

News from Abbey Park School

Term 3 February 2022

'Potential into Performance'




The Park
Academies Trust



Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

For the first time in a while we have started to feel a sense of normality at Abbey Park and I think you will find this term's newsletter reflects this.

We are very pleased that the TPAT scholars programme in co-ordination with LPA has developed over the term. The Scholar cohorts are working on various projects and some excellent essays have been received. Recently the Yr7 group visited LPA for a careers afternoon where they listened to a presentation on the possibilities of university – it is never too early to aspire to this and to explore opportunities. We hope to see more of these events over the remainder of the year.

As you are aware, reading is very important for a child's development and when supported by parents helps children to make further progress in their studies. The novels issued this term have been well received by pupils and it has been a pleasure having discussions with pupils on their opinions on the books. We hope they enjoy the next novel that will be issued after half term.

Art and photography at APS is thriving. Our first photography competition awards have been made this term. Congratulations to all those involved for their amazing contributions. We certainly have some potential professional photographers at APS. You can see more of the entries can be seen on the school website.

It is great to see the sports teams back in action now we are allowed to mix with other schools. I would like to congratulate the Yr9 boys for their game against Warneford. Although losing a well fought match, their conduct, determination and respect on the pitch was exemplary. The Y8 boys were victorious and we hope their form continues.

Year 11 is a pivotal year. The current Yr11 cohort are working particularly well towards their GCSEs – this is evident in the number of pupils attending the support on offer, with 100 pupils each week attending our infamous Maths past paper club, run by Mr Stubbs and the Maths team. There is a further wave of mock exams after the half-term break so I encourage parents to support their child in their revision over the break. Star revisers are nominated each week and rewarded with lunch time queue passes which have proved popular. I also attended the recent pizza party for those 'Character Champions of the week'. These reward parties have taken place across the year groups and it was a pleasure to meet the pupils there who have gone above and beyond throughout the term.

You may be aware that we carry out senior leadership interviews annually for years 10 and 11. The preparation for these interviews has been evident in the excellent response from Year 10. It has been a pleasure, and makes me feel very proud as Principal, to listen to, not only the aspirations of these young people but their awareness of where they are in their learning journey and what they need to do to develop further.

A particularly busy cohort of pupils has been the School Council. They were fortunate to receive a visit from our local MP, Justin Tomlinson and had the opportunity to pose some challenging questions. They proved themselves Abbey Park Proud in the way they presented their questions and listened to his responses. Pupil voice will always be an important part of Abbey Park. There have been many pupils who have attended pupil voice panels this term to feedback on a wide range of aspects of the school.

The 'School of Rock Production' has been an excellent way to end the term – both evenings have been a sell out as well as primary audiences. Congratulations to all the cast for their performances and a huge thank you to Mr Flowerdew, Miss Henry, Miss Fullerton and Miss Taylor who have given their time to put on this fantastic performance.

Lastly, I would like to thank parents for their support throughout the term and I look forward to working with you all in the Spring time.

Best wishes

Mr Young
Principal

Art & Photography

Photography Competition 2022

During the Christmas break, we opened up our first in-house photography competition. For Key Stage 3, we asked for students to take a photo that represented Resilience and for Key Stage 4, we asked for a photograph to show what positive well-being was to them. We then asked students and staff to vote for their favourites. Thank you to all who entered and voted. — Miss Griffiths

★ ★ ★ KS3 Winner ★ ★ ★

A big congratulations to **Eliska H** for having the most voted for photograph in KS3



"This photo shows resilience because me and other members of my family went up a mountain in Scotland called Maoile Lunndaigh. After we had put in lots of effort and walked for a long time, we were able to see this beautiful view! If we had given up, then we wouldn't have been able to see this and we wouldn't feel too successful. It was challenging but we kept on going and it was worth it in the end."

★ ★ ★ KS4 Winner ★ ★ ★

A big congratulations to **Lilli G** for having the most voted for photograph in KS4.



"I have taken a photo that links to my wellbeing. It links to wellbeing as a topic because it shows how I handle my wellbeing as a thing. I usually put on some music and surround myself with things I enjoy. Usually I put on some music and get out a sketchbook or something to draw my feelings down onto a page instead of keeping it locked away inside. However this can be different for some, but listening to music and shutting yourself away from reality is usually what is popular when it becomes others wellbeing. I've only shown a few of the ways that people use to handle wellbeing in this photo because it's the ways that are popular with me, But however there are so many other ways to handle your wellbeing."

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Sophie K who is a swimmer for Swindon Dolphins ASC.

Since starting swimming at the age of 4, Sophie has risen through the ranks to become a national squad swimmer. Sophie has raced in over 30 competitions since the age of 10 years from club championships, regional qualifiers, county qualifiers to national competitions. Her fast times in multi events and distances has resulted in 136 medals and many trophies - recently being awarded 10 trophies for this year alone.

We are very proud of your achievements Sophie and look forward to hearing about future successes.



Computing

The Swindon Science Festival is running from 25 & 26 FEBRUARY 2022, they have computer science activities.

Here is the link for students who wish to attend together with their parents.

<https://www.festivaloftomorrow.com/>

Community

We would like to thank you for your support of the 2021 Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal.

It was amazing to see so many schools, churches, businesses, and individuals, from across Swindon and surrounding areas, get involved again to make the fifth consecutive Toy Appeal happen. Whether you donated toys, gave financially, or volunteered, we are so thankful for your contribution which made it all possible.

We received donations of 2,382 new toys (not including thousands of stocking fillers!), 679 books and 205 soft toys. In addition, through financial donations, we received a further £8,000 to put towards the purchase of toys and gift vouchers for any age categories with fewer donations. This enabled us to help a total of 923 children, 200 more than the previous year. Thanks to your generosity, each child was given a complete gift sack, including 3 main presents, a book, soft toy (ages 0-5) and 2 stocking fillers. These were then delivered by volunteers to the 373 referred families, ready in time for Christmas.

After another difficult year, it was a privilege to be able to work together to bring a little hope and happiness to local families living in desperate need. We were truly overwhelmed by the response so thank you again.

We'll be announcing our plans for the 2022 Toy Appeal later this year via our Facebook page, [Swindontoyappeal](https://www.facebook.com/Swindontoyappeal), so please follow us if you'd like to get involved. We do hope that we can partner together again. In the meantime, if you have any questions or feedback from the referred families, we'd love to hear from you. You can email us at: toyappeal@gcswindon.org.uk

Take care, stay safe and wishing you all the best for 2022.

Dawn Prosser – Toy Appeal Coordinator
Emma Pickering – Toy Appeal Administrator



English

Creative success for 7B4

Year 7 are currently reading *Star by Star* by Sheena Wilkinson. For a homework they were asked to create something inspired by the context of the book. The book is set in Ireland in 1918, so they could choose anything about WW1, the Suffragettes, The Spanish Flu, The Easter uprising or the Vote in 1918.

There were some amazing outcomes from the class including leaflets, posters, giant information boards, collages, board games, plaques, clay models as well as 3D models from cardboard. The effort put into this homework was astounding and made the whole English department very proud of 7B4. Keep up the good work.

Images: Whole class work display, Trench in a Box by Cadence Clements, close up of the plane by Finley M, Vote 4 women sign Ronnie M, collage by Zack J and giant board by Harriet H.



English

This creative piece was made by gluing crayons to a canvas with a glue gun and then melting them with a hairdryer. Stella, the person in the middle holding an umbrella, was created by printing her off and gluing her on to the canvas. To stop her being covered up by the melted crayons I used masking tape to protect her. She is missing a leg as in the event of pulling the tape of unfortunately her leg came off as well.

This design represents Stella and her emotions. The dark colours are associated with her negative emotions and the light colours are associated with her positive emotions. An emotion associated with the darker colours (making it a negative thought) is the loss of her mother. An emotion associated with the lighter colours (making it a positive thought) is that she has somewhere to stay. I have tried to emphasise the fact that she tries to block out the bad thoughts. I have done this by using an umbrella to shield herself. I have also tried to show that she has more negative thoughts than positive thoughts by simply having the majority of colours dark and only a fraction of them light.



Maths

Maths Past Paper Club

The Maths Past Paper Club runs after school on Thursdays 3.20pm - 4.30pm. It started at the beginning of term 3 and has attracted over one hundred year 11 students eager to improve their grades. Papers are made available on a Thursday (available from Past Paper Club, Show My Homework or from Mrs Lloyd in RF12), completed at home and then discussed in depth at Past Paper Club the following Thursday. The sessions are invaluable as the mark scheme is examined so that students understand how marks are allocated and the class teacher can demonstrate solutions and address specific student questions.

Multiple classes targeting either the Foundation or the Higher Paper are run and although no sign up is required, experience suggests regular weekly attendance yields the best results with around 85% of regular attendees achieving or exceeding their target grade.

Seneca Learning Parent Accounts

Seneca Learning is an online revision platform and all Abbey Park Students are subscribed to a premium account (login via their APS email and password).

Seneca is an adaptive learning platform, with a methodology entirely based on neuroscience, written by experts and academically proven to double students' outcomes. Not only are they fun and effective, but they also adjust each assignment to each pupil, optimizing their learning and providing teachers with detailed information about the class progress.

The reason we are writing this letter is to let you know that Seneca also has a free parent platform.

With this free parent account, you can support your child's studies, monitor their learning and identify their weaknesses and strengths in each subject. Parental engagement has a significant positive effect on learning outcomes. Thus, we highly encourage you to sign up.

To sign up simply go to: <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/parents> register and then send an invite to connect to your child's account.

Step-by-step Tutorial: <https://help.senecalearning.com/en/articles/3990859-how-to-connect-my-parent-account-to-my-child-s-account>

Dr Bamford

Our year 9 boys football team played their first school fixture in almost 2 years last night.

The fact that Warneford had already played two games this season definitely showed as they got off to a fast start and were 3-0 up inside twenty minutes.

It would have been very easy for our team to drop their heads, but they continued working hard and got back to 3-1 with a well-crafted move that was finished off by Dan R tapping in from close range.

We then scored immediately after half time through Callum H to make it 3-2 and were the better team for much of the half. We sadly conceded at a free kick late on to make the final score 4-2 to Warneford.

The game was played by two excellent teams in a competitive but extremely good spirit and our players conducted themselves in an APS 'PROUD' way throughout.

Man of the match was Jasper W who exuded quality. Ryan A and Joe R also stood out.

Team

Finlay D (GK)

Josh S

Joe R

Orlando T

Ryan A

Jasper W

Liam C

Dan R-B

Callum H

Freddie C

Anubis M-V

Jayden J

Alex S

Morgan W

North Wiltshire MP Justin Tomlinson visits Abbey Park

As a follow up to Democracy Day and Parliament Week, the Student Council were delighted to welcome the local MP to talk to them about a range of topics linked to his career and his role in Parliament.

The students had prepared a range of questions for him on areas such as refugees, Coronavirus and environmental considerations in our area. Well done to the three students who took part in the impromptu Hustings: we have some new Parties "The Pasta Party," "The Chicken Tikka Party" and "The Gym Party".

We will be following the successes of Mohammed M, Jack M and Harry S with great interest.

Pictured L-R S King, M Donnelly, S Gifford and S Wootton.



TPAT Scholars

On Wednesday afternoon, I had the pleasure of taking our year 7 TPAT scholars to LPA for a talk and activities based around what careers a higher education pathway could lead to.

They had an interactive discussion with a representative from the University of Gloucestershire followed by a task to research four different careers that would require a degree.

They worked in small groups with students from LPA and our group interacted in a really positive way with the LPA students.

I really think that this gave them a first little taster of what the pathway would look like if they had a particular career aspiration in mind in the future.

Mr Glassock

Year 8 Celebration Assembly

It was really great to have the Year 8’s altogether and celebrate some of their success.

We had a wonderful time celebrating some of the amazing students with the top reward points and lowest behaviour points in Year 8.

Top 5 Female students

- Amy L 8TW
- Isabel M 8CD
- Macey D 8AS
- Violet C 8TW
- Nieve C 8AW

Top 5 male students

- Harry S 8AS
- Jamie E 8CP
- Jayden M-T 8CP
- Joshua C 8MW
- Mateusz K 8HL

Attendance We also got to celebrate the students with 100% attendance.

- Harry S 8AS
- Macy D 8AS
- Nieve C 8AW
- Naomi P 8AW
- Jasper W 8BQ
- Isabel M 8CD
- Hayden A 8CJE
- Ruben L 8CJE
- Samuel R 8CJE
- Joshua S 8CJE
- Jamie E 8CP
- Jack H 8CP
- Jayden M-T 8CP
- Ethan E 8HL
- Mateusz K 8HL
- Joshua C 8MW
- Violet C 8TW
- Amy L 8TW

Tutor Group of the Term

8CP

Best attendance of the Term

8BQ

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Just to keep you all updated....

Leaver Book

We are offering Leavers book for our students. The price of the book is £24 per book.

If you have any photos of students at school that you would like added to the book, please email them to:

Oconnorc@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Leavers Hoodies

Wave ed will be supplying the school with Hoodies this year. A letter will come out regarding the ordering of these shortly and the price is £21.

PROM

Prom will be at the Hilton on the 8th July. Arrivals will be from 6pm with dinner at 7pm. Carriages at 11pm. The cost of the Prom is approximately £40.

The Prom Passport is still in operation

The prom passport is to demonstrate that students have embraced the Ethos of the school, as well as show excellent behaviour in school.

The success Criteria is as follows:

A score of 3 and above for Attitude for Learning and being a Reflective Learner which will be looked at using their school reports.

Attendance 96%	Less than 96% medical evidence maybe required
Behaviour	25 Reward points or more
	No more than 10 Behaviour points
	No exclusions during Year 11 (Sept 2021- June 2022)

Any student on anything above Head of Key stage report on Friday 3rd June 2022 will not be eligible for Prom.

Mrs Bulpitt

School Calendar

March 2022

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			

April 2022

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	

March 2022

2nd March—Year 7 Consultation Evening 4.30—8.00pm

15th March—Year 11 Group Photo

April 2022

Wednesday 6th April—Whole school Consultation Day

11th—22nd April—Half Term

Monday 25th April—Start of Term 3