipment, having returned in September to find an outdoor gym complete with steppers, bars and rowing machine sited next to the MUGA.

Further improvements to our outside facilities have taken place this term, including the sports' field, which has been upgraded with new turf ready for action.

As Les Milton, Headteacher, says: "We want Laleham Gap to be a living, breathing expression of what it is to be different, unique and special. We work best when we work together with others to achieve things."



Bouncing Playtime

More photos on Page 15



Happy Feet!

All different, all equal

Laleham Gap recently took part in a national campaign to help address the problem of bullying amongst young people. Running from 13th to 17th November, Anti-bullying week 2017 is organised by the charity Family Lives with the intention of raising awareness of the need to respect and value our differences.



Posters with the slogan, All Different, All Equal, appeared around the school and both staff and students shared in discussions exploring the causes of bullying and possible solutions.

Odd Sock Friday

The week closed with an assembly to celebrate diversity and difference at Laleham Gap and the chance to come to school in odd socks!

What's inside:

Read all about it!

ACE news

Beach School fun

Challenges: camping, building ...

Cinema special

Football results

Horoscopes, jokes, stories and poems ... and much, much more!



Supporting Laleham Gap

The Laleham Gap News Team

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter Issue of the Laleham Gap Newspaper. Before updating you with this term's news from the team, we would like to congratulate Rachel and Ralph on their success at the End of Year Awards back in July. Rachel was named as Laleham Gap Journalist of the Year while Ralph received a special award as the winning candidate in our school's mock general election. Well done to you both!

Fast forward to now. We're delighted to announce that Ellie and Ted have joined the team permanently as KS3 reporters. Meanwhile, Hannah, Amy, Ethan, Kai and Harvey continue in their various roles. As

always, the newspaper includes some stunning contributions from guest writers.

A recruitment talk to Year 7s by Rachel and Ralph caught the interest of Lewis, who will be writing games' reviews, and Owen, who has already planned an exciting project for the Spring Issue. Further plans to develop the paper include hearing more from our primary pupils.

We hope you enjoy this issue and as always please let us know if there is anything new you would like to see included. LNT meets on Friday lunchtimes in Room 106. New members and new ideas *always* welcome.

Season's Greetings from the Headteacher

I would like to begin by thanking parents, children and staff for a fabulous 2017. I have been delighted by the exciting curriculum this year, which includes so many activities. My personal highlights have included the Roald Dahl drama production, World Book Day, Sports Day activities, Challenger Troop and the Science Fair.

I hope you have appreciated the quality of our newly-laid sports field as much as the children, who have been using it for breaks and PE. Our secondary-aged young people have been using the outdoor gym equipment to great effect. Feedback from our primary children includes: "The trampoline was so wonderful I just couldn't stop" and "Going on it makes me feel as happy as a unicorn watching rainbows." Which is without doubt my favourite quote of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ruth Harding, who is standing down as a parent governor after serving for several years, supporting us all by representing parents at numerous governor meetings and events. I wish Ruth well for the future and look forward to continuing to see her as a parent. This does however provide an opportunity for other parents to put themselves forward to be elected as a parent-governor. The role involves attending termly (6x a year) meetings at 6pm at Laleham Gap school. It also involves periodic monitoring visits to the school. More information regarding the process and a nomination form is coming home with your children this week.



If you are interested, please do come in and discuss it with me.

I would also like to thank Ms O'Keeffe, who has now joined Broomhill Bank school. I know she has supported many staff and families with annual reviews and interventions in the last two years.

As a school, staff and pupils have been reviewing our positive behaviour policy. If you would like to comment on this policy, please feel free to write to me with your thoughts; it can be found on our website by clicking the 'school info' tab, then policies (LGS44 positive behaviour policy). Speaking of the website, I hope you enjoy the new pictures we've shared there.

Finally, a note on safety. Please remember that the earliest time you can leave your children at school is 8:30am. We are concerned for children if they are left before this time as they are unsupervised.

I would like to wish everybody a very safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Les Milton

Staff Spotlight



Mrs Kim Dean
Receptionist

Rachel: How long have you worked at Laleham Gap?

Mrs Dean: I've been here for four years.

Rachel: What are your main duties as a receptionist?

Mrs Dean: I record attendance; organise transport; sort the post; photocopy and print documents for staff; collect dinner money; type letters; do the filing; sort deliveries, and greet visitors, booking them in properly. I do lots of other administrative tasks and on top of that I'm also a first-aider.

Rachel: What sort of equipment do you use?

Mrs Dean: My computer and the phone are the two main things. The phone is very important for my work. Also, I use a walkie talkie to contact staff around the school. I use the photocopier and printer quite a lot as I send lots of letters to parents and carers. I use a franking machine to stamp letters so I don't have to stick on stamps.

Rachel: Your day is obviously busy. Can you tell us more about it?

Mrs Dean: It's very varied and no two days are the same. I love my job because I work with everyone: the children, staff and visitors. That's what makes it interesting.

Rachel: Thank you, Mrs Dean. You are the face of the school!



Tigers on the Beach

Early into the new term, Tiger class travelled to Ramsgate for Beach School.



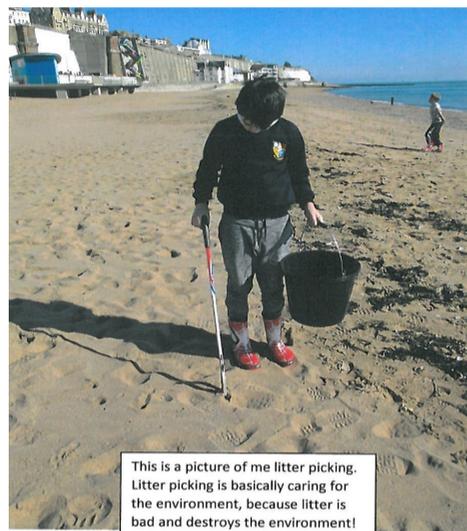
Ramsgate seashore

Fletcher explained how they explored three beach habitats: stony sea beds, chalky sea beds and mudflats, while Mark said they were learning how long things take to break down in the ocean.



Beach collection

Dylan and Jonathan had lots of fun playing Sticky Limpets, explaining that there was an oyster catcher who had to catch people and they became crabs.



This is a picture of me litter picking. Litter picking is basically caring for the environment, because litter is bad and destroys the environment!

Aodhan and Max combed the beach finding sea urchins, fossils and litter!

WE GO ROCKPOOLING AND PLAY STICKY LIMPITS, PLUS SO MUCH MORE!



Sticky Limpets

As Robin said: "We all enjoyed

Music Lessons begin at Laleham Gap

Students and staff were treated to a musical feast during a special assembly this term. Mrs Gaunt, who is passionate about music in schools, invited locally-based music company, Andrew Parry Music, to come and talk to Laleham Gap students about music lessons. Needless to say, the musician/teachers, led by Andrew, were not content to just talk. Not when they could play as well!

They delivered two assemblies, one for secondary and one for primary, in which they demonstrated a range of different instruments before explaining how music lessons work.



Laleham Gap students showed their enthusiasm by asking some interesting questions during the Q and A session before making some even more interesting requests, which Andrew and his band were happy to meet.

The secondary assembly ended with Alex, a keen guitarist from Year 11, being invited up on stage to jam with the band. Both assemblies were hugely enjoyable and left us all buzzing.

Following this, many students and their parents/carers expressed an interest in taking lessons. As a result, music has returned to Laleham Gap with students participating in drum, guitar, bass, keyboard and singing lessons with Patrick and Edward, from Andrew Parry Music. Some of these are group sessions and some individual.

Mrs Gaunt is committed to the principal of providing music in schools and she has big plans to develop music still further at Laleham Gap. Watch this space! In the meantime, please contact Mrs Gaunt if you would like to know more about music at Laleham Gap or if you want to book lessons.



Students listen to demonstrations on clarinet and guitar

Which instrument will you learn to play?



Courtesy: Pixabay



Kingsdown camping challenge

On 14th and 15th September, Mr Lithman, Miss Baker, Mr Channabai and Mr Cramp took a small group of secondary students on a walking challenge which included an overnight camp at Kingsdown Campsite. Mr Lithman later told staff that he was impressed with the way the boys responded to the challenges presented by both the walk and the overnight stay. Read on to find out what Kai and William had to say about the adventure.



Above Langdon Bay

Day 1

We went across the Dover cliffs and stopped at a lighthouse for something to eat and carried on hiking to the beach then had lunch and walked to the camp site in Kingsdown. We set up our tents and explored the campsite. We found 2 fire pits, the showers and the woods. We set up in a little walled off area. We learned how to whittle the bark of sticks and to light a fire and we stayed up till 9:00 till we finally got to sleep.

Day 2

Everyone woke up early apart from me. I woke up to the ruckus of sticks whacking against each other. Someone was making a catapult with logs and failed so we all got ready for the day. We had a fry up and after we took down the tents and went off to Deal castle. We stopped to have something to eat and went to the pier and had lunch and ice cream. Then we walked to a golf club and went to the school and arrived at 2:45pm.

by William

We left school in the morning at 10 o'clock to go on a walking/camping trip to Kingsdown.

On the trip was Alex, Tom, William, James and me. We took the minibus to Walmer near the castle and we walked to the lighthouse in Dover and walked by the sea and up the biggest flight of stairs I have ever seen. We stopped there for lunch. We carried on walking in the afternoon and arrived at the campsite.

I shared a tent with James and Alex. We put our tent up and James did most of the work. We set the beds up but it was uncomfortable. We had curry for tea which was good. We made a fire with the sticks we had collected and sat using a knife to make things out of the sticks. Everyone had hot chocolate apart from me because I can't have dairy products. When we went to bed everyone was laughing. Tom tried to get William out of the tent to sleep outside. The others fell asleep and James, Alex and me were chatty.

I woke about six in the morning. It was absolutely freezing. We were still wearing what we had on yesterday. We had bacon, sausage, beans and eggs for breakfast. I only had bacon and sausage. William and I walked down to meet Tom who was trying to make a catapult out of sticks. We took all the tents. At 10 am we walked back towards Walmer. We went past a golf course. We had a good time.

by Kai



Kingsdown to Walmer

Tigers in Tesco

As part of the plan to teach our young people how to be confident in public, as well as understanding more about their environment, Tiger Class visited a local Tesco supermarket where they heard how the food they eat arrives on the shelves. The visit was also aimed at developing pupils' road safety awareness, a topic we continue to focus on at Laleham Gap.



Mr Ursull and Tigers learn about fishmongery

Student Spotlight



<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/luna-moth/>

Evelyn

Interview by Ellie

Ellie: What did you do that was special this week, Evelyn?

Evelyn: I bought in a Luna Moth.

Ellie: Can you tell me what is so special about your moth?

Evelyn: It has green wings. It was a caterpillar and a cocoon.

Ellie: How did you bring it in?

Evelyn: It was in a circular container.

Ellie: Did it look funny?

Evelyn: Yes. It looked like a fish. Yes.

Ellie: Thank you for talking to me today, Evelyn. It was very interesting.

This is the first in a series of interviews Ellie will be conducting with pupils from Primary. Her brief is to report on pupils who have done something special.
See page 13 for the next in the series.

Viking challenge for Children in Need

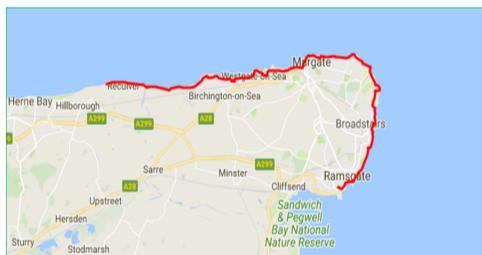
By Mrs McLaren



The wind and the rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of this intrepid trio of staff from Laleham Gap to raise money for Children in Need. At 9am on 11th November, Miss Aherne, Mrs Boyes and Mrs McLaren set out to complete the twenty mile walk from the Viking Ship at Cliffsend to Reculver Towers.

We met some interesting and unusual creatures en route, including an Italian Spinone dog and a white squirrel.

We passed through Viking Bay Botany Bay, Kingsgate ...



The Viking Trail

Mrs McLaren takes up the story: "It was raining at first as we walked our first mile to Pegwell Bay.



We met a big fan of Pudsey at Margate."



Continued on Page 7

Search is on for Young Chef of the Year

By Rachel

The annual secondary cookery competition to find the Young Chef of the Year has begun. Semi-finalists have been chosen and are already in training for the finals next term.

Miss Johnson said, "although the finalists are top secret, the competition is very, very tight this year. Everyone has worked extra hard and showed us their fantastic cooking ability."



Christmas cake made by student

Winner to be announced in Spring Issue, plus mouthwatering pics!

Supporting Crossroads School, Uganda

By Mr Payne

Global Challenge UK (GCUK) is a registered charity that has been working in Soroti in Uganda for the past decade. It funds and helps to run Crossroads School as well as providing support for many local children in the Soroti District. Its aim is to provide the best education to the poorest children of Uganda. As well as education, GCUK is also committed to healthcare, providing funding for medicine and operations that are needed in the area.



Soroti District

At least once a year, the charity sends a team of specialist staff including speech and language therapists and experienced teachers to meet with school leaders and parents to run workshops and raise awareness of issues relating to ASD and SLCN.



One of the reasons, we at Laleham Gap are keen to support this project, is because of the work GCUK does in raising awareness of the needs of children on the autism spectrum or who experience speech and language difficulties.

Last year each of the headteachers in East Kent met to make a pledge to raise money for GCUK. Laleham Gap took part in several of these fundraisers, including a 5-a-side football tournament and a quiz hosted at St. Georges Secondary. Together, we have raised over £32,000 to go towards the new building in the Soroti District.

POPPY Appeal



Miss AHERNE and Harry would like to thank everyone at Laleham Gap who supported this year's POPPY Appeal.

Stop PRESS



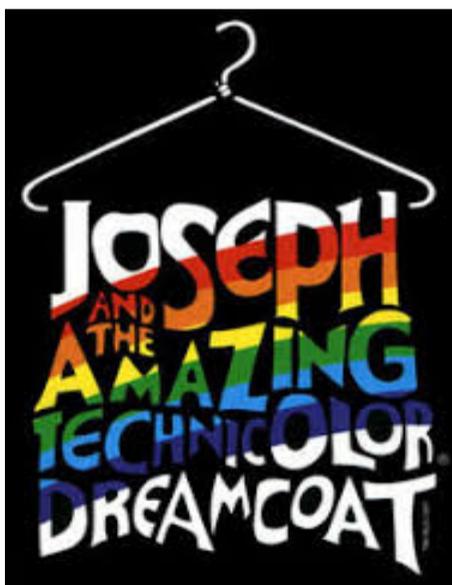
I am pleased to announce that the school has successfully begun its journey towards *Artsmark*. Over the course of the next 2 years we will be planning and implementing a programme of arts activities and events, including an *Artsweek*, before we submit our case study to *Artsmark*. Watch this space for more information as the programme evolves and develops ...

By Miss Bowen



Monday 22nd January 2018

As part of the *Learning to Learn* unit on the Holocaust, Mr Parkin and Year 9 students will visit the *Holocaust Exhibition* at the *Imperial War Museum*.



6th, 7th & 8th February, 2018

It's official! Laleham Gap Drama Club, under the acclaimed direction of Mr Clements, is to stage the much-loved Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice classic: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Rehearsals are underway - posters are being printed - Joseph has tried on the coat!

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

By Mrs Morphy

The ACE students and Girls Group have supported the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal this term. Gifts are donated to the Salvation Army and are passed on to children and their families who are less fortunate than ourselves.

At the beginning of November, a staff raffle was held to raise money to allow the Ace team to take the students shopping for presents. Staff were very generous and we raised a total £65. We then went shopping!

On a wet and windy Tuesday, the Ace group walked to Poundland and, with an allocated budget per student and a list of possible gift ideas, the students did their shopping. We had previously walked with the Girls Group on Monday, it was a much drier journey!



Shopping for others



Learning about the work of the Salvation Army

The students made very careful and thoughtful choices; lots of colouring and activity books, paints, games, colouring pens and pencils, warm fluffy socks and swords filled their baskets.

During the following week, the students wrapped and labelled the presents stating gender and age group.

On Tuesday 28th November, Richard Oliver from the Salvation Army came to Laleham and spoke to the ACE Students about the work of the Salvation Army and how they help people, especially at Christmas. Mr Oliver was overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity that we had shown and took away a huge box of presents to give away.

Ace supports the Salvation Army

By Ellie

I found out that the Salvation Army is a 'Christian movement and an international charitable organisation'. We are supporting their Christmas appeal.

In ace we joined the charity to help children who don't normally get presents because some people that come from abroad to our country come here with no money and no furniture.

Our teacher is Mrs Moody and she told us we were going to poundland in Westwood. We got books, coloured pencils, dolls, accessories, for school and hairbands, etc. When we got them the next week we wrapped presents in wrapping paper and put them under a mini Christmas tree. Also we got to help the man [from the Salvation Army] that came to collect the presents and we either got to put 2 or 3 presents into the box.



Packed Lunch Survey

By Ted

Following Rachel's study of student response to school dinners, Ted decided to survey student opinion on packed lunches.

I began with finding out why people have a packed lunch. Answers were similar and focused on the freedom and control of what to eat. As one student said, "it is guaranteed that you have food that you like."

My next question asked how many people's lunchboxes have sandwiches in them. I found out that the majority of packed lunches include sandwiches (7/9). I also asked what people have in their sandwiches if they do have one in their lunchbox. My survey showed that popular fillings were ham, chicken and cheese.



Courtesy: Pixabay.com

I went on to ask about food in peoples' lunchboxes that they're not happy about. 9 out of 11 students said they liked everything in their lunchbox. One person was not happy with roast chicken and the other person did not like fruit, sandwiches, strawberries

I also found out that the majority of students like fruit as their favourite food but some like it as their least and bananas were the fruit students dislike most and soft apples.



Courtesy: Pixabay.com

I asked a question about the type of food that people like in their lunchbox – sweet or savoury? Most students described food in their lunchbox as savoury.

I also asked if people vary their lunchbox or not and why. Answers included, "it depends on what I have in the fridge at home." "I have different food each day." "I vary as some food I have daily is boring."

My next question was about drinks. I asked what drinks are in peoples' lunchboxes. The majority of students have apple juice and water.

Answers to my question about whether their packed lunch will help them through their adulthood included, "I have the right kind of food I need for my packed lunch." "It's healthy and good for me." "It can make you strong." Most students find their lunches healthy.



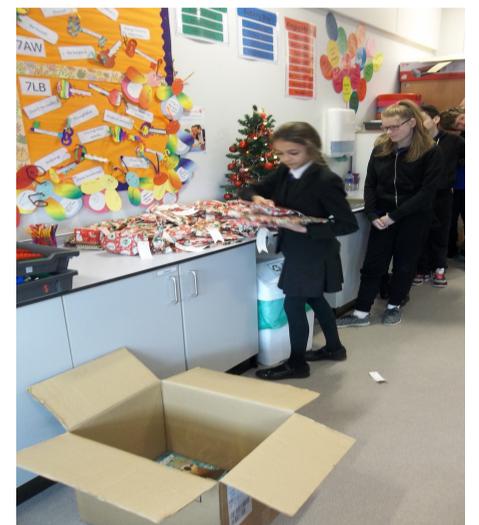
Courtesy: Pixabay.com

Preparing Christmas donations

Continued from Page 6



wrapping presents



Putting presents into collection box

Children in Need Viking Challenge

Continued from Page 5



"We stop to rattle our bucket outside the Turner Contemporary Art Gallery in Margate .



Are we there yet?

At last we can see our final destination, Reculver Towers!



Look! Look! We can see it.

Almost there now, we begin to sing, *Show us the way to go home. We're tired and we want to go to bed.*



We've done it!

FINISH @ 4:30 pm: 20 miles, almost 50,000 steps and 7 hours later - a very worthy cause to raise money for the BBC Children in Need!!!!



Polite Reminder

School Dinner Money is due on *Mondays*
£2.20 per day or £11.00 per week

It's never too late to donate!



Check out our *Spring Issue* to find out the final figure raised by our fabulous walkers

Science Museum Thrill



Wonderlab at the Science Museum

On 7th December, the secondary science department took Year 9 students to spend the day at the Science Museum. It was a long but exciting day with students getting the chance to take part in an extraordinary live show. Mr O'Brien said the students thoroughly enjoyed the science and were thrilled with what they saw and learned. As always, the science department enabled the students the opportunity to marvel at the wonder of science.

"Inspired by power of wondering, Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery enriches learning across the curriculum themes of Forces, Electricity, Light, Sound, Matter, Space and Maths ..."

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Science Christmas Fair

Monday 11th December 2017

The Secondary Science department are planning a Christmas fair. Members of staff have been busy working with Year 9s, making 'crafty' gifts to sell to raise money for Children in Need. Sewing machines have been heard whirring and Miss Farrell has been seen entering her lab carrying large sprigs of eucalyptus and other foliage.

Other fund-raising ideas they have include 'Wear your Christmas jumper for a £1'.

Find out how much they raise in our *Spring Issue* - and who wore the craziest jumper!



Courtesy: Pixabay.com

Doing science at Reculver



Exploring the shoreline and cliffs



Wind power



Taking samples



Experts explain



Hands-on learning



Investigating habitats



Year 8s
Science Trip to
Reculver
26th September 2017

Year 10 Careers Fair

By Rachel

On the 7th November, we went on a trip to a careers fair on the other side of Westwood Cross.

There were many colleges and universities there as well as employers and people offering apprenticeships. The Global Generation church where the event was held was split up into the following areas: hospitality; tourism; non-guild; sciences; creative media; transition; financial services; engineering;

healthcare and land based construction.

I thought it was brilliant fun. I got to tile a wall and was mistaken for a Year 12 by a University of Kent stall. I would have needed at least two days to see everything I wanted to see.

Most importantly, though, was the Year 10s got plenty of inspiration for future careers and possible work experience for Year 11.

Year 11 Work Experience

By Rachel

We recently had an assembly in which Mr Parkin presented lots of information about Year 11s Work Experience. I decided to find out more and set off to interview some Year 11s.

I began with Amy, who told me that she had worked at Sidney Cooper Gallery where her duties included cleaning, painting, showing artwork and painting a wooden chair. She enjoyed everything about it although she found cleaning paint stains off the floor challenging.

I then put the same questions to Alfie who told me that he had worked from 8am to 4.30pm for

Jackson fencing in the automation department that wired fences. He enjoyed the regular breaks but found the heavy lifting the most challenging.

Next, I went and found Mr Parkin to find out more about the purpose of Work Experience. He told me that "a work placement gives our young people a chance to experience the real world of work in a safe and managed way. For many this will be the very first small step into working with others, and being an employee."

He went on to say that "Using your work placement as a taster of a job you are interested in can be a brilliant way of seeing whether that job might be right for you." He finished by telling me that "you never know, you might be offered a job at the end of it."

WORK
Experience

English reward trips to cinema

By Rachel

Students' hard work in English was rewarded this term with three visits to the cinema. First to be treated were Years 7 & 8, who went to see 'Sing' at the Vue Cinema at Westwood Cross.

The next reward was for Year 10 who went to see 'Their Finest Hour', also at the Vue in Westwood Cross.

Years 9 and 11 waited until Friday 17th November for their treat, when they went also to the The Palace Cinema, Broadstairs to see 'A Monster Calls.'



Sing: a review

By Ellie



When I went to go and watch sing it was all about this koala and lizard who try to save the theatre with a singing competition. The animals who

made it came to try their hardest and to win the \$100,000 and the point of the story is [that] it is not about the money or [if the] show goes perfect even. The show failed is the point. It is all about having a go. Even if we make mistakes we can have go.

Their Finest Hour: a review

By Rachel



This is a film about some people making a film. A woman struggling to make ends meet gets a job writing scripts for a film to raise morale in World War Two. This film follows the making of the film about the evacuation of Dunkirk from writing to the cinema.

Good bits: at times it is very funny. The film they make, 'Dunkirk', is good. Making a film about a film, however, blew my mind a bit. The film paints quite an accurate and very interesting portrait of Britain in World War Two.

Bad bits: The sickening romance; at times it was a bit slow and it was overall too long and waffly.

I rate this film:

7/10



Courtesy: Pixabay.com

Laleham Gap Students Join Challenger Troop

"Our programmes are challenging yet exciting and inspiring; designed to build resilience, respect, courage, loyalty and integrity. We instil self-discipline, raise confidence and aspirations whilst creating a sense of individual pride, self-worth and fulfilment"

Look out for some amazing photos in Spring Issue!





Word from the Residence

By Pauline

On the residence this term we have all been active going swimming nearly every week.

Caleb has started karate and should be able to do his orange belt in the new year. William and Caleb have been practising their guitar skills.



For Halloween, we all carved out some pumpkins and told ghostly stories around the dinner table.



Pumpkin prep.

We have also been to the cinema to see some good films, and Alex and Caleb have been practising their cooking skills for a school competition.



Cooking practice

William designed a play den and all the residents have supported each other in building and painting it.



Carpentry skills

Re-start a Heart Day 2017

By Mrs Peppin



On Wednesday 10th October, Secondary students took part in the British Heart Foundation's Re-start a Heart campaign, The strapline, Help us to train the nation in life saving CPR skills, sums up the purpose of the campaign. Representatives from BHF are going into schools to train students in life-saving skills of CPR.



We practised CPR for a patient that is not breathing.

According to the BHF website, they have trained 195,000 young people across the UK in these vital life-saving skills. Laleham Gap was really pleased to include our students in this important project.



Learning CPR

As a result of taking part in the Start a Heart sessions, Laleham Gap has been sent a free CPR kit to keep in school.



We practised the recovery position for a patient that is breathing but unconscious.



CPR Kit

Maths Lego Challenge

By Miss Care

On the 12th October Year 9 took part in a Lego Challenge with the Medway Educational Business Partnership.

as possible. It was a very close contest with some well thought out designs. Special mention to the ACE group who worked really well as a team and were creative with their approach to the challenge. The overall winners were Noah, Tom and Adam C.

In small teams of 3/4, students were given plans of a Lego building from which they had to calculate the number of different bricks used to build the house and to work out the cost of building it.

It was a really enjoyable day, great to see good teamwork, patience and creative designs to practical problem solving.

Once familiar with the bricks available and their cost, students had to design their own building to a budget of £100 incorporating a door and two windows. Once they had planned, costed and drawn a plan, front and side elevation of their design, they could purchase the bricks and build their model. Models had to be true to the plans and as close to the £100 budget



Lego Challenge display

It's Back!

The Laleham Gap secondary Talent Show
Tuesday 19th December

Politics 4 us



Houses of Parliament
Courtesy: theguardian.co.uk

by Rachel

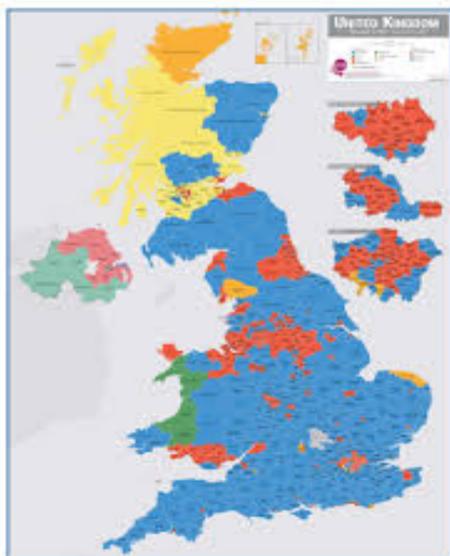
The government has set out proposals for big constituency boundary changes that will see the House of Commons reduce the number of its MPs from 650 to 600.

The changes that will be finalised in 2018 will see England lose 32 constituencies, Wales will lose 11, Scotland will lose 6 and Northern Ireland will lose 1.

The government is changing the constituencies to try to make them more even. At the moment some constituencies are very large and some are very small. The boundary changes will make them more balanced in size meaning that each voter up and down the country will have a vote that is worth about the same.

Constituency: an area of voters that elect a Member of Parliament.

Map showing UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries



Courtesy: mapsinternational.co.uk

Spotlight on KCC Cabinet Member



On the 16th November 2017 the Kent County Councillor for Children, Young People and Education, Roger Gough, came to Laleham Gap School to conduct an informal visit, and I was given the opportunity to interview him.

I started off by asking him about the nature of his position and he said the he is 'the political lead of his cabinet' and that his job involves working with government to secure funding to help create new and better places, he also is involved in implementing the new Education Health Care Plans (or EHCP's).

Next I asked him what drew him to study Politics at Oxford and where it began, he replied that his mother was interested in politics when he was a child growing up and that he was always enjoyed history at school and that his teacher said "the PPE [Philosophy, Politics and Economics] is designed for you".

I moved on to ask him about his take on mental health issues, following my correspondence with my local MP Helen Watley (who is the chair of the all-party group for Mental Health). He explained his concerns for young people's mental health and went on to talk about his party's position in more detail.

I completed my interview with a question about his views on Brexit. In particular, I asked him how he would describe the current political climate surrounding Brexit. He joked about it being a Jeremy Paxman style question before confirming that the issue was complex.

At the end of the visit, Cllr Gough said, "it was a pleasure to visit and I'm deeply impressed by the school and its work." To which Mr Milton replied, "Thank you for taking the time to visit. We appreciate your support and help in developing our school site."



MPs debate restraint rules for children

By Rachel

MPs will have the opportunity to change the law that allows the use of restraint on children and young people in mental health hospitals.

The National Autistic Society says that practices like face down restraint can be very distressing and in extreme cases it can lead to serious physical injury.

On Friday 3rd November 2017, which MPs usually spend in their constituencies, the Mental Health Unit's Use of Force Bill will be debated and voted on by MPs.



Courtesy: autism.org.uk

The Awakening

**The story
so far...**

By Hannah

Emma is distraught. She's recently witnessed the death of friends, Ray and Natsu, and has since been interrogated by the fierce, possibly maniacal, Stacey, member of the legendary Cyther family. Meanwhile, the necklace of fire is throbbing and someone is watching Violet, who Emma has accused of murdering her friends.

Chapter Three

"They think I'm responsible for my girlfriend's murder!" Emma raised her tone at her mother, Amelia, who stood in front of her, arms folded. She stood by Stacey who brought her into her hut after the funeral of Natsu and Ray. Amelia had ginger hair, green eyes and a gentle smile. She was slightly taller than Stacey but her hair was longer than hers.

"Why would I kill her?! It was Violet, I tell you! VIOLET!"

"I know you're shattered by the news but don't raise your voice at me!" Amelia scolded her daughter.

Emma got up, grasped hold of a glass cup and threw it across the room with antagonism. Her ruby was still pulsating with heat but now, her blood felt hotter than ever. Amelia looked startled as the glass smashed into shards across the floor whilst Stacey didn't even flinch. Emma's eyebrows were tugged together as anger and warmth filled her up.

"I can't stand it ANYMORE!" she yelled and stormed out of the hut, leaving Stacey and Amelia alone. Amelia quickly glanced at Stacey, scandalised by her daughter's actions. Her hands were shaking, her palms sweaty.

Emma grabbed hold of her prosthetic arm and held it in her right arm. She sat outside in the middle of the night.

The sky was filled with stars but from her point of view, it looked blurry by the tears which ran down her eyes with frustration. And anger.

"Emma?"

She turned around to see a boy with shaggy brown hair, hazel eyes, tanned skin with the United Curses logo on his black tank top on the back with the grey denim jeans which were torn by the knees. What was odd was that he wasn't wearing any shoes.

"Todd?" she asked as he sat down next to her.

"I heard about Natsu and Ray," Todd frowned. "I'm sorry."

Her lip trembled as the disturbing thought of Ray's dead body, lying on the cave floor, limp with the necklace around her neck occurred.

"I really am..."

"Its fine, Todd."

"Lawrence Anne Holloway," she said. "Age: 19. Gender: Female. Date of birth: 31st March 1998."

She leaned close to the injured Lawrence and pressed her index and middle finger together and placed them onto her neck. Her fingers were stone cold. She held her fingers there and removed them then wrote down something. Most likely that she was reading her beats per minute.

"Okay. Her heart rate: 75. Normal." she stopped and squatted, staring into Lawrence's eyes intensely. Lawrence knew she was not going to help her. She was just keeping records of her. Lawrence scowled at her.

"Steven, grab the syringe," she commanded and a male who was wearing clad black passed her a needle and she held a flask which contained a liquid substance in it.

"What are you doing?" she questioned as the woman dipped the needle in the flask and pulled back the plunger, letting the liquid flow into the barrel.

No response apart from concentration on the injection.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!" Lawrence yelled at her.

She placed her hand onto the sixteen year-old's neck, spreading her index finger away from the rest of them and placed it next to her thumb, as if she was going to pull out an arrow from the target.

"Stay still." she whispered into her ear. She removed it and placed her hand onto Lawrence's cheekbone. "That's a good girl."

Lawrence stiffened as she hissed her words at her.

"What did you inject into me?" Lawrence asked.

"Full of questions now, aren't you." she sniggered. "You'll find out."

Calling all artists!

Book cover
needed.

Contact:
Hannah, Yr 10

TO BE CONTINUED ...

Predator : a short story by Sonny

Sprinting, you ran faster than a buffalo separated from its herd. The wind rushed past your face, your hair whipped across your neck.

Your hood, the little red riding hood, seized against the back of your head as the cold air of a winter's night struck it. You ran for what seemed like miles, only to realise you were lost in the cold, silent, but very much not-alone, woods.

Too bad you were not wearing any shoes. I only tracked you by the scent of your blood. Your feet full of brambles and sticks, covered in blood.

If you hadn't fallen in the ditch you might have been safe. But you were too slow. I ended you quickly. You didn't even feel my teeth sink into your neck.



Courtesy: Pixabay

Dear Future Self: a poem by Errin

First off, how are you doing?
I hope you are doing well.

I hope you are achieving your goals.
I hope you become who you wish to become,
and not someone who just wants to fit in.

I hope you are still being creative for that matter.
Please never give up. Continue to move on.

Your dream is to become a photographer.
Have you accomplished it yet?
If not, I hope you're working your hardest.

Have you taken time to relax and enjoy life?
Not everything in life needs to be stressful.
I hope you remember that, future self.

Lastly, are you happy?
I hope you really are.
Remember to live, enjoy life, and to regret nothing.

From the past you.

22nd November, 2017

**Want YOUR WORK published in
our next issue? What are you
waiting for - get writing!**

Student Spotlight



Courtesy: Pixabay

Oscar, Isaac and Robin

Interview by Ellie

Ellie: What have you done that is special?

Boys: We have made some pots for Christmas at Pottery Club; and I was a rock pool tide monitor.

Ellie: What classes are you in ?

Boys: We are in Jaguars, Bobcats and Tigers.

Ellie: What is your favourite bit of the day?

Boys: We like making things, doing IT and maths.

Ellie: What are your hobbies?

Boys: We like spinning, running around, swimming, playing football. Many things.

Ellie: If you could have three wishes for Laleham Gap, what would they be?

Boys: 1. Toys like Trackmaster Hurricane; 2. felt tip pens and pencils; 3. more swings and a maze where the teachers have to look for the children.

Ellie: Thank you Oscar, Isaac and Robin for talking to me today.

Happy Horoscopes

By Amy

											
<p>Sagittarius: Your days will be completely mischievous for Sagittarius', so be as mischief as you can! The colour is red and the song shall be 'I Gotta Feeling' by The Black Eyed Pea.</p>	<p>Leo: It will be completely calm for your days for Leo's, so don't get too excited. The colour will be orange and the song shall be 'Say you won't Let Go' by James Arthur.</p>	<p>Aries: For Aries', your days will feel completely sleepy. So grab a pillow and relax. The colour will be yellow and the song shall be 'The Lazy Song' by Bruno Mars.</p>	<p>Taurus: Oh Taurus'. Your days will be lots of fun for you, so make sure to have fun with each other. The colour is pink and the song shall be 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams.</p>	<p>Pisces: Pisces, your days will be involved with water, so why not have a swim in the pool? The colour will be blue and the song shall be 'Cold Water' by Justin Bieber.</p>	<p>Virgo: Your days, Virgo's, will be full of enjoying other people's company. The colour is purple and the song shall be 'Closer' by Chainsmokers.</p>	<p>Capricorn: For dear Capricorns, your days will go very smoothly and chill, so try and be cool. The colour is grey and the song shall be 'Uptown Funk' by Mark Ronson.</p>	<p>Gemini: Gemini's, your days are full of greatness, so make sure you feel inspired of yourself. The colour is violet and the song shall be 'The Greatest' by Sia.</p>	<p>Libra: Your days are involved with being wise, so make sure to choose the right path. The colour is green and the song shall be 'Only Human' by Rag 'n' Bone Man.</p>	<p>Cancer: For Cancer's, your days are full of surprises. So be prepared for what might pop up. The colour is peach and the song shall be 'Want to Want Me' by Jason Derulo.</p>	<p>Aquarius: Apuarius', your days are full of love and passion. You might find the love of your life. The colour is matte pink and the song shall be 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran.</p>	<p>Scorpio: Scorpio's days will be full of action, so make sure you get ready for some crazy days. The colour is indigo and the song shall be 'Run This Town' by Rihanna.</p>

I say
I say
I say ...

Ethan Entertains...

Summer maze solution

Why is a dog's nose in the middle of its face?

How do fish get to school?

What did one maths book say to the other?

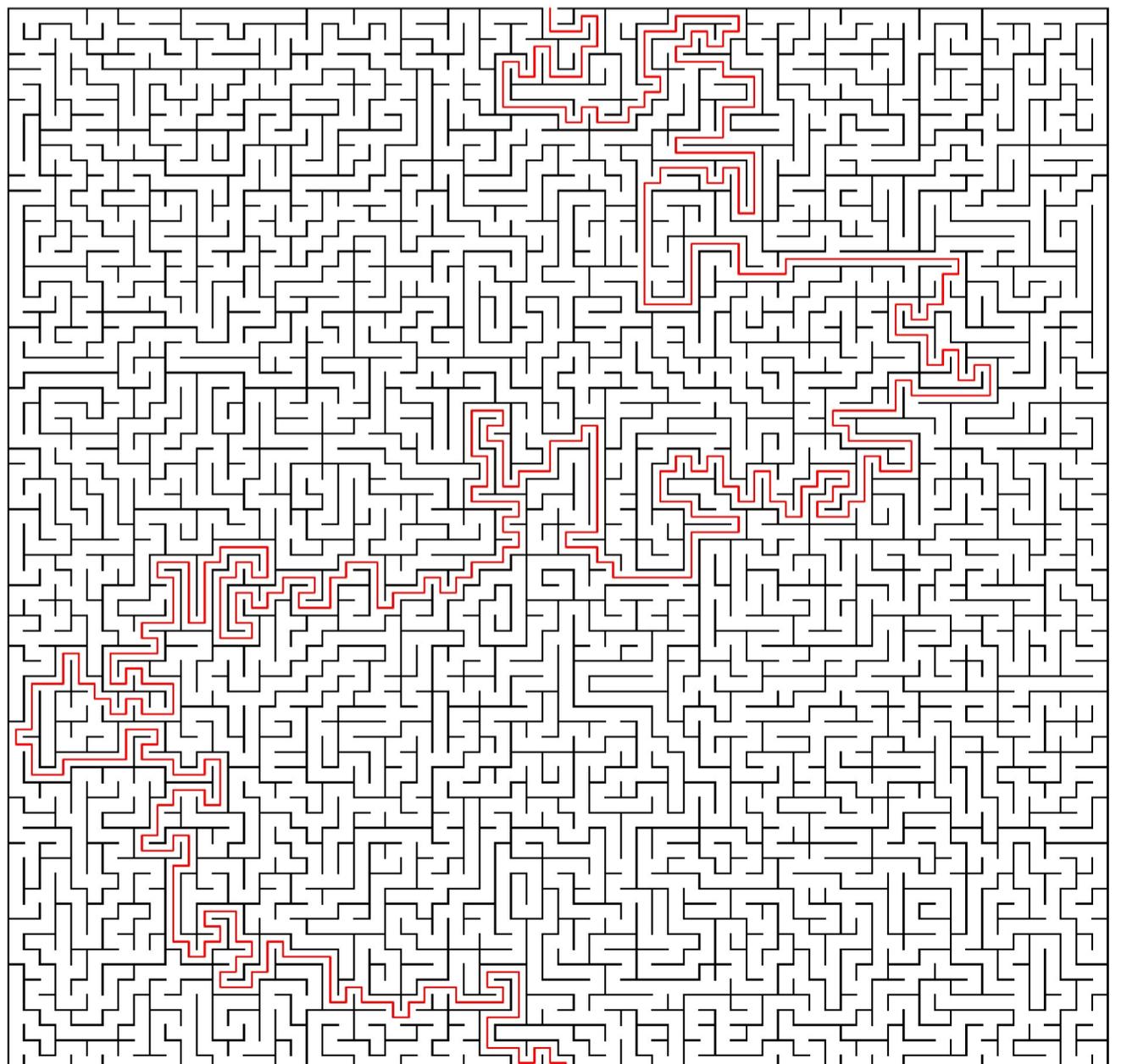
Why do bald-headed men never use keys?

How do you do long division?

What do you call a fake noodle?

What does a baby computer call its father?

What's the difference between a piano and a fish?





Play begins ...

Continued from Page 1



Official opening by representatives from Wooden Spoon Charity

Football Tournament Success

A huge congratulations is due to Laleham Gap footballers who enjoyed success at the latest Kent School League Tournament. On 19th October, two teams travelled to K-Sport in Maidstone to take part in the first of five tournaments. The Year 11 team won and the Mixed Team (Years 8, 9 & 10) came third. We look forward to watching their progress through the series. Well done lads!



"Centred on the 28 acre Cobdown sports ground in Kent, K Sports' unique mission and value is that it increases participation in a range of sports, fostering and encouraging excellence, along with supporting academic achievement and vocational learning."

<http://ksports.co.uk/>



Keeping fit and having fun in outdoor gym

Continued from Page 1



Laleham Gap Gym is now open to Secondary students:

- before morning registration
- morning break
- lunchtime



DATES FOR YOUR diary

Tuesday 19th December

- Last day of term for students

Thursday 4th January

- Students return for Term 3

Friday 9th February

- End of Term 3

Monday 19th February

- Students return for Term 4

Thursday 29th March

- End of Term 4



Courtesy: Pixabay.com

**Happy New Year
from everyone at
Laleham-Gap School**



Courtesy: Pixabay.com