



# Laleham Gap School

Learning, Growing, Succeeding - Together!



December 2020

Special Issue

## *The show went on ...*



*There's no place like home*

The old saying, that ignorance is bliss, couldn't be more true for the cast and audience of the annual secondary musical. As always, the performances provided much fun and laughter, and a good helping of memorable moments ... little did any of us know that the world was about to change in a way we could never have imagined. Life at Laleham Gap and beyond was to be turned on its head.

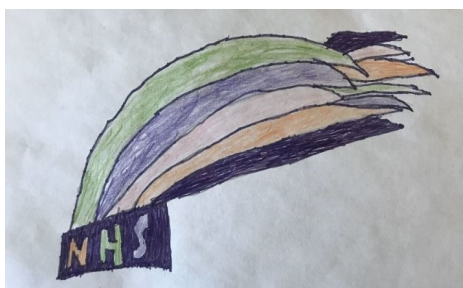
At times this has been overwhelming, not least as we witness daily the dreadful impact Covid 19 continues to have on people's lives. But, as another well-known saying goes, 'the show must go on', and indeed at Laleham Gap

that is exactly what has been happening.

As spring gave way to summer, and autumn to winter, we have come together to laugh, cry, learn, mourn, and for every one of us at Laleham Gap, to discover new ways of doing things.

This Special Issue of the LGS Newspaper invites you to share the highs and lows of our journey through 2020.

*Ed.*



## **LALEHAM GAP VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT**

*Bringing festive cheer!*



*Rocking around the Christmas Tree*

## **What's Inside: The Laleham Gap Journey 2020**





## Interview with Headteacher

By Chloe W. & Pippa B.

**Chloe & Pippa:** What is it like being a headteacher?

**Mr Milton:** Great, it's the best job I can imagine. It's a pleasure to work at Laleham Gap School. It's great to be part of a fabulous team.

**Chloe & Pippa:** Is your job fun?

**Mr Milton:** Yes - but not all the time. Like any job there are bits that I do not enjoy, but I have to do the whole job, not just the bits I like.

**Chloe & Pippa:** Can your job get stressful at times if so how much?

**Mr Milton:** As a leader, I take on the responsibility and I am aware at times it is going to be stressful. I have to manage my stress, so when the amount of stress increases I do more things to reduce my stress level (Poppy, my dog, has never walked so many miles!)

**Chloe & Pippa:** What was it like re-opening the school during the Covid lockdown?

**Mr Milton:** We stayed open all the time, sometimes only for a few children. I found it really worrying as I want everyone to be as safe as possible. This is a health crisis and as teachers, we have had to make the decisions on running the school.

**Chloe & Pippa:** What did you do to be safe during the lockdown?

**Mr Milton:** I mainly worked, it has been the busiest time of my working life, but I do play with my children, walk with Poppy and feed the chickens.

**Chloe & Pippa:** What are your plans going into 2021?

**Mr Milton:** To keep going. When a job is tough the important thing is to stay focused and be productive. I don't want this academic year to only be remembered for COVID19, I want to keep the bigger plans moving forward as well. I want the quality of learning and our school grounds to continue to improve.

## Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, what a year. This has been a great reminder that none of us know what challenges we will need to overcome in the new year. This year has highlighted the importance for us all to care for each other, for us all to think about how we can affect each other and most importantly how we must unite in our love and affection for each other.

I want to thank all staff, pupils and you - the families - for doing all that you have to make this year as good as it has been. I hope you have a merry Christmas and happy new year. Please stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

Best Wishes  
Les Milton



## News from the Student Council

By Mrs Schroepfer

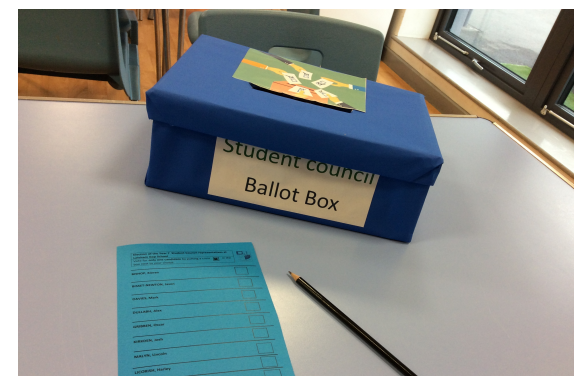
The Council meet once a month to discuss how to improve the Student Experience at Laleham Gap. This was especially valuable during the first National Lockdown when our Councillors played a crucial role in bringing the LGS community together.

This year's Council are focusing on maintaining Wellbeing despite the necessary restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. They suggested the outline for our festive Wellbeing Day which consisted of a variety of safe activities to do in our respective bubbles as well as the considerate idea of sending every pupil from Reception to Year 12 a festive care package to support those isolating. The Wellbeing Staff kindly adopted the exhausting role of Christmas elves to purchase, make and assemble over 220 beautiful festive packages!

Mr Milton and the governors are currently reviewing the Council's plans for improving our outdoor areas. As exercise and fresh air both support staff and student wellbeing, we excitedly await the governors' response to the Council's suggestions which promote sport and sensory play.

In the meantime, please share any ideas or concerns for the Council by emailing:

[Student.Council@lgs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Student.Council@lgs.kent.sch.uk)



See Pages 7-10 for more Student Council news



## Rights Respecting School in record time

By Mr Ursell



Student Council members (2019-20) reveal new banner

Laleham Gap School has entered the new decade in celebratory mood, having received great news. All its hard work on educating pupils on human rights has paid off. That was because the school has been officially recognised by UNICEF as a Rights Respecting School at Silver Level.

Particularly pleasing was that having been awarded Bronze Level in double quick time the school has also achieved Silver quicker than the advised time too, due to its comprehensive evidence.

The assessment panel were extremely impressed with the extent of knowledge and understanding of rights on a global and local scale demonstrated by parents and children and the new school charter developed around meaningful celebrations of a variety of cultural events. On its current trajectory we are confident that Laleham Gap will achieve Gold within the next two years.

The school is now proudly displaying a banner celebrating this achievement. At the unveiling of the banner the school's Rights Respecting Schools Award Leader Mr Joshua Payne said "I am so proud of the children and the school. The understanding of not just rights but responsibilities too is growing and permeates the fabric of the school. It is really adding understanding and confidence in our children that is great to witness."

Headteacher, Mr Les Milton, commented, "It fits totally with the ethos of our school. You can see this in our new school charter and the centre stage our school council now takes within the school. It is vital to celebrate and develop an understanding of rights and responsibilities. It is a key part of every child's education to know this, and particularly our children. I am proud our success at doing this is being recognised."

## Staff Spotlight



Mr Welsh  
Head of PE

### Interview by Lewis

**Lewis:** How long have you been a teacher?

**Mr Welsh:** I've been a teacher for 18 years and before that I used to work in a Further Education college.

**Lewis:** Have you always been a teacher?

**Mr Welsh:** Not always, I had quite a few jobs before I became a teacher. My first ever job was working on a building site with my uncle. My second job was in a builder's merchants, where builders used to come in to get all the materials to build things. My next job was working in a pub where I used to serve people drinks. My final job before becoming a teacher was working with physically disabled adults and I used to go to work with them to help them complete their jobs.

Continued on Page 6



Courtesy of: [unicef.co.uk](http://unicef.co.uk)



## Off to see the wizard ...



## Spellbound!

By Miss Sanders

Laleham Gap School's production of *The Wizard of Oz* was a huge success. The lead line up of talented actors, who brought the well-known characters to life were Ellie C. playing leading lady Dorothy, Ellis H. as the Tin Man, Ted T. as the Scarecrow and Harvey W., the Lion - and not forgetting Toto, the adorable dog, convincingly played by Asya C.

The Good Fairy was played by Eliana M.B. who was everything a good fairy should be and was an excellent match to the cackling Wicked Witch of the West played wickedly by Dora E. Luke J. played the hapless Wizard, who wasn't a wizard at all. The all-singing, all-dancing production was brilliantly narrated, with excellent comedy timing, by Ben S. and Jake A.

A multi-talented chorus of mixed year groups filled the show with fun company numbers and played various roles including munchkins, citizens of Oz and talking trees!

These young people were non-stop singing and acting while they were on stage and seemed to enjoy every minute of their performance which was exceptional.

The whole production, directed by Mr. Clements (supported by his dedicated team of staff volunteers), was very well received by the audience of family and friends of the pupils and staff. And the pupils from Primary, who had been invited to watch the first performance, were utterly spellbound.



# World Book Day: Thursday, 5th March 2020





# Staff Profile

Continued from Page 3

**Lewis:** Why did you want to become a teacher and do you still like it?

**Mr Welsh:** I became a teacher because I like helping people and I realised that you can make a big difference by just helping somebody to make the right decisions and to have fun. I still really enjoy teaching. I am very lucky because I get to come to work every day and do a job that I really enjoy. I have always enjoyed sport and I have always enjoyed teaching sport. I really enjoy working at Laleham Gap school.

**Lewis:** What would you do if you could choose another career?

**Mr Welsh:** If I could change career I would love to be a farmer. I grew up in a small village in Cumbria which had four farms and I've always enjoyed being around animals and working outdoors.

**Lewis:** Thank you for talking to me today.



Mr Welsh as Biggles on World Book Day



Image courtesy of: bing.com

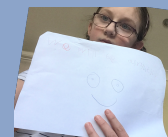
# World Book Day

Continued from Page 5



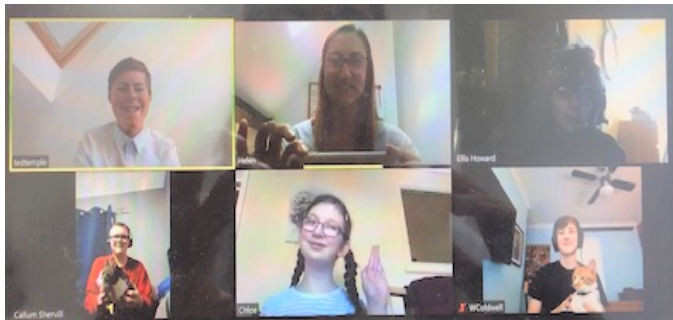


# Experiencing the first National Lockdown



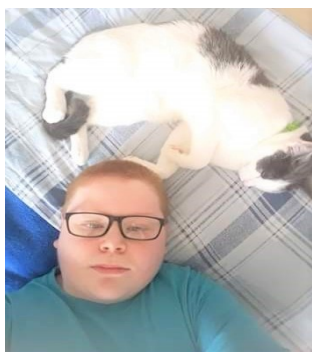
## Lockdown Laughs

By Mrs Schroepfer



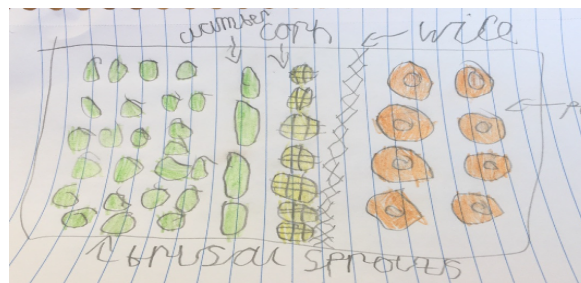
Student Council 2019-20

Earlier this year, when the first national Lockdown was announced, the 2019-2020 Council were forced to meet virtually over Zoom. A committed core group of pupils from Yr7-11, met every week to create a digital newsletter of fun features to be shared across the school – either through the digital screens at school or posted on the school website - to maintain a sense of community while we all stayed safe in our respective bubbles. This included: Wellbeing tips; 'Pet's Corner' showcasing our furry friends; and 'Lockdown Laughs' sharing topical memes. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

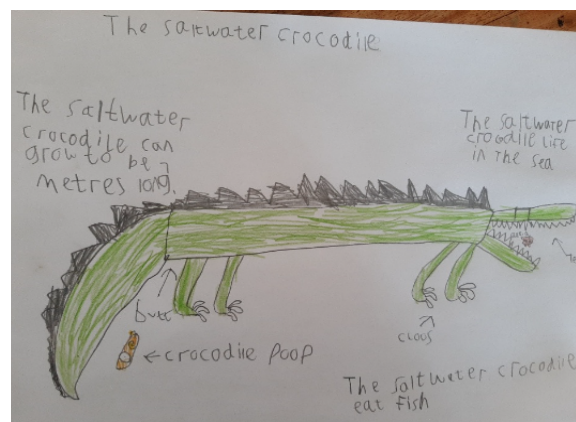
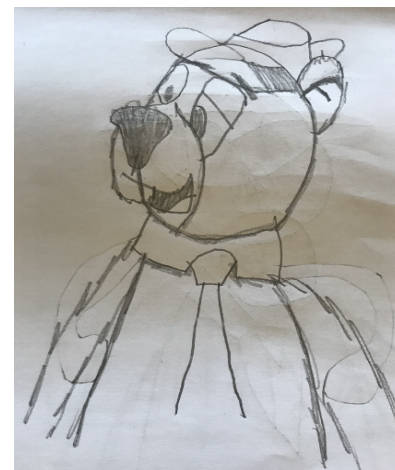


During lockdown, staff, students and their families found new and creative ways to cope with the demands of living life differently. Whilst many hours were undoubtedly spent enjoying screen time, traditional pastimes and hobbies such as gardening, cooking and drawing seemed more popular than ever for many. Here are just some of the activities that entertained our amazing students.

## Garden design



## Drawing & Writing



Dear my best friend Jude  
I know how you feel very  
upset right? So I send you  
this letter to tell you  
that I feel sorry for  
you and I hope you get  
better my good friend  
from your friend Oscar

Continued on Pages 8 & 9

"We have been focusing on what makes us smile! Sounds simple... but making time for hobbies that we enjoy can really boost our emotional health and help us deal with all the change and uncertainty."

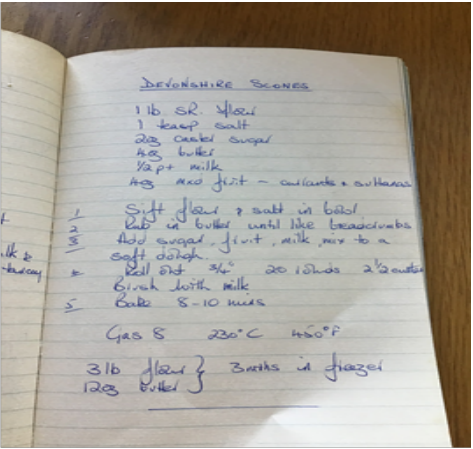
Mrs Schroepfer



## Cooking and Baking

Continued from Page 7

Cooking was high on the list of favourite pastimes during the first lockdown for both staff and students alike. Lots of students reported that cooking helped them to relax with their families while Chloe in Year 7 shared her grandmother's recipes with us.



## Crafting



## Student Spotlight



Faith's Fantastic Food

Faith G.B.  
Year 10

During Lockdown, Faith decided she would get more involved in family cooking and shared her efforts with school for our Lockdown Memories. Here is a short extract from the cooking diary kept by her mum.

### 12 June 2020

Faith made pasties (cheese and onion) also sausage cheese and bean pasties. She is also cooking twice a week for family evening meal.

### 17 June 2020

Faith cooked tea tonight from memory: farmers pie, mash potatoes and bean. She did it all herself and it was very nice thanks!

### 18 June 2020

Faith made sausage rolls with left over pastry and sausage meat. They could do with a little more seasoning but really nice.



## My lockdown memories

By Oscar

Life has been very different for me and my family since Covid19. Me and my brother and sisters aren't at school and Mum and Dad haven't been at work much either, we all do our work at home together.

We can't go to public places anymore and I can't see my friends. Me and my family can't go to our cottage in North Wales, or to Grandma and Grandad's house, and we can't see our cousins.

We children don't go to the shops, Luigi's (our favourite Italian restaurant), Scouts or the swimming pool, but mostly we've all felt happy together.

## It happened so fast!

By Isaac R.H.

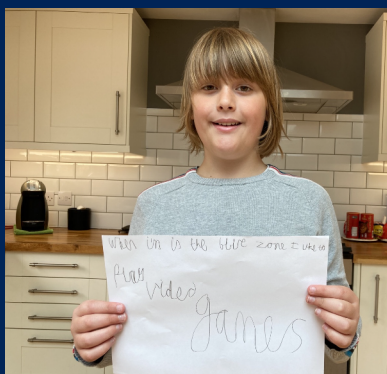
Lockdown happened so fast.

I didn't say goodbye to my Teachers, my friends from school and I didn't say goodbye to my cousins. I have missed them but i've talked using my computer and this has helped me keep in touch.

I have loved that we take Monty for walks every day. We walk on the beach and in the woods and on the fields. We see lots of beautiful birds and we are looking for stag beetles. We work in the garden and lockdown has given me time to make a more interesting run for Timmy Tortoise.

I love being together with my family. We dance and play games, I do my school work.

I am lucky my lockdown has been fun but the world has changed.



*This is what I did when ...*

## My main memory

By Robin M.

My main memory is doing the Birds-eye Bulls Eye game on the Wii Fit Plus. The game is to do with being a bird, flapping your arms to make it move and changing body position to make it move in a certain direction. There are targets that you have to land on to gain extra time, some are worth more than others, some are moving, they can disappear or can shrink and grow. The entire game is based on patterns, in other words, the movement is exactly the same every time.

The score I got originally on Beginner was a 236, I thought that was quite good, I then got a 244. At that point I had just started Advanced mode. I got a 231 on Advanced, soon after, I got up to 250 on Beginner, I thought it was getting quite near to perfection. On the 18th June, the Advanced went up to 236, then 243 soon after.

I also thought it was near perfection. The Beginner went up to 251, at this moment, I thought nothing more could come out of it!

I moved on to the Super Advanced mode, when I went back to retry Beginner, my score improved to 255 immediately! The Advanced one came up to 246, what I thought was the maximum, I then got Beginner up to 256. Then I barely achieved a 258 on Beginner.

I now think that 259 is nearly impossible. I got a 251 on Advanced on the day of writing, that is getting near the maximum, I think.

I should also mention that I make the bird take off right after it lands on the target to gain a lot of speed. There have been many other attempts too. The Super Advanced is at 473. Soon, this might be out of date!

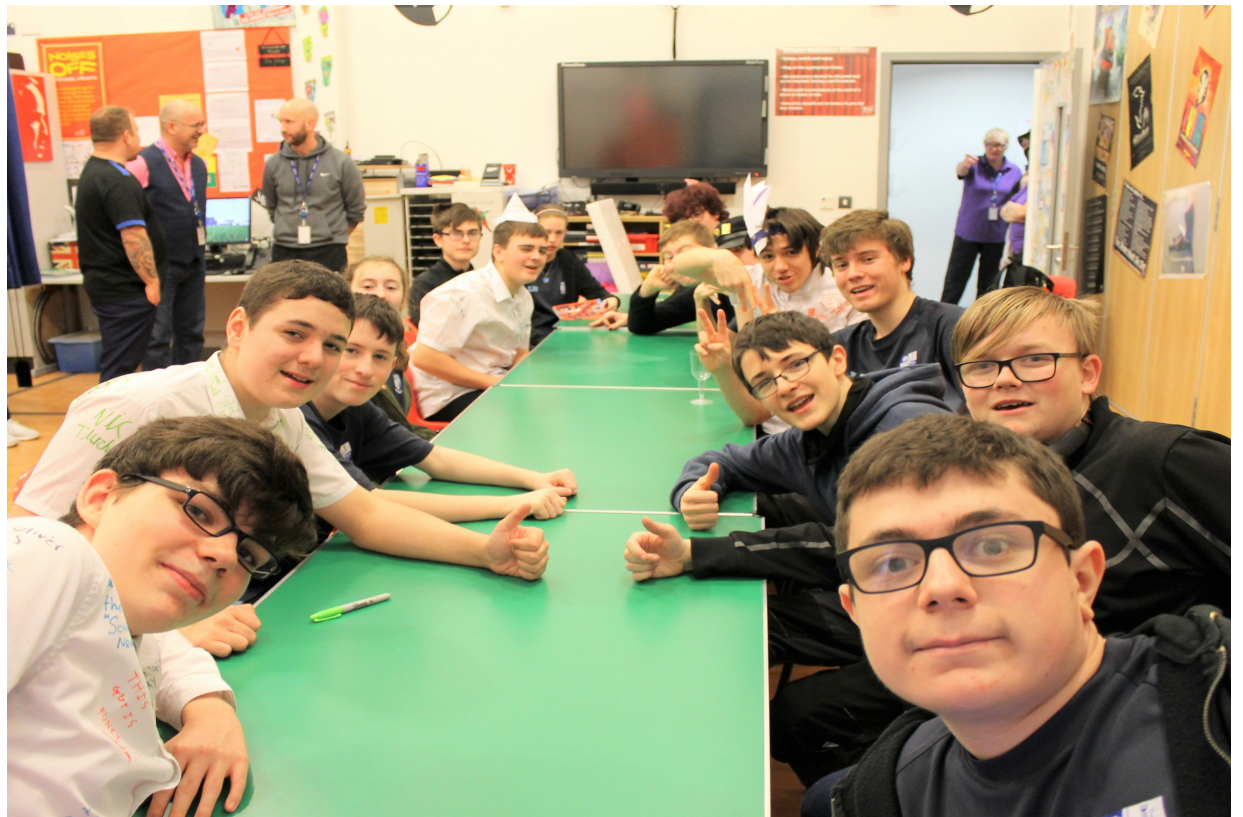
## Laleham Gap student keeping beaches clean



One of our Year 11 School Councillors 2019/20 has been determined to do his bit to help keep the local beaches in Thanet clean, urging visitors to take their rubbish home with them.



## Saying Farewell to Yr 11



With their world suddenly turned upside down, Year 11s could rely on one thing to remain the same - the stand up sit down farewell story, a popular rite of passage to mark the end of their time at Laleham Gap School. This long-standing LGS tradition provided the focal point of a socially-distanced farewell party held on the School Field in the summer.

The honours this year fell to Miss Dixon to write and narrate the story in which every student's family name is included. As his or her name is read out, so the student has to stand up and then quickly sit down again as the story moves on. Miss Dixon rose to the challenge creating a hilarious narrative - no-one was overlooked, however tricky their name (yes, even Luke J. made it in!).

A barbecue followed with music, dancing, chatting to friends and seeing old faces meaning our Year 11s could say their goodbyes and have some fun together.

In March, they had enjoyed a last minute get-together in the drama room before many students went home for the first Lockdown. Party food and lots of laughter were enjoyed with some students performing their familiar, crazy dance routine on the stage. Who could fail to smile?

So it's farewell to a unique and incredible group of young people - we will truly miss you! Good luck to you all.

## A heartfelt Thank you!

**TO our wonderful kitchen and cleaning staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep us comfortable and safe**

*From the Student Council, on behalf of us all*





## Hallowe'en on the Farm

By Mrs Clifford

Panther Class visited Delf Farm, which were then carved for Halloween. Finally, a candle was placed into each pumpkin. The children chose and lit! They looked fabulous! wheelbarrowed their pumpkins back to the minibus.

The children took these home for Halloween and placed them outside their homes.

The next day, the children hollowed them out, drew faces/patterns on them with

First, we went on the minibus to the Farm. Then we had scary photos taken.

Then we picked the pumpkins and put them in wheelbarrows.

Next I HAD MY PHOTO TAKEN ON THE TRACTOR.

LASTLY WE PAID. WE WENT BACK TO THE BUS.

PUMPKINS. Aniya

ON Thursday in Delf Farm we went for a school trip and we went on a mini bus. we got our own pumpkins. then we got on a tractor and we got photos done. the end!



Christopher

On Thursday it was my sister's 5th birthday and we decided to go to Jungle Gums and in the car park there was a half-dead horsetail and when we went in there were more and I found a new friend called Max and he is 7 years old and Max and my friend had a great time and my dad chasing us.



Hazel 19.10.2020

It was fun in Delf Farm. Panther class was picking pumpkins. we took some photographs and we used Halloween boards then we picked pumpkins then we went back to school it was a special school trip and even when it rained the trip it did not spoil Panther class trip.

Panthers Class Trip to Delf Farm



On Thursday, I went on a trip with Panthers Class to Delf Farm. We went on a minibus and went close to where I live.

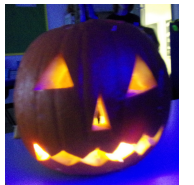
First, I sat on the tractor and Wesam took a photograph of me. Secondly, I looked for a good pumpkin and found a white one! I did not want that one so I picked another one which was orange. Then I went to get a green wheelbarrow to collect the pumpkin.

Next, Miss Clifford went to the Farm Shop to pay for our pumpkins.

Then, we all came back to school on the minibus.

By David

19.10.2020



A BIG THANK YOU for donations to the POPPY Appeal. £138.10 raised!

from Miss Aherne



Courtesy of: britishlegion.org.uk



Post -16 Provision at Laleham Gap

By Mr Ursell

LGS has started a brand new provision this year by setting up a Post 16. We have a whole floor in the Phoenix building, with the luxury of quite a bit of space for our 8 students. This means we can have a really relaxed atmosphere in a large open area (where we can watch the news in the morning) which has a communal dining space too. We have our own kitchen where the students can make themselves refreshments (and meals) when appropriate. We have 3 other classrooms and a chill out room too.

The main purpose of our provision is to give pupils a further year to transition (to college or wherever they are

going). In that year they get a bespoke timetable so they can get taught any English, Maths, Personal Development and other skills and qualifications they will need for where they want to go.

The pandemic has proved a challenge as whenever possible we aim to get our students visiting their colleges, doing work placements and out into the community practising the skills they need for transition. We have been continuing all that in creative ways and will do more as the situation permits. From bike riding to quizzing celebrities we make the learning experience as rich and enjoyable as we can whatever the challenge.



Post 16 100k Challenge

By Mr Ursell

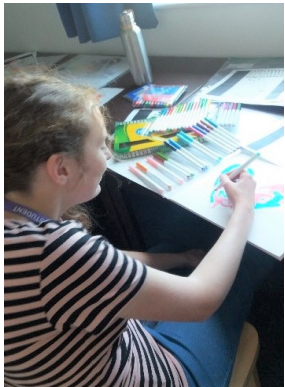
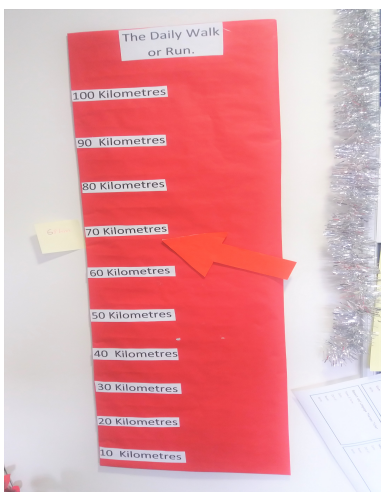
A week ago in a Personal Development lesson in Post 16 we came up with the idea of running around our building most days we could. It may sound strange, but it makes sense.

We had been discussing keeping healthy in Lockdown and what to do in leisure time. Of course, because of the need to keep safe there are several restrictions on us at the moment. We can't go to the park and run.

So we decided to start running around the building. Or if that is too much you can walk or get round however you want. Adam went round with a trundle wheel and we calculated that it would take 8.8 times around to do a km and 14.2 to do a mile.

No-one has to do the run and it is done in your own time. We have set the ambitious target of running 100k during December!

That makes it all the more amazing that after the first week we have run 358 laps of the building. That is 40.68km!! We are hoping we will get the full 100km.



A photograph of a large, colorful banner that says "CELEBRATING A YEAR TOGETHER". The banner is decorated with various patterns and colors. A person is standing next to it, looking at it.

Welcome to  
Post 16

From Mr Parkin and all the team



## My Day in Post 16

By Adam G.

At the start of my week, I have Personal Development, and in that I do Yoga to keep myself calm for the day ahead.

Then after that, I have a lesson of English, and in English I'm working towards getting my functional skills level two, but the work isn't easy.

After English, I have a lesson of Maths which I'm also doing work to get my level two, on My maths.

Then I have a fifteen break, and in the break I could either have some toast, play games or just relax.

After break, I have another lesson of Maths, which I would do the same thing I did in the last lesson.

After that, I have a lesson of Personal Development and sometimes I do some targets that I've set for the week, and sometimes change them once I have achieved them, or I do some work on Asdan which is Personal Development Employability skills.

Then, I have lunch which you probably know what that is, I have food to put in my tummy, and a break after, then twenty minutes of DEAR time.

Then, I have another lesson of Personal Development and in that, I try and complete some of my targets or some life skills that are important.

Finally, I have Enrichment, and in Enrichment I get to enjoy myself or play with others, for example I might play Pool or Chess, or I could play other board games that I fancy.

Then I get to go home at the end of the day.



## Studying in Post-16

By Caragh. P

This is what we study here at Post 16:

**English and Maths.**

**Employability** - this is when we meet with a careers worker and get ready for what we will do for a job. Weekly lessons to get us ready for work.

**Personal Development** - learning independent skills, crossing the road, ironing, tying shoe laces and cooking.

**Weekly Review** - at the end of the week we meet with our key workers and discuss what went well this week and what hasn't gone well.

**Targets** - we go through our Targets sheets with a teacher and see what we have achieved this week.

**Enrichment** - doing things we enjoy.

**Yoga** - we do this every Monday and Thursday morning to get our bodies ready for the day.

**Sensory Circuits** - we do this some mornings to get us relaxed and ready to learn for the day ahead.

**Mindfulness** - we do this after we've done yoga to relax our minds and to clear any negative thoughts.

## Student Spotlight



Artwork by William

# William

### Interview by Sam L.W.

**SLW:** What is your favourite season and why?

**WP:** Summer is warmer because in winter it's too cold.

**SLW:** What is your favourite sport and why?

**WP:** Boxing because it's exciting.

**SLW:** What lesson do you like in Post 16?

**WP:** Art.

**SLW:** What do you like to do in your Enrichment time?

**WP:** Going on the x-box.

**SLW:** Scale to 1 to 10 how are you feeling about Post 16?

**WP:** 8/10

**SLW:** Do you think the timetable is different than the main school?

**WP:** Yes, we got more time in PD.

**SLW:** Have you ever cooked in Post 16?

**WP:** Yes, I've made burgers, cookies and cheese straws.

**SLW:** Do you want to do anything different in Post 16?

**WP:** Going on trips when covids is over

**SLW:** Are you a tea or a coffee type of person?

**WP:** Neither. I'd rather have a hot chocolate.

**SLW:** Thank you for sharing this, William.



# Staff Profile

## Mr Ursell

**SLW:** What is your favourite sport and why?

All sports particularly those I can join in with. Football and table tennis.

**SLW:** What is your favourite season and why?

It varies today I will say summer because I like being warm.

**SLW:** What is your favourite food and why?

Nearly all food. Chocolate brownie because it's sweet.

**SLW:** What lesson do you like more out of Maths, English or PD?

PD because it's a very wide topic.

**SLW:** What is the best thing for being a teacher at Post 16?

The students are great and the staff are a super team.

**SLW:** Scale to 1 to 10 how are you feeling about Post 16?

9/10

**SLW:** Do you think you want to change anything in Post 16?

I always want to improve things. As covid goes I'd like to get out more for work experience and trips.

**SLW:** What is the best comment from a staff or student?

When people say they've had a great day and Anne Hegerty said Post 16 were amazing.

**SLW:** What are your plans for the future after lockdown for Post 16?

Lots of trips, learning, fun, work visits and life experiences.

**SLW:** Do you have a pet if so what is it name, breed and age?

I have a pet dog called Jeffrey who is 5 years old.

## Yoga at Post-16 Laleham Gap

By Mr Ursell



If you pop into the Post 16 Phoenix building you will normally find quite a chilled vibe. Never more so than on a Monday and Thursday morning. That is because twice a week pupils start their day with Mr Ursell running a yoga session with a mindfulness meditation to finish. From downward dog to tree pose

and pilates stretches pupils have really appreciated the sessions. With (battery run) candles, scented mist and relaxing music it is easy to see why the relaxation works. It sets the pupils up for a productive day. A lovely new initiative that will stay in the curriculum.

## Caring for others

Students in Post-16 have been writing letters to the elderly people in a local care home. They have been moved by hearing stories of elderly relatives being unable to see family because of the pandemic and decided it they would like to help in some way.







## Celebrating Black History Month

By Mrs Schroepfer

Putting Black History Month on the School Calendar... Our first Black History Culture and Community Day!

Pupil History Month we decided to organise a whole-school Black History Culture and Community Day.

Staff and pupils wore clothes to reflect the theme colours of Red, Gold and Green or that celebrated our Black Heroes. Our lessons and displays included celebrating the contributions of our Black Community in the UK, and internationally, across Science, Literature, History, Sport and the Arts.

Voice is taken seriously at Laleham Gap so when a pupil politely raised his concerns about the low profile of Black History Month we decided to organise a whole-school Black History Culture and Community Day.

Our amazing Kitchen team, led by Sharon Campini, created a menu designed by pupils to reflect their favourite Afro-Caribbean dishes. Staff were also treated to sweet and savoury Afro-Caribbean flavours by the generous and talented Alexandra Harding, mother of Louie in Yr7!

As Covid-19 prevented us from gathering and enjoying live performances together, we were fortunate enough to be joined by Calypso artist Alexander D. Great for Storytelling and Music via Zoom. Captivating warning tales of Anansie and memorable songs engaged and delighted the staff and pupils in our Primary and Year 7 classes.

We will continue to celebrate Diversity and encourage Pride and Equality across, and beyond, our School.



## Challenger Troop

By Mr Irons

I am a TA and work for Laleham Gap School. I have been supporting the pupils who go to Challenge Troop on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

One of my roles is to drive the minibus to the venue and back. I like this role and enjoy taking the pupils backwards and forwards. I always let the pupils sit in the front and enjoy the conversations we have. This does create a good bond between us.

I enjoy going with the pupils and really like to take part in the activities. It helps to create trust between us.

The two groups I take are year 8s to Post 16. This gives the opportunity for them to have the chance to participate in activities relating to Challenge Troop.

During the Challenge Troop day there are a range of activities including drills, kit inspection, navigation, shooting, obstacle courses and Team challenges.

Sometimes it is hard work and challenging but the pupils thrive and enjoy this.







## Teleporter Escape!

By Katie H.

I stepped into the classroom of Language Skills, and our teacher, Ms. Jackson, announced that there was going to be an exam today, but it got delayed due to a small issue and we can all have freetime. I then immediately spawned a teleporter out of thin air, as I waved and claimed:

“Goodbye everyone, I’ll remember you all in therapy for now!”

I activated it and then I imploded. Into a beam of light. I then appeared in a city. It was a bright and sunny city, and it was quite big too.

## ESCAPE!

By Pippa B.

I sigh heavily and enter the room. There was only one thing I was thinking. The test. I’ve heard rumours on how hard it was... But suddenly, I thought popped into my mind... Sitting down on my wooden desk, I glanced at my pocket...I could use the teleporter to avoid it. You as the reader might be confused, why would I have a teleporter? How did I get a teleporter? Welp, its used ONLY to teleport home...I Stared ahead, the teacher seemed to be dealing with something. I could use it now and escape the test... I sigh, but what if I get into trouble? Well the teacher does seem too busy to notice. OK, I’m doing this...I begin to pull out of I the teleporter from my pocket, its small. About the size of a simple phone, with one red button Maybe I should just stay? ...Somewhat hesitant I took one last glance around me... closing my eyes tightly, I pressed the red button. WAIT! WHERE AM I GOING?

My vision filled with darkness ... My Heart pounded loud like a drum... Only darkness...

Did I break it?!

OH! I KNEW THIS WAS A BAD IDE—

Moments later, my vision turned to normal. But I was not back in the classroom...Above me, seemed to be foliage...ugh, my head felt like it was almost spinning. I laid there on the ground, feeling grass below me. Wait ... *to be continued*

## The Not So Secret Cow Farm

By Harvey W.

I walked into Mrs Jackson’s class with fear. Who knows what would await me in there today. I saw all my classmates sat at their desks, all frowning. “Today we’re doing a GCSE!” Mrs Jackson stated. Everyone began pulling out their teleporters and pressing the button on top. They all whizzed away as the teacher watched in despair. Panicked, I got out my teleporter. It had a blue button on it and said, ‘Pineapple series 2 teleporter’ underneath it. I pressed the button and shut my eyes.

I opened my eyes and saw millions of cows floating around me in space. I saw them being ejected from spaceships. I felt the horrific sensation of being squeezed through space, and eventually began to lose my breath. I looked at my teleporter again and realized it had expired. All teleporters expire eventually! I shut my eyes as the squeezing got worse and worse, hoping it would end soon.

When I opened my eyes again, I was in a field full of cows. They were shooting lasers from their eyes and walking on two legs. They all saw me and began to shoot lasers at me. This was much worse than a GCSE! I grabbed my teleporter and pressed the button on it in hope that it would teleport me one more time. It didn’t work. I was trapped!

I looked more carefully at the bottom of my teleporter. It had a bit of cow dung on it. Feeling grossed out, I threw the teleporter away as fast as possible. The cows mooed as they shot lasers at me. With no other plans, I ran as they shot me with their lasers. I grabbed my teleporter and discovered that its battery had expired, not the teleporter. I pulled out a new battery for my teleporter and shoved it inside the battery slot.

I pressed the button again and was teleported back to Mrs Jackson’s classroom. And I guess that’s what can happen when you try to escape a GCSE!

Moral of the story: Don’t try to escape a GCSE, or karma will get you!

## CT (Cromer Teleporter)

By Gus P.

Suffering from stress? Want to go to Cromer? Well, now you can! This nifty little gadget can teleport you to Cromer anytime! Simply press the button, and before you know it, you’re in Cromer! When you’re done being in Cromer, just press the button again, and before you know it, you’re back where you were!



My Science Project

By Chloe W.

At the beginning of term 1 in September we decided to investigate how compostable some typical take away cups are. It was really good to know, especially that some producers claim their cups are fully compostable.

Over the past 2 Terms we have been testing 3 different cups and 1 disposable shopping bag to see how long they took to compost.

We had a selection of the 2 cups with “compostable” logo on them: N1 and N3. We had one cup that didn’t have “compostable” logo and we used it as our control to compare.- N2.Also, we used one compostable shopping bag in our experiment.—N4.



**What we did:**  
we used one of the flower beds in the school garden to bury our items in the soil at the same depth. We decided to check on them every week .

**What we’ve found out:**

**N4** - shopping bag has composted in 1 week! It completely disintegrated in the soil and there were no traces of it at all. Great news! Thumbs up for this cup-it is truly compostable.

**N3** - cup has composted in just recently, at the start of December. It took good three months to disintegrate, but it is compostable! Good for the environment too.

Two cups **N1** and **N2** haven't fully composted yet. But cup **N2** (which was not even compostable one) is starting to disintegrate. This is great news! Cup N1 hasn’t yet composted, just some signs of being broken down.

**Conclusion:**

Compostable Shopping bag is our winner!





## Cookery Competition

By Ms Johnson

Eliana came first in the e-cookery competition, as always it went very well with good quality entries from everyone. Judges found it very difficult to come to a decision.

We launched our first departmental cookbook. There was a competition to design a suitable front cover which was won by Henry H. The pupils were encouraged to submit recipes. I had so many entries, I have had to start collecting for our next copy. Look out for it in the Spring Issue of LGS News.

## Phoenix Days

By Mr Hunt

We have been so impressed with the way in which the pupils have adapted to the different ways of working, different members of staff, and different peers, as we have a real mixture of ages. The pupils have been so impressive in their ability to just get on with the day. We have our set routines...zoom calls, work times, times in the gym or on the bikes....lunch followed by cooking, music, or playing games together. This has given us the opportunity as staff to spend time showing them how to put a chain back on a bike, tighten the handlebars, cook 1-1 or in small groups and more importantly pupils having the time to teach us, be it how to play pool, or how to make shortbread.

Yes, there have been challenges, and times when they have needed space, but they have been able to do this in the knowledge that staff, or their peers will come and find them, have time to sit and chat and then move forward, positive social interactions. They have embraced the opportunity to be able to just sit and talk in a group, asking question after question of staff, and each other.

This has been a tricky time for us all, but also an opportunity to try new ways of working, to spend time with pupils we may not always work with, and as a team we are seeing so many positives.

Have a great Christmas everybody.  
Tim, Bhavik and Fiddy

## Christmas well-being

By Miss Bober

It has obviously been a challenge this year, not being able to have the dynamic activities that pupils have had over the past couple of years, but the Well-being Team have instead made resource trays to help. Each tray contained one pair of Christmas socks (for Secondary) and one Christmas activity book (for Primary) these are the prizes for the Wellbeing Quiz that took place on Friday morning.

There was also a prize for the form group with the best decorated room, which Mr Milton judged as he went round classes looking at all the beautiful creations.

Although the pupils had a schedule for the day time was still made for for watching films, making drinks, doing quizzes, playing board games and as many of the traditional Christmas classroom activities that we could do safely and distanced. All children at home were sent a package containing: squishes, sensory ball to



make, Christmas crafts, a festive pencil, seeds and soil, Christmas decoration to make, candy canes and treats.

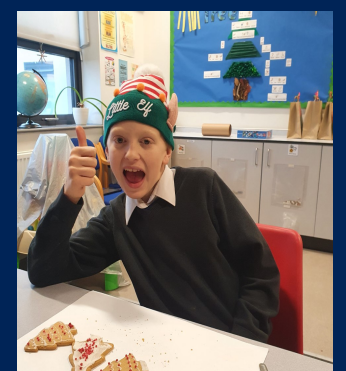
The team made up Christmas goody bags for every child, decorated with holly leaves and tied up with ribbon to take home (massive thanks go to Mrs Morphy for cutting out literally hundreds of leaves and berries!)



The day was all about promoting wellbeing. It has been a difficult time for all. Relaxing, getting creative and having some fun is the most important thing and we hope what we have provided will help.



**Huge thanks to  
Laleham Gap's  
very own  
Christmas Elf!**





Music-making at Laleham Gap

By Miss Howard

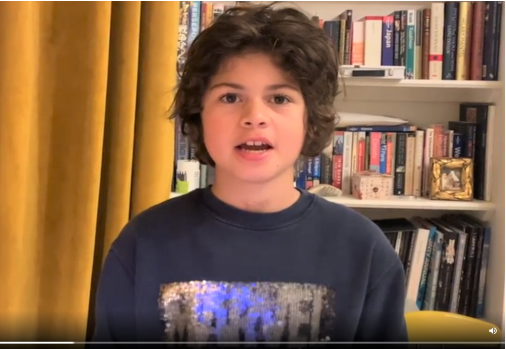
Given how much everyone enjoyed the Summer Virtual Music Concert, it seemed a no-brainer to do another to mark the festive season. We hope you can see how much fun the pupils have had recording their music - and some staff too!

This term some great work has been done in the music classroom. Year 8s have been learning about the Blues, and Year 9s about rapping. We've discovered some amazing rapping talent!

Year 7s have been working on a special Ksent Music and Arts project called Living the Dream, created in conjunction with a composer called David BurrIDGE and the Gulbenkian Theatre. This is a long term project involving lots of schools in Kent. First stage is to work on creating art and music for an exciting adventure story about a people who have to leave their land and eventually come to an island, where they settle down to make a new life.

Year 7s have been making soundscapes using classroom instruments and monster compositions using iPads. These will form part of a special exhibition travelling between schools next year.

Singing group has continued even through the ups and downs of Covid and remains strong. We've been practicing Christmas songs this term - including Jingle Bell Rock.



Year 7 Soundscapes





Festive fun in the classrooms!

Continued on Page 21



Lucky Dip



Molly J.

To help raise money for the school funds Molly decided to run a Christmas Lucky Dip. She made various Christmas items that were ideal for little gifts. These were put into categories from 25p up to £1.

Staff and pupils were invited to bring their money sealed in an envelope to keep Covid-safe to receive their lucky dip bag .

Each item was painstakingly hand-crafted and unique.





**Design a  
Christmas card  
competition**

**The  
winning  
Entries**



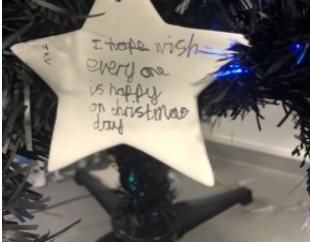
**congratulations to:**

**Toby, Ella, Kitty,  
Molly, Errin, Adam  
and the mystery  
artist!**

**Christmas stars**



**Best  
decorated  
secondary  
classroom:  
10CF**





## Quizzes, clubs and competitions

### LGS 4th Chess Tournament

By Adam G.



If you would like to participate you need to do the following:

1. Go a computer and type in **Chess.com**
2. Once you have got on to the website, you need to go and click **Sign Up**
3. Then put in your **Username Email address** and **Password**

Because of Covid-19, I'm not allowed to enter the main school building to organise the tournament like I used to. If there are some people who would like to take part, but don't know how to play, please let Mrs McLaren know, who will pass this information to me, so I can help and support you.

Don't forget the details above!

I don't know exactly when our 4th Tournament will begin, but once I get permission, Mrs McLaren and I will let you know as soon as possible.

If there are any questions that you wanted to know ask Mrs McLaren to let me know and I will reply back as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patiences and I hope you are looking forward to participating in the Chess Tournament.

In the meantime, if you are a beginner, have a go at the puzzle in this issue of LGS News.

#### Beginners' Chess Club corner

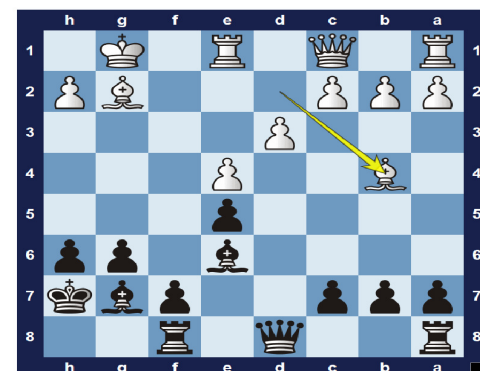


#### Beginner Chess Puzzle #1

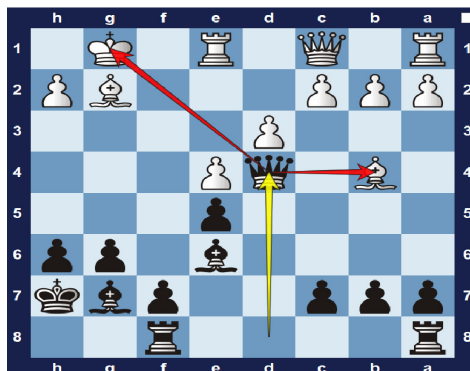
White just moved their bishop to b4. How can you take advantage of this mistake?

Good luck!

(the solution is on the page ....)



#### The Solution



Black Queen d4+ is a double attack (fork) against White's King and Bishop. White must get their King out of check. On the next move Black will capture the undefended Bishop on b4.

### Quiz & Club News from Post-16

By Caragh P. & Dora E.

On the 12th November 2020 Anne Hegerty the governess from the chase had a zoom meeting with post 16 staff and pupils. The pupils prepared questions for Anne. the questions we asked her were about her life and hard quiz questions. I found her really interesting and I enjoyed doing the zoom meeting. Anne said our questions were good and quite challenging.



## Post-16 Lunchtime CLUBS

On Tuesdays, Sam, Dora and I do Singing Group run by Miss Howard. We are singing Count on Me, Eye of the Tiger and How Far I'll Go.

On Wednesdays, we do Dance Group and we are copying Just Dance videos.

On Thursdays, we do Art Club run by Sam. At the moment we are making word searches.



Jack's Christmas Wordsearch

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	D	A	D	J	F	B
Q	H	E	H	L	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	P	Z	C
G	V	R	T	Q	I	P	Z	Q	Y	P	V	E	A	D
A	D	B	I	G	O	D	E	Q	W	R	E	G	O	B
A	N	E	J	S	Q	T	L	U	O	R	B	C	S	E
G	R	G	J	S	T	S	F	C	T	A	A	Z	X	Q
P	E	T	E	R	W	M	F	S	I	D	I	Y	Q	G
U	W	F	N	L	T	S	A	N	T	A	G	J	Z	S
J	S	O	Q	Q	X	M	X	S	N	R	G	O	T	G
H	O	R	N	S	T	D	E	A	D	A	H	N	V	O
C	G	H	R	S	A	S	L	S	S	T	E	H	E	N
L	R	V	I	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	I	G
C	H	R	Q	X	V	N	J	Y	E	S	S	Q	W	G
Y	H	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	R	P	B	P	K	L	E
C	W	I	B	Q	O	P	P	X	A	E	T	Y	O	P

Words to Find

- Santa
- Candy Cane
- Bell
- Presents
- Christmas
- Rudolph
- Elf
- Eggnog
- Christmas Tree
- Star
- Snow
- Mistletoe

Christmas cracker Joke



What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in the chimney?  
**claustrophobia!**







# A TRIBUTE TO SAMMY

It has been terribly difficult for the school community to cope with the loss of Sammy who tragically died in April.



Sammy, we never forget the joy you brought to our lives. You were so proud to be part of the Laleham Gap School community and loved your first day with us. Your beaming ‘Sammy Smile’ brightened up the darkest of days.

We miss your great sense of humour. You loved every second of soaking Mr Milton with your sponges.

You were such a loving and caring boy, who adored your family and friends and got such joy from making others happy.

It was lovely that one of your best friends Sam planted a tree in your memory and can

visit the garden you enjoyed working in. You were such an expert with tools and loved everything creative. We loved seeing the amazing things you made, especially with your sewing.

What a superstar you were in the school drama production of ‘Wizard of Oz’. Starring roles as the Oz Gatekeeper and a Munchkin. We were all so proud of you, your confidence and amazing singing.

It is so comforting that your loving family still visit and join with us in remembering the happy times in the school, a place you loved and belonged. We send all our thoughts and love to them just as you did.



**Feelings of Loss**

Hush dear friends, don't say a word.  
Our classmate is gone and free like a bird.  
Free to fly in the heavens above,  
As a friend we'll always be thinking of.  
He is gone from where we can see,  
But in our hearts is where he'll always be.  
Memories can never be taken away,  
So we'll remember him when we learn and play.  
Sadness, anger, and wondering why?  
Are feelings that will make us cry.  
But, our dear friend will help us grieve  
Because his spirit will never leave.

**Michele Meleen**



**We miss you Sammy but will never forget the joy you brought to our lives.**

By Mr Deslandes, on behalf of everyone at Laleham Gap School