

# News from Abbey Park School

Term 1 October 2022

*'Potential into Performance'*



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

The first term of the academic year has passed very quickly and on reflection it is probably because of the amount of work and activities that have occurred since the very beginning of September. The summer seems to be a distant memory however the work and refurbishment that took place over the holiday is very much being enjoyed by pupils and staff. The refurbishment of blue wing, the addition of a new computer suite, along with a new SMART board in each classroom across the school, has certainly enhanced the learning environment. The outside social space has also been a benefit for the increasing number of pupils attending Abbey Park.

The busy open evenings and mornings saw in the region of over 1400 people visiting the school. It is good to be able to welcome visitors and hold face to face meetings so the community can experience our excellent facilities and see what Abbey Park has to offer. During the evenings we were able to share our initial information on GCSE results for 2021-2. Of our previous Yr11 cohort, 70% achieved a grade 4 in English and Maths and 48% grade 5 in English and Maths. These were extremely pleasing results for the cohort and we are already hearing of pupils successes in further education and training.

### **Uniform and Attendance**

As you may be aware we have carried out a significant drive on uniform standards and attendance, which again has been very successful and we thank you for your support in this. If you happen to have a particular problem with purchasing uniform items please do contact the school as we have a collection of used uniform which is in good condition. If you would like to donate any uniform to school please do not hesitate to bring it main reception. Attendance has certainly improved compared to last academic year and we will continue to emphasise the link between good attendance and academic performance.

### **Governance of the school**

We do have a number of vacancies on the Abbey Park School, Local Advisory Board. This group of governors meet once a term as well as link with different aspects of curriculum within the school. They work with the school to provide support and an external view of the progress the school is making. If you feel you could contribute due to your experience or background and would like to join this group of volunteers, please do not hesitate to contact Steph Connolly via e-mail [ConnollyS@theparkacademiustrust.com](mailto:ConnollyS@theparkacademiustrust.com).

There are many more achievements and events to read about in the newsletter. Lastly, I would like to mention that I had the pleasure of attending the Abbey Park Autumn Music Concert. There was such a diverse range of talent of music on display – as I mentioned to the audience at the close of the concert, these young people show all of the elements of Abbey Park PROUD. Myself and the audience were certainly very proud of the performers and we look forward to the Christmas Carol concert and the Little Shop of Horrors production, of which we were treated to a little taster!

Lastly, I would like to thank you as parents and carers, for your support throughout this successful first term. The triangulation of School, Child and Parent, leads to the success of our young people and we look forward to Term 2 working with you.

Best wishes

Mr Young

## **Congratulations**

### **Student Leadership Team**

We are pleased to announce the Student Leadership Team members. The candidates for the roles went through a rigorous interview. All prepared very well and Ms Redondo and Mr Young found the decisions very challenging to make as everyone presented so well.

Congratulations to the team listed below and we look forward to hearing more about them and their work across the school throughout the academic year.

**Head Girl**                      M. Baker

**Head Boy**                      J. Barrett

**Deputy Head Girl**    E. Dearing

**Deputy Head Boy**    R. Hunt

### **Newton House Captains**

M. Rees

S. Vijeyabalan

### **Ennis-Hill House Captains**

T. Holland

C. Little

### **Austen House Captains**

A. Connolly

S. Wing

### **Churchill House Captains**

B. Duke

E. Scratchley

## **P.E.**

The PE department have seen some fantastic results this term with the commitment and determination from APS pupils who have been brilliant in representing the school. There have netball fixtures throughout the term with a few outstanding performances with the Year 7's winning their last match in convincing fashion with a 10 - 0 win against Ridgeway, U14's coming 9<sup>th</sup> in the School National Tournament and U16 coming 5<sup>th</sup> and have only been beaten once in the league so far. Both U14's and U16's boys football team are through to the next round of the County Cup after some excellent displays against Warneford and Stonehenge and are looking forward to the league matches next term.

The Sports Academy Leaders did a brilliant job at organising and hosting a Red Oaks and Orchid Vale Netball tournament which saw 120 students participating in physical activity and feedback from both schools were extremely positive. The Sports Academy pupils also had their first session of the year with the focus being motivation and feedback so students can develop a great awareness and understand how to cope with demands of competitive sport.

This terms A.C.E performers winners are: KS3 - R. Hawkins, KS4- I. Trinder & BTEC/ GCSE - E. Holt. All have received R4 for their brilliant attitude and commitment in lessons and extra-curricular activities and going above and beyond this term.

Nominations for A.C.E performer below:

E. Snowden, O. Flowerdew, T. Taverner, N. Schofield, C. Harding, M. Rendell, T. Ross, C. Salmon, A. South, E. Bignold, R. Dean, J. Dunabie, A. Taylor, G. Hughes, R. Hawkins, C. Underdown, O. Horan, C. Cooper, F. Hillier, H. New, E. Johnstone, A. Bagga, I. Trinder, H. Chan, K. Burch, E. Farmer, G. Thompson, L. Cotterill, E. Holt and M. Bruce.

Next term we continue in the netball league with plenty of matches still to play and the football league for both girls and boys starts along with County Cup matches so there are plenty of opportunities to be involved at Abbey Park.



## English

### **Power of Reading Assembly**

Mr Snook has been delivering special reading assemblies all this week on the power of reading. During these assemblies he has also been revealing pupils who logged their reading books for pleasure over the summer as part of the Summer Reading Challenge. 156 book entries were logged across all year groups with some pupils logging more than 5 reading books - a fantastic achievement. All pupils that took part will receive an R2 and pupils who logged more than 5 will be receiving R4s.

### **Accelerated Reader to launch**

Accelerated Reader will be launching after half term. [Accelerated Reader](#) is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children, teachers, and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

# Humanities

## Black History Month 2022

During this term, Mr Young delivered an assembly to all year groups to commence Black History Month. We are very pleased to hear the conversations pupils have been having on hearing the examples of positive Black groups throughout the years within military services.

The month of October marks Black History Month in the UK. The event has been celebrated in the UK since 1987. As stated by the BBC "People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, campaigners believe their value and contribution to society is often overlooked, ignored or distorted." At Abbey Park School, we feel it is important for pupils to have a wider understanding of different heritage, cultures and religions, allowing our pupils to be respectful and have a clear understanding, emulating our Abbey Park PROUD ethos.

In order to raise awareness, you will notice a table of Black representatives below, which have a series of weblinks and videos hyperlinked. If any parents or pupils have an interest in finding out more about different Black people and the contributions they have made to society, you may use the below table at your leisure.

If pupils would like to share their findings with their Humanities teacher, they are more than welcome and we will be more than delighted to issue reward points for this.

1. <b>Maggie Aderin-Pocock</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	2. <b>Ira Aldridge</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	3. <b>John Archer</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	4. <b>Viv Anderson</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	5. <b>Jazzie B</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	6. <b>Malorie Blackman</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	7. <b>Ozward Boateng</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>
8. <b>George Bridge-tower</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	9. <b>Charlotte of Mecklenburg</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	10. <b>Michaela Coel</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	11. <b>Samuel Cole-ridge-Taylor</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	12. <b>William Cuffay</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	13. <b>Olaudah Equiano</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	14. <b>Edward Enniful</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>
15. <b>Sir Mohamed Muktar Jama Farah</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	16. <b>Michael Fuller</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	17. <b>Dame Kelly Holmes</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	18. <b>Rose Hudson-Wilkin</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	19. <b>Kwasi Kwarteng</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	20. <b>David Lammy</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	21. <b>Baroness Doreen Lawrence</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>
22. <b>Sir Steve McQueen</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	23. <b>David Olusoga</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	24. <b>Elsie Owusu</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	25. <b>Mary Seacole</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	26. <b>Paul Stephenson</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	27. <b>Stormzy</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	28. <b>Jacky Wright</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>
29. <b>Dame Sharon White</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	30. <b>Gary Younge</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	31. <b>Benjamin Zephaniah</b> <a href="#">Video Wikipedia</a>	Want More? Read '100 Great Black Britons',			

## **PRESS RELEASE: Students at Abbey Park School awarded a coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag.**

Pupils at Abbey Park School have earned an international accreditation this academic year, recognising their amazing work in making their school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow pupils.

Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and act.

Students at Abbey Park School collaborated with Mrs Coles to conduct a thorough environmental review, assessing how eco-friendly their school is and what eco behaviours are displayed by students and staff. They reviewed everything from the school's recycling practices, to energy usage, to how environmental themes are covered in classrooms. Building on their findings, the pupils and Mrs Coles planned a year of activities that would up their green-credentials.

The group connected their work to 3 Eco-Schools topics: transport, natural habitats and eco schools recruitment and promotion.

Activities included a walk to school week, creating and maintaining natural habitats in and outside school and holding formal eco-meetings to discuss future projects. They were also able to ask the MP for North Swindon, Justin Tomlinson about his views.

"I enjoyed being able to make changes around the school to help the environment as well as being able to have a say in helping out"

G Fenton 9VL.

Eco-Schools England Manager,

Adam Flint, said: "Earning an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award takes passion, commitment and a desire to make a difference. Pupils should be proud of their great work. They're an inspiration and it makes us feel heartened and positive about the future of our planet."

To learn more about Eco-Schools head to [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

L-R

M Kozlowski

S Read

E Saglam

G Plancheka

J Gorska



## Modern Foreign Languages

### Many Fantastic Learners

We have had a busy and successful first term in the Languages Department, not just at Abbey Park, but across the Trust. Mrs Wood and Miss Legatelois have been working with KS2 students at Orchid Vale, Red Oaks, and Bridlewood. They have been very impressed with their language learning skills. Pupils have been learning to describe school, music and festivals and can talk about what they do to help the environment, all in French!

Back in the Abbey Park classrooms we have focussed on culture as well as language. Y9 French students have been acknowledging Black History Month by learning about Josephine Baker, a much celebrated French-American performer and activist, who dedicated her life to fighting segregation and racism.

We have been hugely impressed and “APS Proud” of our students and congratulations to our star linguists who each received a certificate in the last week of term.





## Autumn Concert

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed parents and students to our Autumn Concert. Over forty students performed twenty-two different acts.

It was a real pleasure to watch the variety and skill that our students exhibited in their playing and singing. It bodes well for future APS concerts and we are looking forward to seeing many of our wonderful singers in our forthcoming school production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*.



Just recently, the music department took 13 students to a JTP singing day, that was held in Dorcan school. This was a great experience for our pupils to be involved in and they represented the school brilliantly. The day started with teaching pupils warm ups. Throughout the day they had the opportunity to learn four songs 'Can you feel the love tonight', 'Oh what a night', 'Mamma Mia' and 'Defying gravity'. The songs were cleverly organised with some tricky harmonies that our students excelled in, resulting in a final performance at the end of the day. In the final performance they had the opportunity to work with a professional soloist Emily Apps, who sung the solo part of defying gravity.



Welcome to our first 'Safeguarding newsletter' of the school year. At Abbey Park we are committed to ensuring a culture of safe-guarding 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

### Abbey Park Safeguarding team



## School Calendar

### Term 2

<b>Monday 31st October</b>	<b>First Day of Term 2</b>
<b>Monday 31st October</b>	<b>Year 11 SLT Interviews start</b>
<b>Tuesday 1st November</b>	<b>Year 8 Explorerdome Science Event</b>
<b>Thursday 4th November</b>	<b>Houses of Parliament Trip</b>
<b>Thursday 17th November</b>	<b>Year 11 Mock GCSEs begin</b>
<b>Thursday 17th November</b>	<b>INSET DAY (Yr11 in school for mock exams)</b>
<b>Friday 18th November</b>	<b>INSET DAY (Yr11 in school for mock exams)</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th November</b>	<b>Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30 - 8pm</b>
<b>Thursday 15th December</b>	<b>Year 11 Subject Consultation Evening 4.30 - 8pm</b>
<b>Friday 16th December</b>	<b>Last Day of Term 2 School closes at 12.30pm</b>