

News from Abbey Park School

Term 4 April 2022



'Potential into Performance'

The Park
Academies Trust



Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

With Easter fast approaching it is time to inform you of the marvellous events and achievements, pupils at Abbey Park School have been involved in. As you may be aware the pandemic still continues to have an impact on attendance. It is testament to the hard work of our staff that haven't had to close for any year groups yet, which means that face to face learning has continued throughout the term.

I would like to remind you of the importance of attendance to school and although 90% might be a good result in a test, 90% attendance at the end of a school year means that a child will have missed approximately 4 school weeks of learning. As we continue to follow DFE guidance we appreciate your continued support and encouragement on attendance to school.

The start of Term 4 saw the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine and we have ensured that pupils have been made aware of the situation and its development. Our School Council have taken it upon themselves to write to our local MP Justin Tomlinson, to express support for Ukrainian refugees, and how remote learning could be an option for them. These pupils are speaking from their own experience of remote learning and the benefit it can have in challenging circumstances.

We listen to the school council weekly and many of our pupils will be able to tell you of their involvement in pupil voice on aspects of learning and life at Abbey Park. A number of pupils approached me regarding the possibility of wearing tailored shorts as part of school uniform, which I said we would consider. Just recently, you will have received our updated uniform guidance and pupils now have the option to wear black tailored shorts as part of their uniform. Of course, we will continue to expect a high standard of uniform – all pupils must wear an APS blazer and tie as explained in the guidance.

There have been some amazing achievements throughout the term. I would like to congratulate Will on his individual performance, winning so many classes at the Swindon musical festival. As usual there have been excellent team performances in football, netball and basketball, as well as high participation rates in tutor tournaments at lunchtime. Abbey Park teams are well represented and the skill, courage and determination have shone through in some challenging matches. We thank the PE Department for their commitment in facilitation of so many fixtures and clubs.

Careers education is such an important part of the curriculum. The Year 10 Careers Day was able to go ahead with talks from further education providers, virtual work experience and financial awareness forming the day. Unfortunately, Years 7-9 had to be postponed and will be re-scheduled. The Yr8 TPAT Scholars managed to go to the University of West of England for an experience day representing Abbey Park School.

One last group of pupils I would like to mention is the cohort that went to Jamie's farm for a week's residential. The week centred around working as a team learning the different skills required pupils to help run a working farm. Again, the pupils conduct was excellent, receiving fantastic reports from the facilitating staff. Apparently, there were many lambs being born which was an amazing experience for our young people. This means that Spring is here and we continue into next term with hope and opportunity, wishing our Year 11 cohort all the very best for their Easter revision sessions and forth coming GCSE exams.

I wish you a restful Easter break
Best wishes

Mr Young

Congratulations

Congratulations Will O'F who recently took part in the Swindon Music Festival and scored a merit in his clarinet grade 4 solo, a commended for his piano grade 6 solo and was crowned winner for piano in the 13 and under solo category. He spends a lot of time practising, so it was all worth while.



Community

On Monday 21st March myself and Miss Holley took 12 KS3 students, with the help of Mrs Charij driving the school minibus, to Jamie's farm for the week. The students had the chance to live the farm life living on the farm, cooking and taking on daily tasks. Students would help cook breakfast and feed the animals in the morning and then go off and help the farmers with all sorts of farming tasks including herding sheep and cattle from one field into another, working with the horses one on one, cleaning out sheep pens and as it is currently lambing season, the students also helped to birth the lambs. After the tasks were done for the day, students were then taken on a walk for the evening where we got to see some beautiful views of the sun beginning to set, a couple of dips in the stream to cool down, an ice cream and a game of American football before returning to the farm for a home cooked meal usually prepped by students during the day time. We were extremely lucky with the delicious food all week including salad picked that morning, rhubarb cake with rhubarb picked only minutes before, homemade 'KFC' and pizzas cooked in their pizza oven, enjoyed in the garden in the sunshine. We ended the week with a few songs, stories and a toasted marshmallow around the campfire.

All students really got stuck in with the farming activities and cooking healthy meals for the rest of the group – not missing their mobile phones at all (which they were asked to leave behind for the week). Each day we would all have to check in around the table, giving a rating of how we were feeling and by Thursday some had even reached a 10.5 out of 10. We also had to shout out another member of the group for working hard and everyone was extremely supportive of each other.

A few tears were shed by some as we left Friday morning and a few students had asked if they were able to stay as they loved the experience so much. Students were able to come away from the week positive, giving them a different outlook on life and with skills that will help them with their school life here at Abbey Park.

Miss Brazell

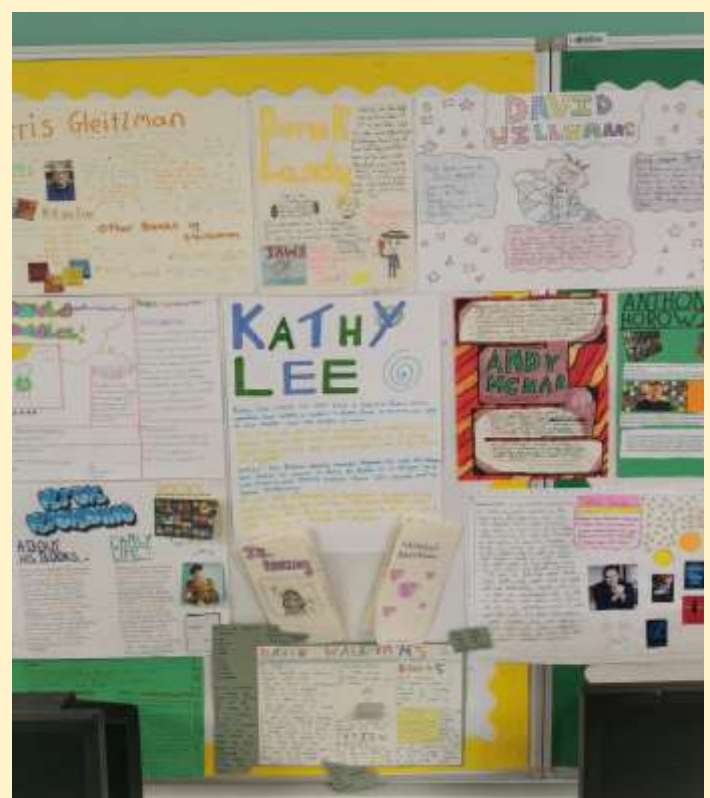
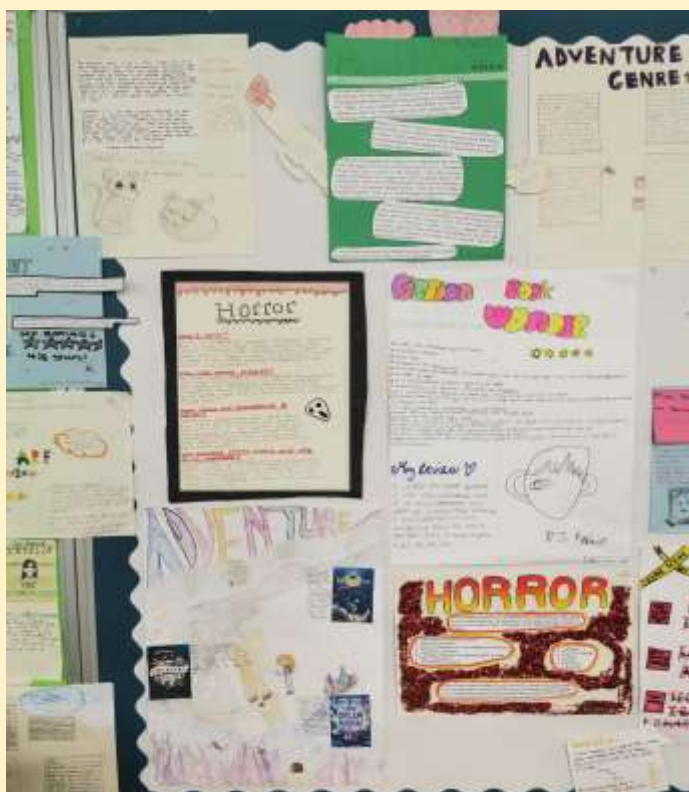


English

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, pupils in KS3 had a series of special lessons in English researching authors, books and genres, culminating in an information page on their chosen area. As you can see from the images, we had some truly spectacular and thoughtful work that was produced.

It is now on permanent display in the LRC, where pupils can go and view at break, lunchtime and during library lessons. The aim of the display is to help pupils to make future book choices, read recommendations by their peers and be inspired with what to read next.

We are very proud of our pupils and their approach to this project. Well done all for raising the reading culture even higher here at APS.



English

Bradley and Sean have been keeping up with the latest news from Abbey Park this term. With the Ukrainian War in all of our thoughts, Bradley reports on some kindness that has been circulating around the community. As well as this, Sean reports on the results from Comic Relief and what we did as a school to support. Read below

Comic Relief was founded in 1985 by the comedy scriptwriter Richard Curtis and comedian Lenny Henry in response to the famine in Ethiopia. Abbey Park School has helped Comic Relief this year by raising £688, a massive number for this school. The school had various different challenges in order to do this, as well as a non-school uniform day. There were definitely some funny costumes with a mustard sashay and a mime.

The total amount of money raised this year was £42,790,147. They even had a joke competition to tell to your tutor and the winner of that would get an R2 and a R3 for the most creative ones.

Well done Abbey Park School

Written by Sean C



Ukrainian disaster trying to be solved by Abbey Park School

As most of us are now painfully aware, anyone living in Ukraine has now had to flee due to horrendous circumstances.

An entire country has become refugees all across Europe because of Russia, creating an unforeseen amount of people with no home and possibly not even the bare minimum to survive and they crowd around everywhere.

Abbey Park School asked students to bring in what they can for the army to fly it to many refugee camps, mainly in Poland. On the day of the collection, so many people gathered to give to those in need and there was a giant pile of bags with so many essentials to give to the Ukrainians. But a real eye-opener, is the fact that a Year 8 student known as Gabby, opened up her own house to an entire family of Ukrainian refugees, earning her an R4 and Character Champion of the week.

There were two days' worth of items being shipped to those in need. On the first day people were bringing in hundreds of pounds of stuff, and on the second day people were queuing up around 8 o'clock waiting to donate their stuff and when it got taken by the army people felt pride because they might have just helped someone live for a lot longer.

So many people wanted to help them as they really do need it because it is a life or death situation for the poor Ukrainians, but hopefully they start to settle down into a home and continue on with their life.

But for now, the worry will continue for them, over losing everything they hold dear to them. Most of all they are having to face losing their family because of the horrors that they are facing for no reason.

Thank you, Abbey Park for your continued support.

Written by Bradley K.

Y7 Girls Football tournament

Earlier this term I had the pleasure of taking a group of y7 girls to their first football tournament. A windy evening made playing conditions harder than normal but that did not dampen spirits.

Having a bye in the first round allowed us to study some of the opposition and prepare and get our 'game faces on' knowing that the girls would play every game that followed without a break.

Our first match against GWA 2 resulted in a 1-0 win - 3 points in the bag. Unfortunately, we lost our second match against a strong Bradon 1 team 0-2. Next up was Dorcan, a team who were difficult to break down and despite several chances we could not find the back of the net, result 0-0.

Disappointed to have not scored against Dorcan, the game plan was to keep doing what we were doing and the goals would come. Commonweal were our next opponents and we beat them 1-0. The final game against GWA 2 was a fantastic display of passing and taking our chances with a hat trick from Veronika and 1 from Caitlin S, 4-0 winners.

APS finished fourth overall - a great achievement, conceding 4 goals in six matches.

Squad: Farrah M, Areanna S, Caitlin S, Bethany H, Veronika C, Kayla M, Akeelah O, Charlotte S

Year 8/9 Girls Football Tournament

A strong APS girls' squad came away unbeaten tournament winners last week. Scoring a total of 11 goals in 4 games and only conceding 1 (dubious) penalty. APS finished our pool matches as winners having beaten Bradon 4-1, GWA (A) 2-0 & Commonweal 4-0. In the final we played Dorcan and beat them 1-0 with Leah Holder scoring a great goal in the bottom left corner, keeper no chance of saving a lovely strike. A fantastic achievement with some strong individual displays and excellent comradery and enjoyment.

Squad: Olivia M (GK), Miley B, Leah G, Penelope P, Zara S, Summer P, Keeley C, L, Eva J

I would like to congratulate my Y7 Delta Squad who broke their 100% record on Tuesday by beating Hreod 2-0 in the quarter finals of their cup. Previous results in past weeks have been a 0-3 loss to GWA and a 2-4 loss to Bradon forest.

After a driving run into the box, Ronnie was fouled and a penalty was awarded. Unfortunately, Ronnie and the boys had not had my mental preparation talk and just like the inexperienced lads in the Euros, Ronnie missed his penalty. Zack J (aka Jonah) played some sublime football and eventually was able to break the deadlock by playing a lofted ball though to Jack D. The dazed keeper fumbled the ball allowing Jack a chance to slot it home. To secure the game, Zak G beat about 6 players with a dribbly thing and then laid the ball off to Ronnie to slot home the 2nd goal.

Last week I took my Tango Squad to Dorcan where 2 teams played in a mini tournament respectably coming 2nd and 3rd.

Delta Squad

James B-H

Iago

Jack D

Charlie W

Jasni K

Louie T (GK)

Zack J

Dylan S

George W

Zak G

Xavi T

Daniel P

Zack S

Ronnie J

Tango Squad

Tyler C (Captain)

Rhys L

Austin B

Tyler S

Ryan H

Mason C

Alex A

Jack A

Charlie S

Oliver H

Leo P

Oliver P

Archie R

Fletcher W

Ben J

Lewis M

Fletcher C

Mali C

Charlie U

Year 8 Boys Football Tournament

The year 8 boys B football team took part tournament last night held at Royal Wootton Bassett. They did tremendously well given the recent rise in temperature and playing 3 back-to-back games without any subs. The boys were excellent from start to finish, showing off some brilliant resilience against some tough opposition.

The results were as followed:

Royal Wootton Bassett 0 - 2 APS (win)

LPA 1 - 1 APS (Draw)

Commonweal 1 - 0 APS (loss)

Mckenzie A received top goal scorer with 2 brilliant goals to his name against Bassett & LPA and Lewis Small scoring the third to solidify a great win against Bassett. Finley T was an inspirational captain and did brilliantly at motivating the boys through tough conditions. Lewis S channelled his inner Ramos and was a wall in defence, minimising any chances the opposition could create. But man of the match performance goes to Jan K for some fine saves against Commonweal and distributed the ball brilliantly to set APS up on the front foot.

Squad: Jan K (GK), Josh R, Jack S, Seb W, Finely T (C), Lewis S, Mckenzie A, Josh C



Under 16 Boys Football

Last night the U16 football team finally managed to play a match. In a tight game against Bradon Forest school with few chances for either team, the game finished 0-0.

Abbey Park created numerous chances with Ryan S shooting just wide from a tight angle and good work from Finn O'F on the right wing to create opportunities for our strikers which forced the goalkeeper into some good saves.

In the second half, Abbey Park hit the cross bar and had the ball cleared off the line which was very unlucky not to result in a goal.

Our defence was solid which allowed our goalkeeper Harvey F little to do.

The man off the match was Josh S who was a good role model and a fantastic leader in the centre of defence, organising our team into a good shape which allowed Bradon to struggle to break us down.

Unfortunate to not win the game having created many opportunities and played well as a team.

Squad: Harvey F (GK), Evan C, Jamie S, Josh S, Connor R, Dan G, Tyler S, Jay P, Ryan S, Fin S, Eoin H and Finn O'F

Year 7 Girls Basketball

The year 7 girls Basketball team had a tough fixture last night against a competitive LPA side. For most of the group, this was their first game after rotating the team from the previous tournament due to the popularity of basketball club. Once we made the short but snowy journey across, we had a brief team talk and the girls were ready. LPA got off to a flying start in the first quarter which meant the girls had to dig deep and show off their defending skills until the break. A quick regroup and tactical change the girls were ready to show their attacking flare. Beth made some fantastic dribbles down the court to help set us up and Akeelah used her strength to regain possession multiple times.

The improvement the girls made as the game went on was phenomenal and a pleasure to watch. Cadence Clements scored some brilliant baskets and finished with the crown of top scorer. Woman of the match went to Anna Mendonca for her brilliant tackling, work rate and resilience in not giving up. Captain Arianna was pleased with the performance from the girls and can't wait for the next fixture.

Overall, a brilliant first game for some of the girls and great effort and commitment from the year 7 basketball team this term.

LPA - 42 - 8 APS

Squad:

Areanna S, Cadence C, Akeelah O, Anna M, Beth E, Jodi O



Y9 Triangular basketball tournament

With a depleted squad of only 5 players we embarked on triangular tournament against Dorcan and Commonweal. Our first game against Dorcan was a bit of a shock to the system playing outside in a cold breeze. We were slow off the mark and were being far too nice and lost the opening game 8-2. Moving inside and a change in defensive formation resulted in a better flow to the game and suited our strengths in getting the ball to Lucy and Ellie to dribble at speed down to court. With the games only being 8 mins one way we ran out of time and drew 6-6 with Commonweal 2 team.

We played Dorcan y8 team and decided to exploit the half court press by keeping Ellie higher up the court. This worked well winning the game 12-2. Our final match was against Commonweal 1 team. This was a closely matched game which was well contested with APS coming out victorious with an 8-4 win.

APS finished in third place – a great achievement considering we had no subs or games off and two finger injuries.

The girls worked well together, for each other and played some good basketball.

Squad: Ellie B, Michaela B, Simav O, Lucy W and Elin W.

Under 16s Girls Basketball

The Under 16 Girls Basketball team had a tough fixture last night against a competitive LPA side. After ditching their usual netball attire and consuming their body weight in grapes on the journey (causing one player to not play - but a healthy and well-balanced diet), we were raring to go. Once we had arrived, the girls were still in the netball mindset for the first quarter and were being very polite with marking but after a game plan set and motivating talk by Darcey, the girls took no prisoners. LPA had some tricky players, but Isabella was ruthless in her marking and tackling and managed to keep these players at bay. Letizia and Abigail were the engines of the team working tirelessly up and down the court, beating anyone who stood in their way. Channelling their inner Michael Jordan, Emilia and Summer looked as cool as a cucumber against some tough opposition and when under pressure, made some brilliant baskets. However, Woman of the match & top scorer went to our very own LeBron James, Georgia, who was fantastic from start to finish. A brilliant debut and captain performance.

Overall, a brilliant first game for the girls, drawing two quarters and losing one to 2 points (we're not counting the first quarter as we were playing netball) Team manager Tia was pleased with the final scorers after rightly questioning some dubious scoring from the opposition. The final scores were:

LPA - 34 - 20 APS

1st Quarter LPA 14 - 2 APS

2nd Quarter LPA 8 - 8 APS

3rd Quarter LPA 8 - 6 APS

4th Quarter LPA 4 - 4 APS

Squad:

Tia R (manager), Emilia S, Summer W, Georgia T (C), Darcey O'N, Abigail H, Letizia Da Sde M, sabella B



Abbey Park Student Council In Support of Ukrainian School

Children

Student Council pupils representing each Tutor Group from across the years took part in a workshop and discussion resulting in a letter to the North Swindon MP Justin Tomlinson.

Having experienced, first hand, themselves what is possible with remote learning, it was discussed at length what pupils here can do. The unanimous opinion was that pupils here wanted to invite Ukrainian refugees to learn along side them. In practical terms, this resulted in a letter to our local MP to put pressure on the Government to ensure that the educational needs of these young people and their teachers are not forgotten.

In addition, the Student Council will be arranging fundraisers next term. A special mention goes to our Deputy Head Boy Oliver Lancaster who has single-handedly arranged his own fundraiser to raise funds and awareness across the school.

Mrs J Wood



ABBAY PARK SCHOOL

Dear Mr Tomlinson,
Abbey Park School student council is concerned about the Ukrainian refugees and their education. Class sizes might be too big in refugee camps and we are worried that many students will no longer have access to learning. There might not be enough teachers for Ukraine children due to people needing to leave the war zone. In particular our government could help by providing technology for remote learning so that displaced children can access their education.

All the students at Abbey Park School welcome any refugees to come and study with us.

Yours sincerely
On behalf of the student council
Graby, Abi, Sam, Georgia

School Calendar

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	

April 2022

Monday 25th April—Start of Term 5

May 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					

May 2022

Monday 2nd May—Bank Holiday

Friday 27th May—Last day of Term 5

Monday 30th May—Friday 2nd June—Half Term

June 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			

June 2022

Monday 30th May—Friday 2nd June—Half Term

Monday 6th June—Start of Term 6