

News from Abbey Park School

Issue 9 - Term 3 2020

'Potential into Performance'



The Park
Academies Trust



Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

At this time of the year we receive validation of our student outcomes from last year. This has confirmed the excellent progress we have made as a school - our position in a group of 55 similar schools rising over the last three years, from 50th to 19th. This again is reflected in the increased number of first choices for September's new Yr7 cohort of 209, which indicates we will be over-subscribed again. This is pleasing news as it shows the community has increasing confidence in what we offer as a school.

Year 11 preparation for exams is going well, with many students engaged in after school revision sessions to help support their revision, preparation and confidence. There has been excellent attendance at Maths Past Paper Club on Thursdays with around 100 pupils attending each week. If your child is not attending they are missing out and therefore I implore you to encourage them to attend the sessions run by each subject. My thanks goes to those staff running the sessions and I commend those attending. Further Mock exams are coming up after the half term break and therefore attendance to school and Session 6 revisions clubs can make all the difference to outcomes. Also, please keep a look out next term for our promotion of our Easter Holiday revision sessions for Yr11.

The fantastic Sound of Music Production performed this week was testament to the hard work of students and staff. Our performing students cease to amaze with their talents and therefore my thanks go to Mr Flowerdew and the Performing Arts team for this wonderful production. Members of the audience and myself were extremely proud of the cast. These events not only lead to fond memories but are character building for all involved.

We have received a Bronze Award, signed by the Prime Minister for our students' participation in the National Citizenship Scheme. This is Year 11 pupils who at the end of time at Abbey Park School take on a range of activities during the Summer months before their next steps of education, employment and training. The range of experiences for students such as visiting universities, living independently, outdoor pursuits, CV writing and designing charity events are inspiring and show students as willing to broaden their experience of life. NCS have already visited current Yr11s to promote the scheme and we are hoping they will follow suit – who knows a Silver Award next.

On 6th February Mr Roper made the trip down to Paignton, near Torquay, with the year 7 5-a-side football team to compete in the south west championships. They played against some very well organised teams, but managed to win all of their games and have been crowned as champions of the south west. The team will now go forward to the national championships, in Birmingham, where they will play the best teams from across the country. Congratulations to the boys who make up the team, they will certainly be coming to see me for R4s for this great achievement.

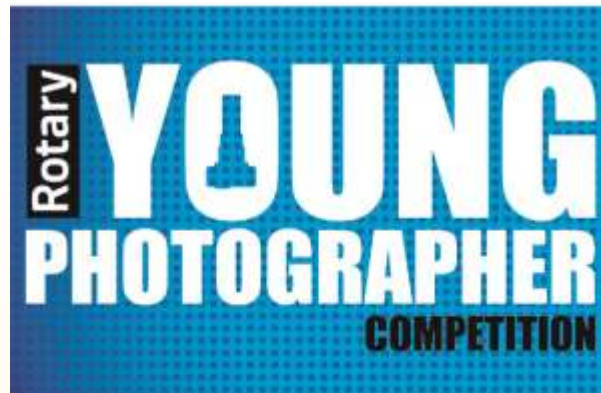
The safety of students in school is of paramount importance but we must also consider the journey to and from school. Having been on duty recently at the beginning of the day, there are a number of areas of concern which I would like to address. The first is cars dropping children off at the Student Gate roundabout. This is a major risk to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers and therefore I request this stops before there is an accident. Also, I would be grateful if parents could remind their children, particularly the boys who cycle, to refrain from performing wheelies and to slow down along congested path ways and roads. Finally, I would like to remind you that your child should aim to enter school through the Student Gate before 8.40am, unless special consideration is required. Once the gate is closed at 8.40am, a significant number of students are entering through the front of school the school despite requests to arrive earlier through the Student Gate. If this continues we will view this as defiance, not following instructions, which may result in a Consequence 3 being given.

Thank you for your support throughout this term, I hope students enjoy the break and look forwards to working with them into the Spring.

Mr Young

Principal

Art



During December, the Art department opened up the chance for students to enter the annual Young Photographer competition run by the Rotary club. This years theme was 'Through my eyes', and students had the task of taking photos to interpret their ideas of this theme.

This year the Rotary Club received the largest number of entries since the competition began, and the standard had been the highest they have seen.

They were delighted to let us know that Conor M has gained 2nd place in the Intermediate category of the Young Photographer Competition, and Aimee H has gained 3rd place in the Senior category.

Conor and Aimee have both been invited to attend a presentation ceremony with the Mayor, in his Parlour at the Civic Offices, in the Spring.

Art

Conor's Photography



Aimee's Photography



Careers

The 23rd of January was National Reading Day, and to mark this occasion Paulina W, Kaja G and I went to Ridgeway Rise care home to read a few poems and short stories to the residents with dementia there.

There was a range of poems on different subjects such as Chinese New Year; friendship; school and arctic animals. They were both uplifting and motivational and put smiles on the residents' faces.

My favourite was a poem called Happiness about how great it feels to be happy and how you shouldn't let anybody steal your happiness away. The residents I read with agreed that that poem was the best. I really enjoyed reading to the elderly residents and seeing that it caused them joy too.

When we were finished, the residents didn't want to see us go. It was a fun experience and I would love to do it again.

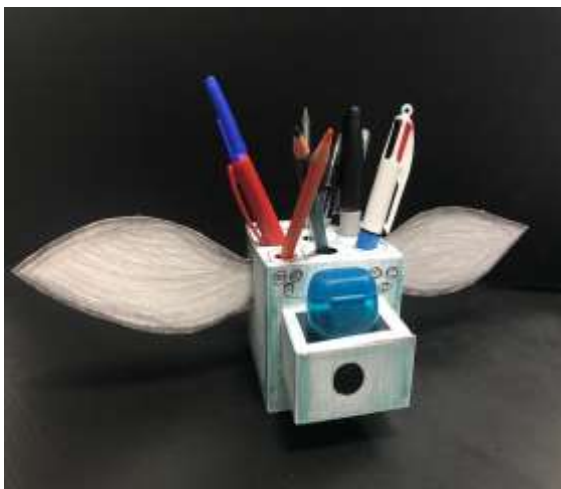
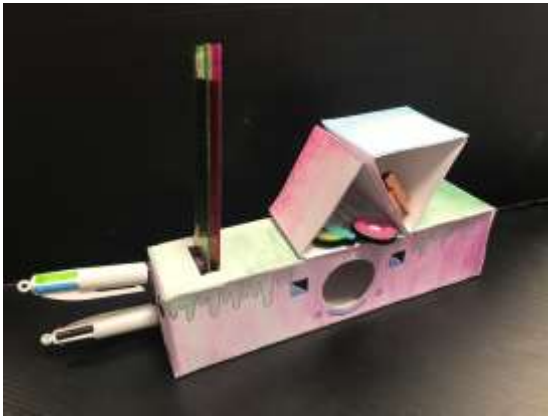
By: Dagna D



Design and Technology

Well done to Yr7 D&T Graphics students on creating a variety of fun and imaginative monster desk tidies. Here are some examples and you can find more on

Instagram @abbey_park_dt



English

READING BUDDY SCHEME:

This term I launched the Year 7 and 10 Reading Buddy Scheme with Year 10 student councillors - so far the scheme has been a success, with students in Year 7 reading to Year 10 councillors every Tuesday morning. It has been heart warming to see the conversations between the year groups about the books being read and I hope to keep this scheme up into the new term.

WORLD BOOK DAY PLANS:

Lots of exciting plans are in the pipeline for World Book Day which is Thursday 5th March. There will be a competition to 'Guess the Teacher' behind the book, a special reading assembly, as well as a collaboration between year 8 and year 2 students from Red Oaks primary. We hope the day and week leading up to it will be a success and continue to celebrate the love of reading here at Abbey Park.

LOCAL AUTHOR VISIT:

Karen Gregory, our local resident author, has been working with select year 10 students on their creative writing skills, in preparation for their language paper 02. We are looking forward to continuing to work with her over the next few terms.

Mr Snook

House News

Year 9 Student Council Buddy Reading at Red Oaks

For four weeks Austen House Student Council from Year 9 have been doing buddy reading with the children from Red Oaks who don't have English as their first language. This program has helped the children gain confidence when reading and open up, showing us their personality. Some of the children at the start read very quietly and didn't answer questions whereas near the end of our time with them they started to read much louder, answer questions and talk about their life story. Not only did the Red Oaks children gain something from this experience, but we also gained something; communication skills. Being with these children for whom English is not their first language, made us realise that we have an easy life. To conclude, this experience has benefited both us in Year 9 and the Red Oaks children. We think that this will really help if this programme carries on because in just four weeks we have seen a drastic change.

Mrs Wood

Well done to the following Austen students:

Sophia A B 9KM, Erin S 9KM, Dagna D 9JWH and

Kyle S 9JWH.



Maths

MATHS PAST PAPER CLUB

Year 11

Thursdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Collect a paper each Thursday (available from Show My Homework, the Maths Workroom or from Mr. Love in RF12).

Complete the paper at home.

Bring completed paper the following week to Past Paper Club, where a member of the department demonstrates solutions and explains the mark scheme.

R1 for each attendance.

THERE HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO PAST PAPER CLUB WITH ABOUT 100 STUDENTS ATTENDING EACH WEEK. WE WOULD BE KEEN TO SEE MORE BENEFITING FROM THIS OPPORTUNITY.

MFL

Language competition: University of Oxford Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

We are promoting this fantastic competition celebrating language learning from the University of Oxford

Submissions are to be made online using the link at bottom. The deadline for submission is 31st March.

It is free to enter

Let your MFL teacher know if you do decide to take part

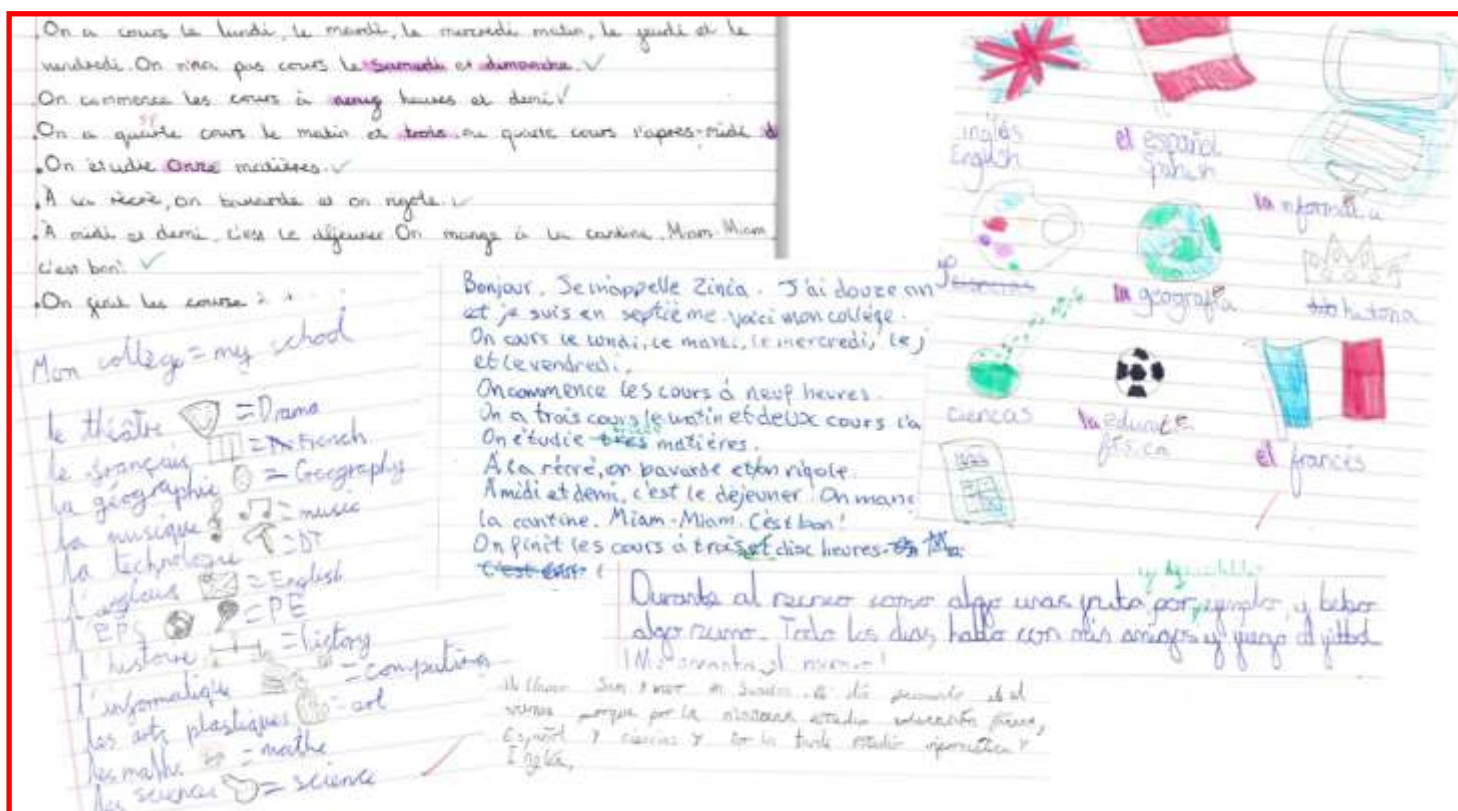


Do you have a flair for languages and a great imagination? Fancy a challenge? Enter this **FREE** university competition. You need to submit a short story of up to 100 words on any topic. The story can be written in French or Spanish. Entries will be judged on imagination and flair, as well as linguistic ability, and your level of language will be considered in the context of your age and year group.

The judges will award a top prize of **£100** in each category, as well as prizes of **£25 to a number of runners up**.

If you have any questions, please email schools.liaison@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk. For more information and how to enter,

visit: <https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/schools/language-competitions>



Pastoral

Attendance Ladder



Pastoral

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

In all matters of uniform and dress, the judgement of the Principal is final.

Dear Parent/guardian,

We would like to remind you of the high standard of personal appearance expected of all pupils who attend Abbey Park. Anyone arriving at school in non-uniform clothing, should expect to have their parents contacted to bring in the correct uniform or have the non school uniform item removed. Non uniform jewellery will be removed, including any facial piercings. We ask for your support in encouraging students to wait to have facial piercings done and to support them to wear the correct uniform to school. Below is a clear outline of our expectations around the uniform. Our expectation is that all students will arrive in full uniform.

<u>BLAZER</u>	<u>TIE</u>	<u>JUMPER</u>	<u>White Shirt</u>
A blazer with the School badge must be worn at all times to, from and around the school. When entering a classroom the blazer may be hung over the back of a chair or hung up.	An Abbey Park tie must be worn at all times to, from and around the school. Top buttons must be done up.	Jumpers are optional but if worn, they should be the black, V-neck jumper with the school badge on.	Students must wear a white shirt. This can be either short or long sleeved.

<u>COATS & HATS</u>	<u>JEWELLERY</u>	<u>MAKE-UP</u>	<u>HAIR</u>
<p>A plain dark outdoor coat without large logos or writing.</p> <p>Denim, sweatshirts, hoodies or cardigans are not permitted.</p> <p>All coats must be removed when entering a classroom.</p> <p>Hats are not permitted to be worn in the buildings.</p>	<p>One pair of small stud earrings in the ear lobe are the only forms of body/ facial piercings or tongue piercings allowed. If a pupil has any other piercings, the expectation is that they are removed immediately. There are no exceptions to this rule. Pupils are allowed a single watch.</p> <p>No other jewellery is permitted.</p>	<p>Discreet make-up only.</p> <p>No false eye lashes.</p> <p>Nail polish and Acrylic nails are not permitted at the school due to health and safety protocol in practical subjects.</p>	<p>Hair styles should be practical, clean and safe.</p> <p>Extreme hairstyles that detract from the smart appearance of the uniform are not allowed. The definition of what is extreme will change with fashion, but includes part shaven hair, Mohicans, extreme coloured hair other than a natural colour, hair with patterns cut into it or artificial hair extensions.</p>

Plain black traditional flat schools shoes only. Therefore no boots, trainers or daps. Shoes should be worn to and from school and around the buildings.

Trainers are only to be worn on the astro or MUGA at break and lunch time, session 6 or in PE lessons.

The trousers must be plain **black** fabric.

No Leggings

No Jeggings

No Crop trousers

No Chinos

No *excessively* tight fitting trousers

No *excessively* baggy trousers

The skirt must be of plain **black** fabric.

No knitted jerseys/stretch/satin/fabrics/denim/lace/cord/patterns permitted.

Skirts may be A-Line, pleated or straight.

Skirts should not be tight fitting.

Skirts should be knee length without slits.

Fashion skirts are not permitted.

Sports

I made the trip down to Paignton, near Torquay, with the year 7 5-a-side football team to compete in the South West championships. They played against some very well organised teams, but managed to win all of their games and be crowned champions of the South West. They will now be going forward to the national championships, in Birmingham, where they will play the best teams from across the country.

Congratulations to the following boys on their brilliant achievement

Callum H, Will O'F, Jasper W, Joe R, Liam C, Finlay D and Ryan A.

Mr Roper



Last week we went to LPA for the Swindon schools 6 a side football tournament. We won 2 of our 'pool matches' beating RWBA 2-0, Lawn Manor 3-1 and drawing against Kingsdown 1-1. This placed us into the semi finals where we were drawn to play LPA. At the end of normal play the result was 1-1 which resulted in penalties. LPA won 2-1 on penalties. There were some great individual performances from the girls with Shaniya Phillips scoring many of our goals. It was a fantastic team performance despite missing out on a place in the final.

Well done to Shaniya Phillips, Leah Holder, Eva Johnstone, Lucy Williams, Michaela Bruce, Abella.

Miss Walls

Session 6

Gardening Club – Donations needed

Gardening club has begun this term for KS3 and we are on the lookout for donations of any of the following to get our garden up and running:

- Seeds, bulbs, unwanted plants
- Plastic pots, clay pots, seed trays, planters
- Tools such as trowels, spades, gardening forks

Anything we can use will be gratefully received and we will keep you updated as things progress. Please drop off any materials you are willing to donate to Mrs Coles in GF47.

Villiers Park

I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of our year 10 Villiers Park scholars on a two day residential trip to Cambridge. They had opportunities to work with students from other schools on a project related to setting up a university faculty. They also visited Trinity College and were given a tour and a seminar on accessing higher education.

The students were great ambassadors for the school and I believe will have gained a lot from the experience.

Those involved were:

L Kellard
J Redondo-Beck
X Gray
B Greenfield
C Macharia

Mr Glassock





Villiers Park
Educational Trust

Creative writing competition

If you enjoy creative writing,
write the opening chapter of
your own story and hand them in
by Tuesday the 25th of February

500 word limit

The winner will be announced on
world book day and will receive an
Easter egg




Year 11—Programme of Study Support

	Year 11
Term 1	<p>Intervention programme continues – tutor time / small rotating groups</p> <p>Session 6 / lunchtime timetable published</p> <p>Careerspilot introduced</p> <p>Mock Preparation Day: revision skills – 07.10.19</p> <p>Key to Success Evening – 08.10.19</p> <p>Year 11 SLT interviews – w/c 14.10.19</p> <p>TPAT Careers Fair (LPA) – 24.10.19</p>
Term 2	<p>TPAT 6th Form Open Evening – LPA – 06.11.19</p> <p>Parent/Tutor Consultation Day – 21.11.19</p> <p>Mock examinations – 22.11.19 – 3.12.19</p> <p>Mock results assembly – 19.12.19</p> <p>Parent Consultation Evening – 19.12.19</p> <p>Careers Adviser meetings</p> <p>Futures Fair</p>
Term 3	<p>Alternative Y11 assembly schedule commences</p> <p>Maths 'past paper club' begins – Thursday Session 6</p> <p>February holiday – Controlled Assessment 'catch-up' sessions</p>
Term 4	<p>Maths/English/Science mock examinations (2) 26.02.20 – 28.02.20)</p> <p>Parent/Tutor Consultation Day – 02.04.20 (mock revision for intervention pupils)</p> <p>PSHCE used for core subject revision for ALL students</p> <p>Careers Advisor meetings for identified pupils</p> <p>Easter holiday revision programme</p>
Term 5	<p>Maths Mock (3) – 23.04.20</p> <p>Pre-exam "booster" / revision programme published</p> <p>GCSE Examination season begins – 11.05.20 – 16.06.20 – (24.06.20 – contingency day)</p>
Term 6	<p>Leavers' Prom – 10.07.19</p>

Young Carers

YOUNG CARERS AWARENESS DAY

30th JANUARY 2020



Every day across the UK thousands of young people help to look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol.

Recent research shows that one in five secondary school children may be a young carer. For many, their caring journey begins at a much younger age. Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.

For more information on young carers and registering as a young carer, go to;

www.swindoncarers.org.uk/young-carers/

You can also contact Abbey Park School's Young Carer Coordinator, Miss Stacey;

staceym@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Friends of Abbey Park School

Having last updated pre-Christmas, we just wanted to say 'thank you' to all of you that supported us at the carol concerts in December, we hope you enjoyed the evenings and we managed to raise £122.80 in total.

Since moving into 2020, we continue to work hard on activities such as Rags to Riches (there is another collection in March – so get clearing out those wardrobes) and Unicycle, our school uniform recycling programme.

Remember that donations of any out-grown items of uniform can be made via Reception.

We continue to support evenings and events in school, with volunteers on hand to serve teas, coffees and snacks at subject consultation evenings and shows that are currently happening – so please come and see us if you need a caffeine boost to keep you going or warm you up.

There are some events being planned over the coming months, so keep an eye out for updates.

We continue to work with the school to provide additional funding for items identified, so everything you spend with us, goes right back to supporting the students.

We are all parent volunteers, who help out in ways that we can and we are always keen for new members.

So, if you've been thinking that you might be interested in coming along and seeing what FOAPS do and how you can join in, please feel free to contact us at FOAPS@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Achievements

Congratulations Lottie Singleton Year 11 who has been nominated for the "Pride of Swindon Courage Award" for her involvement in 'NEST' - a bereavement support programme run by Wiltshire Treehouse (Swindon charity). The charity nominated her independently so it was a surprise for them both.

Lottie originally attended the programme herself but then became a peer volunteer and helped other children to voice their experiences of bereavement. She has also been part of a working party to help the charity to develop their support for teachers who help bereaved children.

Mrs Parkinson

Congratulations Joshua Burnett who has been selected to play ice hockey for the under 13s England team where he will be competing in Finland. He was selected to play out of 60 other players.

School Calendar

A full calendar and more information can be found at
www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk

February 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					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	

Monday 24th February—Start of Term 4

Tuesday 25th Feb—Year 7 Consultation Evening

4.30 – 8.00pm

**Wednesday 26th Feb Year 10 Villiers Park Trip to
Oxford University**

March 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						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					

Tuesday 3rd March—Year 9 Vaccination Catch Up

Thursday March 5th - World Book Day

Thursday 5th March—Rags 2 Riches Clothing Collection

Friday 13th March—Sports Relief Mufti Day

Thursday 19th March—Year 7 & 8 Disco

**Tuesday 24th March—Pixl Strive for 5 Trip to
Ashton Gate**

27th March—Photography Trip to Bath and Lacock

April 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		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		
30	31					

Thursday 2nd April—Whole School Consultation Day

Friday 3rd April—Last day of term

Monday 20th April—First day of term

Tuesday 28th April—Rivers Trip for Year 10