

News from Abbey Park School

Term 5 - May 2024



'Potential into Performance'



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Principal

'Potential into Performance'

Dear Parents/Carers,

The exam season has started in earnest for Year 11. This cohort has prepared well for this crucial time in their education and were certainly ready to start. Their attitude and determination under pressure has been brilliant. Just how much we all want them to be successful was evident in the motivational letters they received from parents and staff in assembly a few weeks earlier.

Visits to the prestigious Marlborough College have continued for our TPAT Scholars. The opportunity to participate in different activities and visit features such as the chapel, have been an invaluable experience for these young people. Also, an unforgettable experience, was the small group of Year 9 pupils who went to PGL at Osmington Bay. Mrs Pursey and Mr Wells found the conduct of the group exemplary – the pupils were Abbey Park Proud throughout.

My congratulations go to the Year 7 boys football team on reaching the cup final, which is testament to their teamwork and determination. Despite losing on penalties, this was a fantastic achievement and bodes well for next season in Year 8. It is good to hear about the cricket, rounders and athletics scores and successes that come in from the various matches being played. Fortunately, the weather has turned for the better and therefore summer fixtures can take place. The astro pitch has been out of action for some time due to its age and the weather but the PE department have managed this inconvenience well. We are very pleased to have our new all-weather surface pitch opening soon, which will enable PE to use it for a wide range of sports.

The competitions such as Geographer of the Year and celebrations of specific days such as 'Pi Day', fostering an appreciation of Maths, are great to see and so many pupils contributing. Congratulations to Renee P for winning APS Geographer of the Year. Her entry will go into the TPAT final, so hopefully she will have success there too. Somewhere else, we have seen some great commitment, is in those pupils preparing for the alternative Duke of Edinburgh award, raising funds to support this. I look forward to 2nd July, as I have been invited to an afternoon tea put on by the pupils.

As you are aware, PSHCE and British Values are such important subjects on the curriculum and cover many different aspects one of which is Democracy. With the announcement of a General Election in July, next term we will take the opportunity to cover the importance of Democracy in our society. Also in the newsletter, there is reference to the parent consultation for RSE, so please do have a good read of this. Your valuable input and participation are crucial in shaping a comprehensive and inclusive educational experience for our pupils.

I wish all those in our community a restful Whitsun break. Term 6 starts back on Monday 3rd June which is an INSET day. Only Year 11 are in school on this day for GCSE exams. All year groups are back in school on Tuesday 4th June.

I look forward to working with you all through the last term of the year and celebrating key events such as Sports Day, Prom and Rewards evening. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Carr in Humanities for her work and commitment to Abbey Park School as she moves on to pastures new.

Best wishes,

Mr Young
Principal

π day

On Thursday 14 March the Maths department celebrated Pi Day. Maths lessons for Years 7-10 were 'pi/pie themed' and included some mini competitions where some lucky pupils were awarded π pins. Competitions included 'Dingbat' and 'Pilish Poem', which were completed during the Pi lesson. Congratulations to Bradley K (Year 10) who won this competition.

The maths department did bring and share food and treats relating to the theme (see pictures below).

Our canteen team Sodexo provided pies as a part of the menu on the day as well.

Thanks to all who made the day what it was.

Mrs McDonald
Maths Teacher



Geography

TPAT Young Geographer of the Year

A competition was run earlier this academic year, where pupils had to create a poster to highlight the importance of planet earth.

Below is our APS winner, Renee P (Year 7) who will be awarded an R4 for their efforts, and their poster will be put forward to the trust competition where an overall winner will be decided. The poster is very visual and really gets you to think about the damage we are causing to our planet but also makes you consider how we can protect it for future generations. Well done!

Miss Bell
Geography Teacher



The PE department have had an exciting return since the Easter half term with APS pupils representing in the Swindon Cup Final in football, rounders fixtures & Swindon athletic trials.

The Year 7 boys football team played against Ridgeway in the Swindon Cup final at Bevers Brook after a fantastic cup run with strong performances against tough opponents. The final score line being 3-3 took the game to penalties in which the Year 7s sadly missed out. The boys did brilliantly and conducted themselves very professionally, showcasing promising talent and skills. The future for boys' football at APS looks very exciting.

The girl's rounders season has made a return this year and the PE department have been bowled over by the talent shown by all year groups in their first couple of games in the season. The Year 8 & 9s are currently undefeated and look to continue their success in term 6 in their lessons and future fixtures.

The PE team would also like to make a special mention to the following pupils who have done brilliantly at the Swindon athletic trials:

Douglas K (Year 7)
Ben J (Year 9)
Elliot C (Year 9)
Lottie H (Year 8)
Madison R (Year 8)
Anubis M (Year 11)



Congratulations to all pupils and we wish you luck in the next round at the Wiltshire trials. We would also like to congratulate Charlotte H who competed at black country hammer fest. She managed to throw an incredible 39.40m which qualifies her for English schools and places her 5th in the UK out of all under 15 girls.

Next term we have the Year 7-10 athletic school championship and various cricket and tennis fixtures. Session 6 clubs are continuing in rounders, athletics, cricket, volleyball & trampolining. Please check Arbor to see what clubs are available. Everyone is welcome!

We wish everyone a safe and happy half term and wish pupils good luck with all their sporting events over the holiday period.

Mrs Humphries

Curriculum leader for PE

Free sanitary products

We have a large supply of free sanitary products available in school for pupils, made available by funding from the Department for Education.

We have tampons, sanitary pads, period pants and reusable pads available all of differing styles to suit individual needs. These resources are free and available for any of our pupils and their families.

Please contact your child's PSA, or they can come to Mrs Jackson's office (downstairs green wing) or Mrs Pursey's office (downstairs red wing) to collect.

Unrestricted access to these free sanitary products is something we as a school feel passionately about. Please do let us help keep the cost of living down by making use of these free resources.

Wiltshire Police visits

This term Wiltshire Police are in school to talk to Year 9 pupils about how to stay safe, and the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE). This is a well established session which is always positively received by pupils. We value the importance of external visitors coming into our school to share these important safety messages with us.

The input by the police for Year 9 was informative and included a selection of short videos, with some reflection and discussion time. The pupils were very mature and a credit to Abbey Park School.



Curriculum information

Next term Year 8 & 9 will receive statutory Relationships and Sex Education lessons. Please refer to our RSE Policy which can be found here: [APS RSE Policy](#) and our curriculum map outlining the lesson content for each year group can be found at the bottom of our webpage.

We have our dedicated PSHE Email address for any questions or enquiries about our PSHE or RSE curriculum you may have: aps-rseenquiries@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

RSE Parental Consultation 2024

Our annual parental consultation for the schools' Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) will be taking place next term. The purpose of the consultation is to share with you our RSE Policy and our curriculum approach and to seek your feedback. Please look out for this letter and respond via the link with your comments.

Mrs Jackson

Head of PSHCE

Trips

TPAT Scholars



The Park
Academies
Trust



**Our Family,
Our Schools**

In May our Year 9 TPAT Scholars visited Marlborough College. Pupils took part in a Biology lesson taught by teachers from the college. They investigated woodlice and the conditions they like to live in and the decisions that they make. Our pupils engaged brilliantly with the lesson and got some interesting and accurate results. They also got to hold a baby quail.

Staff at the college gave the Scholars a short tour of the college and the opportunity to ask questions. Pupils fed back that the trip was enjoyable and interesting, their behaviour was excellent.

Marlborough College were very positive about our students and keen to work with us again in the near future.



Trips

Maths Trip to PGL Osmington Bay - 29th April to 1st May

Twelve keen maths pupils from Years 8 & 9 headed to PGL Osmington Bay in Dorset for 3 days to put their maths skills into practise while enjoying a variety of outdoor activities. As part of archery, big swing and zip line activities, pupils had to gather and analyse data to calculate speed, lengths, ratios and averages.

Here you see pupils calculating the speed of their descent on the Big Swing. The pupils had a marvellous time and have put their maths into practice in real life situations.

Mrs Lloyd

Curriculum Leader for Maths



Year 8 Drama trip to see Romeo & Juliet at The Egg Theatre, Bath - 22nd April

On 22nd April the Drama department took 90 Year 8 pupils to see a production of Box Clever's Romeo and Juliet in Bath. Along with experiencing all of the technical elements we have studied over the past term in reality, this was also a great opportunity for our pupils to experience Shakespeare's language out loud – some of them even taking on starring roles on stage! Here's a small sample of what the pupils had to say:

"I really liked the acting and how they changed it from the original Shakespeare to a funny but still original version. I also liked how there was one guy who was "nobody" but also "everybody". I loved how people in the audience could also act in it."

"I really enjoyed the play and I had so much fun watching. I hope I can come back to see another show."

"I would love to watch something like that again."

"I had a great time!!!"

"I like how they included the children in the play. It was cool as you didn't know who was next to go up onto the stage. I also liked how they had a narrator who explained the story in a more modern way. I like how they had the element of Shakespeare but also more modern language. The narrator also said the day which helped me follow along and asked for the audience's opinion on stuff – he was very funny and entertaining. I loved it! I will recommend."

Miss Taylor

Drama Teacher

Trips

Year 8 trip to M Shed and Bristol Aquarium

On Wednesday 8th May we took 60 Year 8 pupils to Bristol to visit the Aquarium and M Shed. The purpose of the trip was to inspire the pupils in their travel writing, which it certainly did.

M Shed was full of wonderful artifacts and stories about the city and its history, including the toppled statue of Edward Colston. This led to some really interesting discussions about what he did and if it was right that the statue was taken down. Some fun was also had in the living history section with some of the pupils dressing up and playing hopscotch.

In the Aquarium the pupils were taken around and introduced to some of the amazing wildlife in our oceans, including a very giant Grouper named Sheila who is pestered by another fish called Bruce! We saw some pregnant seahorses and fed a tank full of rays, sharks and eels.

The pupils gained a lot of useful information and we can't wait to see what they write. A brilliant time was had by all and they were Abbey Park proud.



Miss Bowie & Mrs Verlander-Simmonds

Librarian English Teacher

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





To join our mailing list
please scan the QR code



COMMUNITY

- **SEND Sharing Service-** Our lending library which allows families access to SEND related books, sensory toys, practical physiotherapy tools, SEND pushchairs and much more. For a yearly fee of just £3 families can access a whole library of useful and fun items! We also offer a free collection and delivery service for items borrowed. The SEND Sharing service has proven itself to be an invaluable SEND Community resource.
- **SEND Information Packs-** Each year we create information packs for Reception age Children who are identified as having additional needs (no diagnosis required) by their Educational/Childcare setting to help Parents and Carers navigate this time of transition. We reach out to schools, nurseries and home educators to help provide information with a personal touch. A gift from our family to yours.
- **The SEND Room-** Bringing Parents together through our online Facebook Community of over 2,000 parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Swindon.

CONNECTION

- **Breakfast Catch Ups-** Parent Carers tell us that one of the best forms of support they access is solid, strong connections to other SEND Families going through similar lived experiences. No child with SEND is ever the same, but parent carers often find common ground. Our regular half -termly Breakfast catch up is an opportunity for carers to chat, socialise and come together for a couple of hours of good company.
- **Coffee Mornings and Stay and Play Sessions-** We support Families through our regular Coffee Mornings at Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Nurseries and through connecting with Local Community groups and projects that support families. We also run Stay and Play sessions for children under 5. Both of these services provide a more informal and relaxed approach that allows parents to access face to face support whilst connecting with other SEND families.

SUPPORT

- **Phoneline-** Our phoneline is available to parents and carers who might need a listening ear, an extra boost of courage or some much needed emotional support for those tricky days. As parents of SEND children ourselves we understand how difficult the journey can be. One of our experienced team members is there to give parents and carers their time and support.
- **Branches-** Our support group Branches runs on a monthly basis and alternates between evenings and the day time. We have guest speakers such as professionals who can provide important up-to-date information about local SEND services and experts in various SEND related topics such as Challenging Behaviour, Autism, Anxiety, Toileting and Sex and Relationships for SEND Teens. The group also allows parents and carers to connect with each other and with The SEND Families Voice Representatives.
- **Meeting Support Service-** We are able to provide in person support at meetings to local SEND Families. Meetings such as Team Around the Child (TAC), Community Paediatrics appointments, School Attendance Meetings etc. At each meeting we will type up a set of notes and offer genuine emotional support, as we know from personal experience that these meetings can be overwhelming.

VOICES

- **Strategic Meetings and Co-production-** One of Swindon SEND Families Voice key roles behind the scenes is championing parent carers voices through the co-production that we take part in everyday with our strategic partners. These include Social Care, Health, Libraries, Community Groups and Projects, Education and other Council Departments such as the Travel team. Through this collaborative working we can spread and share important information. We work hard to improve the lived experiences of SEND families in Swindon by sharing their views and experiences with key stakeholders to effect positive change. We attend on average anywhere between 50 and 70 meetings a month making sure that SEND is always at the heart of planning and development of these vital public services and that parent carer voices are always heard.
- **Reshaping Conversations-** is our ongoing project looking to influence and improve the language of professionals and the wider public when talking to or about children and young people with SEND. We want to make Swindon (and the world!) a much more inclusive environment that allows SEND families to feel valued. We have teamed up with other local SEND groups to put together a website, booklet, video and training module. Our training module has now been taken up by Swindon Borough Council and local Health Services and has been used as mandatory training. We aim to keep the project going and keep reshaping even more conversations.



Swindon SEND Families Voice



Swindon SEND Families Voice are the parent carer forum for Swindon. We provide support and signposting to parents and carers of Children or Young People with SEND and additional needs aged from 0-25 (with or without a diagnosis).

SEND Sharing Service:
sendsharingservice.ssfv@outlook.com

SEND Meeting Support Service:
sendmeetingservice.ssfv@outlook.com

The SEND Room:
Find us on Facebook search: SEND Room Swindon
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheSENDRoom/>

SEND Stay and Play:
sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com

Branches Support Group
Follow our main Facebook Page for event posters and information:
<https://www.facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice/>

Reshaping Conversations:
<https://reshapingconversations.com/>

Listening Service Phoneline:
To speak to a member of the team please call;
07486 873 405



The SEND Room

Support **E**ncourage **N**urture **D**iscuss

The SEND Room is an online Facebook support group for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 in Swindon who have any Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- A place to support one another
- A place to meet others who understand
- A place to share information



Search: The SEND Room



To join our mailing list please scan the QR code

Main Email:
swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

Website:
<https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/>



Library Life

It's difficult to believe that we are at the end of term 5 already! To all the GCSE pupils, we wish them good luck in all of their exams. We have seen a slight increase in KS4 pupils popping into the library to borrow revision guides and revise.

In the library we have a section of revision guides covering most subjects that are available for our Year 11s to help themselves too. These do not have to be issued, all we ask is that they are returned to the library after your exams so they are available to next year's GCSE pupils. Please feel free to also return any old set text books you won't need anymore either. We know buying these can be expensive and if we have a few that pupils can borrow it is a great help, plus it is good for the environment!

Borrowing Books

A little reminder about borrowing books. Books are not to be taken out of the library without being issued by Miss Bowie or a member of staff. Books are issued for a period of two weeks. You can return your book before the two weeks if you finish it. If you need longer please speak to Miss Bowie about extending or renewing the loan.

Please return any books that you may have from the library, we would rather have them returned late than not at all. Near the end of the year, the cost of any books not returned will be charged to your ParentPay account. Please be aware that when year group readers are issued or any pupil takes out a book, they are informed of any outstanding loans. If pupils have lost or damaged books they should inform Miss Bowie. If you do not wish to be charged for books, you may buy a replacement. This does not need to be a brand new copy, there are lots of websites that sell pre-loved books in good condition. Pupils can then bring these to the library and their account will be cleared of loans.

Year Group Readers

This term we have been issuing the last of our year group readers for the school year.

Year 7: 'After the War' by Tom Palmer

Year 8: 'A Glasshouse of Stars' by Shirley Marr

Year 9: 'Black Flamingo' by Dean Atta

These will be due back towards the end of next term. Please remember that if you haven't returned your last reader please do so as soon as possible. These were:

Year 7: 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin

Year 8: 'Dare to be You' by Matthew Syed

Year 9: 'Noughts and Crosses'

Accelerated Reader

We have been working really hard to make this as easily accessible as possible.

We have a URL link and a QR code <http://tinyurl.com/aps-reader>

The pupils should be reading and quizzing each fortnight when they attend their library lessons. Every pupil that takes and passes a quiz will receive an R2, we now have six word millionaires. For every test they pass, the words in that book are added up and they can accumulate until we have reached a million. All six are in Year 7, with one pupil being a multi-millionaire with nearly four million words read!!

The current year group readers are all on Accelerated Reader and quiz numbers can be found in the library.

Please encourage the pupils to complete quizzes on books they have read, within the last two days. This will help them make progress in their reading levels and understanding of texts, which will have benefits across the curriculum, not just in English.



Readathon

During term 6 we will be running a readathon, this is a sponsored event to help raise money for 'Read For Good'. 'Read For Good' is a charity that provides books and storytellers to all of the UK's major children's hospitals and funds projects encouraging children to read for fun. Readathon week will run from 24th June – 30th June.

Pupils who wish to enter can collect a sponsor card and bookmark from Miss Bowie in the library, they then list what they are planning to read and raise sponsor money. We will run some activities in school and after school that week to support their reading.

When choosing what to read they can pick, fiction, non-fiction, audiobooks, blogs, comics, graphic novels, news articles or magazines. It is entirely their choice as long as they are reading!

Not only does it raise money for a fantastic charity, at the same time you help the school. Abbey Park will receive 20% of the value of money raised in book vouchers to increase and improve our library collection.

For more information, please speak to Miss Bowie in the library or email. Check out the read for good website <https://readforgood.org/>

As always keep reading!

Miss Bowie
Librarian

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.

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



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

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Karen Candy



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

Mrs Candy: candyk@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. This can be done on Arbor



Useful contacts:

Swindon MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) have added a new front door service called '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 pupils have had the following assemblies:

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

Year 7	Puberty, hygiene, healthy relationships
Year 8	Careers, money management, employability skills
Year 9	Substance use, peer influence, addiction, vaping and smoking
Year 10	Healthy relationships, contraception, sexual health
Year 11	Revision strategies for exams

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.

The Pastoral Team updates



Mrs Stevens
Assistant
Principal
Head of
Pastoral
DSL



Mrs Candy
Head of
Year 7



Mrs Hatcliffe
Head of Key Stage
Year 9 & 10
DDSL



Ms Redondo
Head of Key Stage
Year 8 & 11
DDSL



Mrs Everett
PSA - Attendance & Yr7



Mr Morris (Mat cover)
Year 8 PSA



Miss Asbury-
Semmens
Year 9 PSA



Mrs Harewood
Year 10 PSA



Mrs Charl
Year 11 PSA

Miss Yeoman
School counsellor



Miss Fry
School counsellor
(MAT Cover)



Where to get help

- ▶ Safeguarding team
- ▶ The Pastoral Team
- ▶ All staff
- ▶ Mrs Fry – School counsellor
- ▶ Reporting tool – school website
- ▶ CEOP
- ▶ Child line
- ▶ NSPCC
- ▶ The dock – online
- ▶ The police
- ▶ Our school website



The theme this year was Movement: Moving more for our mental health'. Since 2001, the Mental Health Foundation has been leading Mental Health Awareness Week - bringing together the UK to focus on getting good mental health.

We know Mental health is a huge concern for many parents and pupils. If you need any support please contact a member of the Pastoral team, or visit our website for links to additional support.



Online safety:

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

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life –

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	
	English	Poetry	Contemporary poetry	World War One
	Maths	Fractions	Angles	Quadratics
		Ratios & Proportions	Area, volume and surface area	Reasoning with number
	Science	Space	Climate	C10 Using Resources
	MFL	Spanish: Te Toca a Ti	Spanish: Te Toca a Ti	Spanish: Punto de Partida
		French: À toi	French: À toi	French: Point de départ
	Humanities	Geography: Swindon and our local area	Geography: East meets west	Geography: Natural Resources
		History: Globalisation and Development	History: East vs West	History: 21st Century history
		Philosophical Thinking (PT): Swindon and our local area	Philosophical Thinking (PT): East meets West	Philosophical Thinking (PT): Life after death
	Business Computing	Scratch programming	Minecraft education - coding	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	Landscape painting Introduction to peace project	Objects/ still life project Peony Yip	Masks
	Performing Arts	Physical Theatre	Ghosts	Blood Brothers
PE	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	Rounders, Cricket, Interhouse	
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	Drugs Education	Health & Wellbeing: Identity and Relationships - RSE	Healthy Relationships - RSE	

Year 10

English

Literature and Context: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Revision for Mocks/ Retrieval and Consolidation Spoken Language

Media

Revision of Magazines (From Term 3) Film Promotion NEA set briefs and Year 10 Mock

Maths

Higher: Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Ratio
Foundation: Loci and Constructions

Combined Science

B7 Ecology

Individual Science

C6 Rates & Extent of Chemical Change

MFL

Spanish: Intereses y influencias
French: De la ville à la campagne

Humanities

Geography: Physical Landscape of UK
History: Origins of the Cold war 1941- 58
Philosophical Thinking: Religion, relationships and families
Sociology: Paper 1: The Sociology of Education

**Business
Computing**

Business: 1.5 Understanding external influences on business
Computing: Python programming and theory

**Design Technology (DT)
Food Preparation & Nutrition
(FPN)**

DT: Commencement of NEA
FPN: 3.5 food choice and 3.6 food provenance

Fine Art

Identity Project

Visual Arts

Photography Identity

Performing Arts

Drama: Component One Aberfan Creating
Music: Practice of the above through listening activities

PE

Rounders, Basketball, Football, Dodgeball, Badminton, Handball, Cricket
CNAT: R186- Media in sport
BTEC: Finalise units / Practical
GCSE: Paper 1- Analyse, Evaluate of Performance

**Personal, Social, Health &
Citizenship Education
(PSHCE)**

CEIAG & Staying safe

Exam Reminder: Pupils should bring full equipment and wear full school uniform.

Morning exams: Pre-exam booster will be held in the assembly hall at 9.00am with the exam starting at 9.30am.

Afternoon exams: Pre-exam booster will be held in the assembly hall at 1.05pm with the exam starting at 1.30pm.

Contingency Sessions: All Y11 pupils need to be available for the following days -

6th & 13th June (afternoon)

26th June (all day)

AM		PM
03-Jun	Edexcel Maths paper 2	OCR PE J587/02 Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (1 hour)
04-Jun	AQA Spanish listening & reading	Edexcel History 1HI0 2A-2W British depth study & Period study (1 hour 45 mins)
05-Jun	AQA Geography paper 2	Edexcel Business paper 2 Building a Business (1 hour 45 mins)
06-Jun	OCR English Lang J351/02 Exploring effects & impact	CONTINGENCY SESSION
07-Jun		AQA Combined science biology 2 & Biology 2
10-Jun	Edexcel Maths paper 3	AQA Spanish writing
11-Jun	AQA Combined science Chemistry 2 & Chemistry 2	Edexcel History 1HI0 30-33 Modern Depth Study (1 hour 20 mins)
12-Jun		
13-Jun		CONTINGENCY SESSION
14-Jun	AQA Geography paper 3	AQA Combined science Physics 2 & Physics 2
17-Jun	AQA Music	
18-Jun	AQA Design & Technology	AQA Polish writing & Edexcel Portuguese writing
19-Jun	AQA Food & Nutrition	
26-Jun	CONTINGENCY DAY	

Monday 3rd June	Inset day - school closed Y7-10 pupils Open for Y11 exam
Tuesday 4th June	All year groups return to school Trip: Evening performance of Hamilton, Bristol Hippodrome
Wednesday 5th June	Trip: TPAT Scholars
Thursday 6th June	Trip: Wake the Tiger, Bristol
Thursday 13th June	Trip: Tadpole Primary Sports Day
Friday 14th June	Trip: Red Oaks Primary Sports Day
Friday 14th - Saturday 15th June	Trip: Duke of Edinburgh training
Monday 17th June	Trip: Orchid Vale Primary Sports Day (KS1) Trip: Y10 Geography trip to River Cole
Tuesday 18th June	Trip: Orchid Vale Primary Sports Day (KS2) Trip: Y7 & 8 Athletics
Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd June	Trip: Y9 Battlefields
Monday 24th June	Event: Y10 Media Talk
Tuesday 25th June	Event: Music Concert Event: PSHCE Police Visit
Wednesday 26th June	Trip: Y7 Bletchley Park
Thursday 27th June	Event: Y9 GCSE Ready Evening Trip: Y10 New College
Friday 28th June	Trip: Y10 New College
Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th June	Y6 Induction Days

Tuesday 2nd July	Y10 Cricket Dynamos
Wednesday 3rd -	Y7 & 8 PGL residential to Osmington Bay
Friday 5th July	
Friday 5th July	Y11 Prom
Monday 8th July	Trip: Y10 Cirencester College Trip: Elite Sports Academy, Bath University Event: Immunisations
Tuesday 9th -	Trip: Y10 Madrid
Thursday 11th July	
Wednesday 10th July	Event: Sports Day (all years)
Tuesday 16th July	Character Champion Pizza Party
Thursday 18th July	12.30pm finish (all years)
Friday 19th July	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

Summer Holidays

Monday 22nd July - Friday 30th August

Inset days

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September (closed to pupils)

Return to School

Wednesday 4th September

See overleaf for 2024-25 school calendar

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		