

News from Abbey Park School

Term 4 - April 2025



'Potential into Performance'



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Head of School

'Potential into Performance'

As we reach the end of this busy term and the evenings become lighter, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the fantastic activities and achievements our pupils have been involved in.

As Easter approaches, the recent Easter Egg Hunt Competition run by the Heads of House caused quite a buzz around the school with pupils showing great determination in tracking down those elusive eggs!

Our pupils have continued to excel in the sporting arena, with numerous individual achievements and team successes this term. You can read about them on page 4 of this newsletter. Well done to those pupils looking forward to hearing more of their accomplishments next term.

Year 11 have completed their final round of mocks at the start of this term. We are now approaching a critical time for Year 11, with the start of the summer exam season just weeks away. Many Year 11 pupils have signed up for the Easter revision sessions run by Abbey Park staff, who are giving up their time to run these over the Easter break in order to provide pupils with further support in their subject area. I wish to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 all the best in their upcoming examinations.

Earlier this week, we held our annual Tutor Consultation Day. It was great to see so many parents and carers in attendance throughout the day. We appreciate your continued support in working with us to ensure your child is able to maximise their full potential.

Also this week, Abbey Park hosted a successful Year 10 Careers Day on Wednesday, during which pupils were able to find out more about post-16 options, consider future careers and learn about finance.

Back in March, our Red Nose Day fundraising event was a tremendous success. Tutor groups ran various stalls, and together we raised a significant amount of money for charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this worthy cause.

We were honoured to welcome Will Stone, our local MP, who visited the school earlier this term to meet with the Student Council. It was a valuable opportunity for our pupils to discuss and ask questions about local issues important to them.

I am incredibly proud of our pupils who participated in the Young Citizens Mock Trials this term. Their dedication and hard work paid off as they won several trophies, including the overall competition winners. This achievement is a testament to their commitment and the excellent guidance from our staff.

There have been some incredible trips this term including: Year 7 enjoyed a performance of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Bristol Hippodrome. Our Year 9 and 10 pupils had an unforgettable experience on their ski trip to Andorra. Our Year 10 and 11 Art and Photography pupils went on an art-themed residential trip to St Ives, where they were able to engage in several creative experiences.

Thank you once again for your continued support and involvement in our school community. I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Regards,

Mr Ward
Head of School

Pi Day winners

Lunchtime circle competition winner:

Ava G - 8LB

Pi-Ku winner:

Lacey R – 8HK



	KS3 / Foundation Winner	KS4 / Higher Winner
Puzzle 1	Nika M – 8CHU	Skyla B – 7EC
Puzzle 2	Lena C – 7DB	Emmy K – 9DM
Puzzle 3	Teegan W – 7RJ	Emmy-Rose C – 10FL
Puzzle 4	Scarlet K – 8LB	
Puzzle 5	Daniella N – 7DB	

All winners received a Pi pin and an R3. Every entry received an R1.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Language learning doesn't just take place in the classroom. Duolingo is one of the most popular language-learning apps available, and we know lots of our pupils and their families use it either to help with their MFL lessons, or just to pick up a different language.



Are you one of the 500 million language learners on Duolingo?

Let Mrs Ryder know which language (or languages) you are learning, and share your "streak" – R points up for grabs for the longest streaks!

Mrs Ryder

Curriculum Leader - MFL

Abbey Park PE Term 4 Highlights

We're thrilled to share the exciting news from our PE program for term 4. From house tournaments in Football & Dodgeball, to an International football manager talk, it's been a busy and exciting few weeks for pupils.

PE Achievements: Team Stars

We are proud of our pupils for their commitment to fixtures this term. In boys football and girls basketball & football as well as session 6 enrichment. This term, we had some outstanding individual and team achievements:

- **Year 7 girls football reach the semi-finals of the County Cup** - their teamwork, coordination, and perseverance has paid off! All the girls have played fantastically well and we wish them all the best in their last few games.
- **Year 7 & U16 Boys Football Team** - all have made it through to the quarter final stages of the county cup and are raring to push on into the finals. A special mention goes to the Year 7 team who have also won all their games in the Swindon League Cup campaign.
- **Year 7 & U16 Girls Basketball Team** - both teams have won their first few games in the basketball league and hope to continue with their good form. A brilliant effort from both teams and the U16s put a really dominant display against Commonweal. We are really excited to see where both teams can go with the rest of their games this term.

PE Achievements: Individual Stars

Isabella T, Maisie B, Freya H, Lottie B, Emily S, Kayla M, Chloe T, Will W - all pupils came away with medals from the Delta Gymnastics and Vault competition against other Swindon Schools. The following pupils attended the event and all did absolutely amazingly! They designed their own floor routine and 2 vaults. Everyone gave their absolute all and represented APS so well. The PE staff are so proud of them all and the determination and sportsmanship they showed was fantastic. APS do really have some amazing gymnasts and we really look forward to attending again next year.



Year 10 & 11 Sports leaders - congratulations to our 20 KS4 sports leaders who have been working hard over the last 2 years to become official level 1 qualified in Sports Leadership. Last week, they all officially completed their course and received their certificates from the Leadership Skills Foundation company. All our pupils have demonstrated outstanding communication, teamwork, leadership, organisation and many more skills when practically leading primary school pupils but also worked hard to complete their booklets. Our level 1 qualified sports leaders are Oliver R, Sophie K, Emily H, Amy L, Daniel A-P, Jimmy D, Billy B, Lilia B, Zoe M, Misia B, Bethany H, Jack A, Jack D, Farrah M, Areanna S, Julia G, Matheus C, Elliot C and Ben J. Congratulations to them all!



Other news

The Elite Sports Academy pupils had an exciting and inspirational TEAMS call from the Gambia National Football Coach with Johnathan McKinstry who is the manager of the Gambia National team who are currently in the process of trying to qualify for the world cup. He discussed his coaching journey and how he became a national manager, his highs and lows from his career and how these experiences could help with our pupils' journeys. He also gave our Elite sporting pupils advice with their current sporting journeys and potential pathways in the future which was very insightful for the pupils.

Barbury House was this term's house tournament winners at football & dodgeball. With all year group points added up, Barbury won overall as a collective with Whitehorse coming a close second. Next house tournaments will consist of rounders and cricket.

Looking ahead - What's next in PE?

Upcoming Events:

- Year 8 boys cricket tournament - Monday 19th May @ Trowbridge
- Year 7 & 8 girls cricket tournament - Tuesday 10th June @ Biddestone
- Swindon athletics trials - Tuesday 20th May @ County Ground
- Year 9 & 10 athletics championship - Thursday 19th June @ County Ground
- Year 7 & 8 athletics championship - Thursday 26th June @ County Ground
- Year 7 Dynamo's cricket - Tuesday 8th July @ County Ground

Important Reminders

- Check out the new session 6s in term 5 including Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Badminton, GCSE & CNAT Exam revision, House Sports - Sign-up via Arbor.
- New lunchtime clubs available - advertised on the big screens throughout the school.
- GCSE & CNAT revision classes after school (session 6) - CNAT on Tuesday & GCSE on Thursday
- Year 11 unwanted PE kit - If you have any unwanted PE kit, the PE department would be really grateful for any donations given once year 11s leave at the end of term 5/6.

We look forward to another great term ahead and wish all pupils luck with their sporting events over the Easter break.

PE Department

Celebration Cake winners

Design Technology

All pupils worked so hard. Huge congratulations to Year 9!

Here are pictures of some of the entries.

Mrs Pratt
DT teacher



Trips

GCSE Art & Photography - St Ives Residential

We had a wonderful time in St Ives with 39 Y10 and 11 pupils and 4 staff.

We took part in activities such as a photography walking tour, art workshop, sand sculptures, team challenges and visits to Falmouth University and The Eden Project.

All pupils on the trip behaved brilliantly and were an asset to the school.

We look forward to opening up this trip for our year 10 pupils in 2026.

Mrs Preece
Curriculum Leader - Art



Trips

Year 10 DT trip to BMW Mini Plant in Oxford

On 12th March myself and Mr Freeth took a group of Y10 GCSE RM pupils to the BMW Plant at Cowley. This followed a trip earlier in the academic year to the BMW Mini Plant in Swindon.

During that time the pupils were shown around the whole facility and witnessed how the panels for the car are manufactured. Once manufactured, the panels and brackets are transported to the plant at Cowley.

Upon arrival at Cowley the pupils were greeted by the plant tour staff before taking the opportunity to look around the small museum where most types of car that have been manufactured at Cowley were on display. Once the tour began pupils were taken to the manufacturing building where hundreds of robots took the panels made previously in Swindon and started to weld each part and assemble them together into an empty shell of the mini. This was really impressive as each car on the production line is made to order and can be different - 4 door, 2 door and cabriolet versions can all be made on the same assembly line.

Following this, the group moved to the Assembly line where we observed how the whole car was assembled with a mixture of robots and BMW staff.

This trip was the icing on the cake for the pupils who were able to observe production on an industrial scale and made direct links to their classroom lessons. All of the pupils were buzzing after the trip and have made good use of the experience.

Mr Quant
DT teacher



Trips

Year 9 & 10 Ski Trip to Andorra

This February, 37 pupils and 4 staff went skiing in the beautiful Pyrenean mountains of Andorra. We stayed in a lovely hotel in the town of Encamp. It was a short hilly walk to the gondola every morning, which was a perfect warm up before it took us straight up the mountain, to the resort of Grandavalira.

We were extremely lucky with the weather where 4 out of 5 days were blue bird sky's which made the ski conditions a dream for our skiers. The views from the ski lift felt like you were on top of the world.

All the pupils received 5 hours of ski lessons a day. By the end of the week, all pupils were able to adventure out and explore more of the mountain with their ski instructor. Some of the groups even skied on a very small section of a black diamond, which they were very excited to tell everyone when they got back.

In the evenings over the week, we did a variety of activities. On the first evening we got to scout the city of Andorra and experience the culture and artwork of the country. Another evening we went to a local Pizzaria, which was amazing and celebrated a pupil's birthday. The third night we ate crepes from a local shop that was full to the brim with delicious fillings. Finally, we experienced an evening of fun and competitive bowling.

Over the week, it was lovely to observe new friendships develop and blossom, seeing the pupils' step outside of their comfort zone.

They all demonstrated true APS determination and respect. Hopefully the pupils have created memories for life and have plenty of stories to tell.

Mrs Humphrey

Curriculum Leader - PE



Trips

Year 7 Performing Arts trip to see Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat, Bristol Hippodrome

On Thursday 20th March, 60 year 7 pupils went to see Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Bristol Hippodrome.

All pupils behaved remarkably and were a credit to the school.

The show was well-coordinated and entertaining. We were bopping in our seats as the cast took to the stage and told us the story.

Claire Hutchings

Curriculum Leader - Performing Arts (Music)



Performing Arts achievements



Charlotte R (Year 9) and Angela G (Year 10) had the opportunity to perform in the Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2025 on Saturday 22nd March at St Michael's Church, Highworth.



Charlotte sang in the Junior section and Angela in the Senior. Both pupils did outstandingly well and represented Abbey Park School amazingly.

The Adjudicator, Thomas Graff who is the Musical Director of the award winning Wessex Male Choir, had lovely comments and feedback for both of our performers.



We would also like to congratulate Toby B (Y11) for being selected to perform in Carousel with the prestigious National Youth Musical Theatre. After auditioning in Cardiff in January and attending a callback in February, he has secured a place in the male chorus. Rehearsals begin soon, leading up to the main performance at Birmingham Hippodrome this summer.

Toby is currently seeking funding to support his journey - if you would like to contribute, please check out his GoFundMe page.

MP visit to Abbey Park

On Friday 14th February, Student Leaders from Year 7-11 welcomed Will Stone - the new Swindon North MP to Abbey Park School.

Pupils were given the opportunity to hear Mr Stone discuss his work in Parliament and his support for the Swindon family of Harry Parker and his proposal to change the laws relating to road safety. A range of challenging questions were presented by pupils for over an hour which focused on issues such as knife crime, the regeneration of Swindon and future employment opportunities.



The pupils certainly benefited from the experience which raised their interest in the work of their MP and the democratic process.

They are now looking forward to a future visit to the Houses of Parliament in London.

Mrs O'Brien

KS3 Intervention Teacher



The Park
Academies
Trust



TPAT Scholars

**Our Family,
Our Schools**

Mock Trials

Mrs Dyer and I went to Swindon Magistrates Court took Abbey Park year 9 pupils to compete in this year's Mock Trials. We competed against Lydiard Park, Highworth Warneford and Lawn Manor Academy.

I am very pleased to say that the pupils did absolutely brilliantly, and their good conduct was noted by several senior members of the Swindon community.

I am also pleased to announce that we won 4 out of 7 trophies awards and will be moving onto the finals at some point in the near future:

- Overall Competition Winners
- Overall Best Defence Team - Lily S, Harry E, Holly P, Nicola S & Lena W
- Best Prosecution Lawyer - shared for the first year ever (as the judges could not pick a winner) - Mia D and Emmy K
- Best Defence Lawyer - Lily S



Marlborough College Partnership

March brought the last few visits of our 24/25 Marlborough College partnership. Across 10 dates, Abbey Park Scholars have benefitted from attending a series of enrichment afternoons at Marlborough College, aimed at stretch and challenge of our most able pupils. Sessions have included Chinese, Economics, Classics, Advanced Computer Science, Escape Room in their Historic Library, Russian, History and English. The College has been incredibly impressed by our pupils; one recent quote read "The students and staff have been delightful, and powerful ambassadors for your Trust". Well done to all the scholars who have made this project such a great success!



IET Faraday STEM Challenge Day

Last week, our talented Y8 scientists were pitted against pupils from Highworth and Lydiard Park Academy in a team competition hosted here at Abbey Park, promoted by the IET Faraday organisation. Two teams of six Abbey Park pupils, were required to work together in solving a complex design problem and then present their prototype solution to a judging panel for assessment. A fascinating day of teamwork and cutting edge design process was enjoyed by all, with Abbey Park eventually coming runner up to the overall winners, Lydiard Park Academy.

Young Citizen's Magistrates Mock Trial

After months of preparation, our Y9 Mock Trial team took to Swindon Magistrates Court on Saturday 22nd March to engage in courtroom battle with 3 other local schools in a simulated trial. The team were nothing short of sensational, demonstrating incredible skills in oracy, critical questioning and persuasive dialogue. The other schools had little answer to our talented legal team, with Abbey Park taking the overall win plus individual awards for Best Defence Team, Best Prosecution Lawyer and Best Defence Lawyer - Amazing! The team now qualifies for the national final to be held later this year. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

Mr McKinstry
Vice Principal

Thank you!



A **MASSIVE** THANK YOU
TO ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO KINDLY DONATED.

1st Place - Barbury - £308.25
2nd Place - Kennet - £260.43
3rd Place - Avebury - £220.44
4th Place - Stonehenge - £214.88
5th Place - Whitehorse - £180.90
Arbor Payments - £621.00

WHICH GIVES US A FANTASTIC:

£1,805.90

This is by far the most we have ever raised together, and we are thrilled to be able to donate this amazing amount to the BBC Comic Relief Appeal.



World Book Day

Mrs Russell and I had the pleasure of walking the school, judging the amazing entries to the World Book Day door competition. We were absolutely blown away by the standard, thought and care that tutor groups across all year groups put into their door designs.

The winners and runners up are as follows:

Overall winner - The Learning Hub - 'Jungle Book' Journey

Year 7 winner - 7RJ - Book Choices

Year 7 runner-up - 7MR - Book Stars

Year 8 winner - 8CHU - Elmer

Year 8 runner-up - 8AT - Willy Wonka

Year 9 winner - 9CD - Noughts and Crosses

Year 9 runner-up - 9KVS Hunger Games

Year 10 winner - 10AF - The Jungle Book

Year 10 runner-up - 10CB; Around the World



Mr Snook

Curriculum Leader KS3 - English

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP

Abbey Park Music Department
needs instruments!

We could make use of any
unused/unwanted instruments you may
have sat in the attic or cupboard.
Please send into school and help bring
the Music Department alive!



hutchingsc@abbeyparkschool.org.uk if
you require any more information

Music Lessons



**1-1
Instrumental
music lessons
at school, online
or at home.**

*Piano, Drums, Guitar,
Woodwind, Brass and Strings.*

**Swindon
Music
Co-operative -
providing 1-1
instrumental
lessons in schools
across Swindon and
Wiltshire since 1998.**



**Swindon
Music
Co-operative**



Our aim is to develop each pupil's musical potential according to their individual needs and aspirations. Quality of teaching is monitored through regular observations of all our teachers.

For more information or to apply please scan the QR code below



Application form



More information

**Swindon Music Co-operative, Astoria House, 165/166 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU
01793 781973 • info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk • swindonmusiccoop.co.uk**



EASTER HALF TERM

SWINDON BASKETBALL CAMP

APRIL 9TH 10TH 11TH

16TH 17TH 18TH

12PM - 3PM

LOCATION

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL, SWINDON
SN5 4AT

VISIT: WWW.SWINDONBASKETBALLCAMP.COM

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN

PRICES

1 DAY: £25

2 DAYS: £40

3 DAYS: £60



Useful Information

Buying books

In the library we try to keep a wide variety of books and authors, however it is impossible to stock everything. If your child enjoys reading it can be difficult to keep up with buying them books, especially in the current economic climate.

So here are a few tips to keep costs down:

- Join your local library, it is free to join and you can borrow up to 16 books at a time.
- While at the library, many have a withdrawn section where you can take as many books as you can carry for £1.
- Charity shops often have a book section, the bonus is you can return them when you have finished and support a good cause.
- Discount book shops such as The Works offer a wide range of books at discount prices.
- Online WoB (World of Books) is a secondhand book shop which offers books at a reasonable price and offers free delivery in the UK.

Local libraries

North Swindon Library

Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

01793 707120

northswindon.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 2.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday - closed
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday - closed
- Friday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Sunday - 11.00am - 3.00pm

Central Library

Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

01793 463238

central.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Thursday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Friday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Sunday - closed

Local Bookshops

Bert's Books

54 Godwin Court, Swindon, SN1 4BB

07949 190977

bert@bertsbooks.co.uk

Opening hours

- Monday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Saturday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday - 10.30am – 4.00pm

Waterstones

3 Canal Walk, Swindon SN1 1LD

01793 436465

www.waterstones.com

Opening Hours

- Monday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Thursday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Growing Well Wiltshire App



We understand the importance of the health and wellbeing of families in Wiltshire. That's why we have created our very own mobile app.

The app is free.

Check below for some of the great features our app offers:

- ✦ Message qualified healthcare professionals directly through the app.
 - ✦ Keep track of your emotional health
 - ✦ Dads need support as well, so we have a section dedicated just to them.
 - ✦ Check out some healthy eating recipes to try at home.
 - ✦ Keep track of your family vitals
 - ✦ Packed full of useful information for your child's development from before birth all the way up to 18 years.
- Information about the different vaccines offered to your children.

Click this image



or this link » [Growing Well Wiltshire App](#) to download

School Uniform Donations



Do you have any pieces of branded Abbey Park uniform lying around that are still in good condition and could be used by someone else? Perhaps they no longer fit or you no longer need it. Are you just not sure what to do with it? If so, we might be able to help you!

Pre-loved uniform will be put to good use by supporting our pupils and their families. We are looking for donations of branded Abbey Park uniform, specifically blazers and ties but we will happily take trousers, shoes, jumpers and PE kit too.

If you do have any items you no longer need, then please drop them in at reception. All we ask is that donations are in good condition and have been cleaned.

Many thanks in advance for any support you might be able to offer.

Mr Stubbs
Assistant Principal

Pupil Laptops

When pupils are given a school laptop to use at home, please ensure the software and antivirus are updated by turning the laptop on weekly.

Please return the laptop to the school reception or IT office if it is no longer in use at home so that it can be distributed to pupils who now need a device.

If you're experiencing any problems with the laptop at home, please let us know.



IT Support



At Abbey Park we are committed to ensuring a culture of safeguarding in our school and it is paramount in all we do. We hope that our termly safeguarding update will give you an overview of our approach, offer some useful guidance and information and inform you of what your child is learning in school about how to keep themselves safe. For more information about safeguarding, please look at our website.

What does Safeguarding look like at Abbey Park?

At Abbey Park School we follow the Government policy document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This is statutory guidance for all schools in England to follow and comply with. It has recently been updated and therefore our safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect this. You can find this on our safeguarding section on the school website. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in making sure that children grow up having the best life chances. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all adults should make sure their approach puts the child at the centre of the decision making and that the best interests of the child are always considered. We believe that it is in the best interest of our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school. Our safeguarding themes are woven into lessons across the curriculum, into assemblies and throughout daily life in school. Here are just a few examples of how we teach safeguarding at Abbey Park:

Dedicated safeguarding team in school every day

Pastoral support for each group.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA's) and Pastoral Support Assistants who have specialist training in supporting a child in their social and emotional needs

Members of staff who have completed basic mental health training

Mental health pupil ambassadors

Mental health staff ambassadors

A dedicated mental health lead – Mrs Stevens

Wellbeing Wednesday each Wednesday Tutor time looking at how to look after mental health

Assemblies and lessons taught throughout the year, including but not extensively, anti-bullying, equality, diversity, fire, sun, children's safety, exploitation, sexual harassment and violence and online safety.

PHSE curriculum covering how to be healthy, having healthy relationships and developing emotional literacy

Online safety curriculum

RSE (Relationships and sex education) curriculum

Weekly tutor time reminders about staying safe in school and our expectations

If you need any support with your child, please contact a member of the safeguarding Team.

Abbey Park Safeguarding team

Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Kara Stevens



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Lorraine Hatcliffe



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Miss Vanessa Redondo



Contact details and circumstances – please keep us up to date!

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for every parent/carers. If you change your phone number, e-mail or move house, please let the admin team know or update it on Arbor. We also need at least two emergency contacts for your child.

We also ask that you keep us up to date with any changes in your personal circumstances that may impact your child.

Mrs Stevens: stevensk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Mrs Hatcliffe: hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Redondo: redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Contact details:

Please can we ask that you ensure the school has at least two contact details in case of an emergency. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. This can be done on Arbor.



Useful contacts:

'Contact Swindon' has changed its name and is now known as Children and Families Contact Swindon. If you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker, family services worker without going through school please call - 01793 464646.

If you have concerns that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999.

School Nursing team – for support to help children with their physical, mental and emotional well-being and referring to other specialist agencies.

Tel – 01793 465050 or email

snn@swindon.gov.uk

Online safety guidance for parents

<https://swgfl.org.uk/>



Assembly and PSHE this term

At Abbey Park School all pupils attend Assemblies and PSHE sessions each week.

During term 4 pupils have had the following assemblies: Abbey Park PROUD, Remembrance Day, Anti bullying week, Road safety, British values, House assemblies.

During PSHE this term pupils have been learning about the following topics:

Year 7	Careers planning
Year 8	Health and wellbeing – Drugs and Alcohol
Year 9	Rights and responsibilities
Year 10	Living in the wider world: Employability skills: CEIAG
Year 11	Health and wellbeing – mental health

Social care or external agency involvement

A polite request to keep the Pastoral team updated if your child is receiving support from social services or any external agencies. This will enable us to ensure the right support is given at the right time.

Special guardianship orders or unofficial care givers

Just a reminder to keep the school updated if a child is under a special guardianship order or unofficial care placement to ensure they receive any support needed.

Attendance matters:

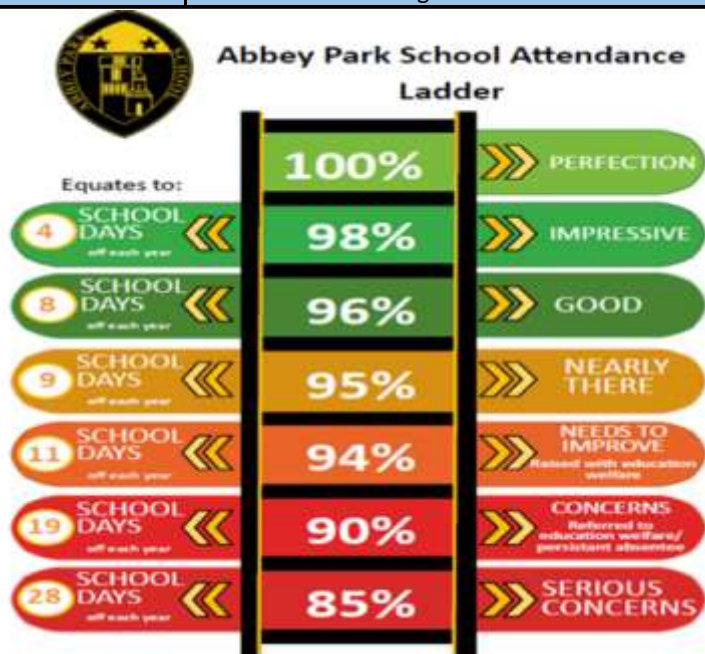
Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance to school and better outcomes for young adults.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance please contact your Child's Head of Key stage, PSA or Mrs Evenett for support.

First aid

Just a reminder that we can only offer first aid in school. We are not able to treat pre-existing conditions as we are only first aiders.

Paracetamol – we will not issue any paracetamol to pupils during P5 to ensure pupils do not take another dose at home.



Safeguarding information

Online safety: Each term we will add support guides for parents. All of these guides can be found on our website under the safeguarding section.

All The National College's our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by National College Safety, these guides now address other topics and themes. For further guides, advice and tips, please visit www.wakeupwednesday.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shared in culture – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- ### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's increasingly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling' (scrolling through social media and otherwise viewing scary post their news, much of which might make them feel sad or anxious). Social media can be addictive because it shows what friends and family are up to or playing up to date, so-called 'social currency'. It's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of mindlessly scrolling through content, which is often used to young people mindlessly scrolling through content.
- ### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep age-appropriate of the kind of content that a young person is likely exposed to. Discussing what they're looking at online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, when they're looking at content, such as advertising or a product – and that they have to be able to tell you what is being sold to them.
- ### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of what's good about social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something positive, enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a talent they have, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things should be given attention, explaining why it isn't reliable, and why it's been created in the first place.
- ### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people are sometimes so aware of the amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smartphones don't have the capacity to monitor screen time, but you can use a timer to limit on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- ### 5 FILL THE VOID

Working and reducing screen time can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even have withdrawal symptoms when unable to stop using their phones. To mitigate this, consider what other activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young people will permanently cut down on their screen time, rather than temporarily doing so while they have it being monitored.
- ### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day when they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young people being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.
- ### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

It's important to encourage our children to experience the real world – from body contact to social connections. This doesn't mean that you make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is becoming more and more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- ### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox' from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screen time and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than reducing the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.
- ### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're displaying in your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – as it often is, that you're also spending a lot of time on your phone. It can help to encourage children to have a 'digital detox' while you're not using your phone, and you can see how they feel about it.
- ### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many factors that are making it so easy to get 'hooked' on these platforms. The negative impacts of using social media and phones can be significant. It's important to explain to young people why managing screen time is important, and not the benefits and access they have to all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Bailey is a social leader at a Birmingham secondary school and has spent the last 15 years – including the development of computing curriculum across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://www.wakeupwednesday.com/page/2024/01/10-top-tips-for-parents-and-educators/>

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Term 5 Curriculum Map - KS3

‘Potential into Performance’

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	Fiction Writing: World Myths	Non-fiction Writing: Culture and Opinion	Non-fiction Writing: Speeches
Maths	Conceptualising and comparing fractions Manipulating and calculating with fractions	Angles in polygons Circles	Percentages Surds Investigations Indices
Science	Movement & Ecology	Bioenergetics & Climate	B2 Organisation
MFL	Spanish: Mi Ciudad French: En ville	Spanish: Operación Verano French: Le sport en direct	Spanish: Una Aventura en Madrid French: Le monde Francophone
Humanities	Geography: History of India (History and RE Buddhism focus) History: India Philosophical Thinking: How the past influences our future	Geography: History Unit History: World War One Philosophical Thinking: War and Peace	Geography: Population and Settlement History: Making of Modern Britain Philosophical Thinking: Denominations
Computing	Scratch Block Programming	Minecraft Education	Python Programming Business Project
Design Technology (DT)	PD - interactive flyer & reading task	PD - Abbey Park of 2050 Branding & reading task	PD - Key Designers & reading task
Visual Arts	Portraits	Niki de Saint Phalle Nana Sculptures	Clay Monsters
Performing Arts	Drama: Evacuees Music: Gamelan	Drama: “The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾” Music: Remix	Drama: Shakespeare’s Theatre & Horror Music: Film Music
PE	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	Health & Wellbeing: Relationships (RSE)	CEIAG: Community and careers	Drugs Education – Global Impact

Term 5 Curriculum Map - KS4

'Potential into Performance'

	Year 10	Year 11
English	Literature and Context: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Revision for Mocks/ Retrieval and Consolidation Spoken Language	Revision
Media	Film Marketing	Revision
Maths	Foundation: Multiplicative Reasoning Higher: Plans & elevations & 3D shapes	Foundation: Data Higher: Further Algebra and Graphs
Science	P5 Forces & B7 Ecology	Revision & Exams
MFL	Spanish: Ciudades French: Le grand large	Spanish: Ciudades French: Le grand large
Humanities	Geography: Physical Landscape of UK History: Nazi control & dictatorship and Life in Nazi Germany Philosophical Thinking: Religion & life Sociology: Paper 1: The Sociology of Education	Geography: Revision History: Nazi control & dictatorship and Life in Nazi Philosophical Thinking: Revision Sociology: Revision
Business & Computing	Business: 1.5 - Understanding external influences on business (partly) & Mock paper preparation Computing: 3.4 Computer Systems and 3.2 Programming	Exam Ready Computing: 3.1-3.8 Revision Programme in preparation for external assessments. Re-cap and reteach
Design Technology / Food	DT: Specialist technical principles, Design strategies and modelling and Communication of ideas. Food: 3.4 food safety	DT: Revision Food: Exam preparation
Art & Photography	Art: Identity Photography: Circles	Art: ESA Photography: ESA
Performing Arts	Drama: Component One - Devising Music: Practice of the above through listening activities	Drama: Component Three Music: Revision
PE	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket CNAT: R185 Topic 4- Review of planning & Leading/ R186- Media in Sport GCSE: Paper 1- Applying the principles of training/ Preventing injury in physical activity	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket BTEC: Unit 3- Applying the principles of personal training
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	RSE: Healthy relationships	Revision

Easter holidays

Monday 7th - Thursday 17th April 2025

Bank holidays Term 4

Friday 18th April 2025

Monday 21st April 2025

Return to school (all pupils):

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Contact details and consents

Having up-to-date contact information enables us to communicate with you promptly in the unlikely event of an emergency school closure during the day. This ensures that we can communicate effectively and keep you informed of any urgent developments. Please also take a moment to review the contact details and consents we have recorded for you on the Arbor Parent Portal are correct.

If your circumstances have changed and your child can no longer go home by themselves in event of an emergency school closure, you can update the consent accordingly on Arbor.

Wednesday 30th April	Y9 vaccinations - DTP/MenACWY catchup
Thursday 1st May	Athlete Visit- all day APS Got Talent
Wednesday 7th May	TPAT Masterclass Trip to LPA
Friday 9th May	Y8 trip to Bristol Aquarium & M-Shed
Monday 12th - Friday 16th May	Wellbeing week
Friday 16th May	PSHE Police visit
Wednesday 21st May	Young carers party P4 & P5

Bank holidays Term 5

Monday 5th May

Monday 26th May

May half-term

Monday 27th - Friday 30th May

Inset day

Monday 2nd June

Return to school (all pupils):

Tuesday 3rd June 2025

School Calendar 2024-25



Abbey Park School Terms and Holidays 2024 - 2025



September 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

INSET Days 2nd and 3rd September, 18th and 19th November, 2nd June, 21st and 22nd July

Lunchtime Finish 20th December and 18th July

Bank Holidays 2024/25 UK

25 December '24	Christmas Day	18 April '25	Good Friday	26 May '25	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '24	Boxing Day	21 April '25	Easter Monday	25 August '25	August Bank Holiday
1 January '25	New Year's Day	5 May '25	May Day Holiday		