

News from Abbey Park School

Term 2 December 2022

'Potential into Performance'



Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

At Abbey Park we know it is getting near to the end of the Autumn term when we celebrate with a delicious Christmas meal and a Christmas jumper day. This event raised an amazing £771, which will go towards Save the Children fund. Our work for charities this term has been something to be proud of - our pupils have requested to contribute and work hard for the Gateway Church Toy appeal, the Foodbank and Children in Need. We have donated a tremendous amount of money, gifts and resources to support these charities and we recognise that it is you, the parents and carers, who are also behind this. I thank you for your commitment to these charities, which are so important, not only at this time of year, but all year round, supporting those in challenging circumstances.

Our pupils have also displayed PROUD through their conduct on visits to a wide variety of venues. The Yr10/11 School Council trip to the Houses of Parliament (thank you to Mrs Wood for organising), the Wyvern Theatre for the annual Swindon Youth Literature Festival, Bletchley Park, Steam Museum, The Platform for a symphony orchestra and culminating in our amazing Carol Concert at St. Andrews Church. The latter saw pupils, staff and parents brave the freezing weather to attend a festive concert of carols and individual instrumental pieces of a very high standard.

Academically, pupils have been working exceptionally hard which is reflected in the high number of awards issued throughout the term. Year 10 parents evening was very well attended, as was Year 11. It is good to hold these meetings face to face and have so many parents engage with their child's progress. The Yr11 evening followed the mock results day, held on Thursday 15th December where pupils reflected on the progress they have made. This enables pupils will return to school in January with a clear focus of how they can improve in the lead up to GCSEs which begin in May.

This term has also seen the introduction of 'Accelerated Reader' in the library, which we are very excited about. Our librarian, Mrs. Bowie, has created a fantastic environment for reading and learning and the new system has been well received by the pupils. This system helps pupils track their reading progress and reflect on what they have read.

At this time of the year we sometimes say good bye to members of staff who are moving on to new roles. We are sorry to say farewell to Mr. Beacham and Miss. Messenger and wish them well for the future.

Finally, as we look forward to the New Year, we consider the opportunities and hope it will bring. The challenges we face as a community are very real but we continue to work together to help our young people to have the best educational experiences and prospects for the future. Thank again for your support of Abbey Park over the year.

Wishing you a restful and peaceful holiday

Mr Young

We would like to welcome Miss Bowie our new Learning Resource Centre supervisor to our team.

An update from Miss Bowie

Thanks to the help of staff and some wonderful volunteers we pulled every book off the shelves and have worked through the process of labelling and sorting them into Accelerated Reader bands. This was a lengthy process that took us three weeks. Most of the books are now sorted, but this will be an ongoing process.

Refurbishment

I've brought in comfortable cushions, beanbags, an egg chair and some plants. My aim is to make the library an inviting and welcoming place for everyone. The response from pupils has been incredibly positive with the beanbags proving extremely popular.



Loaning books to students

Now that the books have been organised and the Accelerated Reader program launched, we have been able to start loaning books out to students. On that note, I would like to take the opportunity to mention that books are expensive and funding is not always available. So, when students borrow a book from us, we expect them to take care of it.

If books returned damaged or are lost, we will charge the cost of the book (or an equivalent) to Parentpay. You can of course replace the book yourself. There are several websites that sell good condition secondhand books or you may pick one up from a charity store.

Opening times

Monday-Thursday 8.30am-4.15pm

Friday 8.30am-4.00pm.

There are computers and a printer available for homework. We also have several revision guides for pupils to use in the build-up to exams.

Happy Reading!!

We ran our Lions Peace Project evening on 8th November for Year 8 students. This year's theme was "Lead with Compassion". Students worked hard in lessons, breaks and over half term and the quality of their work this year was outstanding. I would like to congratulate our students on the emotional intelligence they've shown. We are all very proud that we have students that care deeply about the world and want to engage/communicate through art.

All students have received a certificate of congratulations. Well done Year 8 for all your hard work and commitment.

Congratulations to L Cannon who received our 1st place award



Short listed and recognised for quality

S Fox	H Curl	J Marques	B Heathcote
A Pepper	A Jones	M Harewood	N Torkowska
H Wright	D Prowting	R-E Green	M Watson
J Law	T Coupland	E-M Bignold	M Bryniak
Z Stone			

Swindon Toy Appeal

Huge thanks to our community at Abbey Park and Red Oaks who have generously donated in excess of 8 large crates of toys to the Swindon Toy Appeal this year.



2022 SYFL with a celebration evening

The winners of the competitions and Library ambassadors were awarded certificates and gift vouchers.

Abbey Park was represented by F Moore who has been a fabulous student helping out in the library and sharing her love of reading.



Author visit

We had the immense pleasure of hosting Helen Dennis, Author of the Secret Breakers and River of Ink series of books. Helen gave a very inspiring talk about the inspiration behind her books. She then led a series of workshops, using her inspirational facts to get our students creativity flowing. They came up with some interesting ideas for stories of their own. who knows we may have some future



A VERY BIG **THANK YOU** TO EVERYONE AT

ABBAY PARK SCHOOL

WHO DONATED **91 KGS** OF FOOD DURING

HARVEST 2022.

THIS WILL HELP US GREATLY, AS WE CONTINUE HELPING PEOPLE IN SWINDON AND SURROUNDING AREAS WHO ARE IN FOOD CRISIS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.

Abbey Park has been jam-packed with league fixtures, cup fixtures and cross-country events this term. We have seen some fantastic results with the commitment and determination from APS students being brilliant.

Netball

Sadly, the netball league has finished but APS managed to finish on a high and gain a few more league points over the final games. We wait for the final finishing positions for all teams.

Football and Basketball

The season is in full swing this term with the Year 7 boys winning their first basketball match against Lawn Man- or 34-2. The other year groups are still seeking their first win of the season but have had some brilliant results and contests.

Cross-Country

Abbey Park was well represented at the annual cross-country event held at Nova Hreod School this year. 37 students took part in the event and 7 pupils have been asked to represent APS at the Swindon Schools Cross Country during the next round. The PE team were very proud of our pupil's representing APS with such pride and wanting to perform to their full potential.

There were several outstanding performances:

1st - A Molina - Year 10

4th - L Clark - Year 10

9th - I Tunley - Year 10

6th - A Hackley - Year 11

9th - C Clark- Year 7

10th - K Pound - Year 7

7th - Ella Aeleye - Year 7

9th - C Harding - Year 7

Well done to all the runners and good luck at the next round!

Next Term

We continue in the football and basketball league with plenty of matches still to play and the next round of the Swindon Football Cup for girls.

Well done to all APS students who have taken part in fixtures & clubs this term. The PE department is very proud. A.C.E performers will be announced during the last week of term.

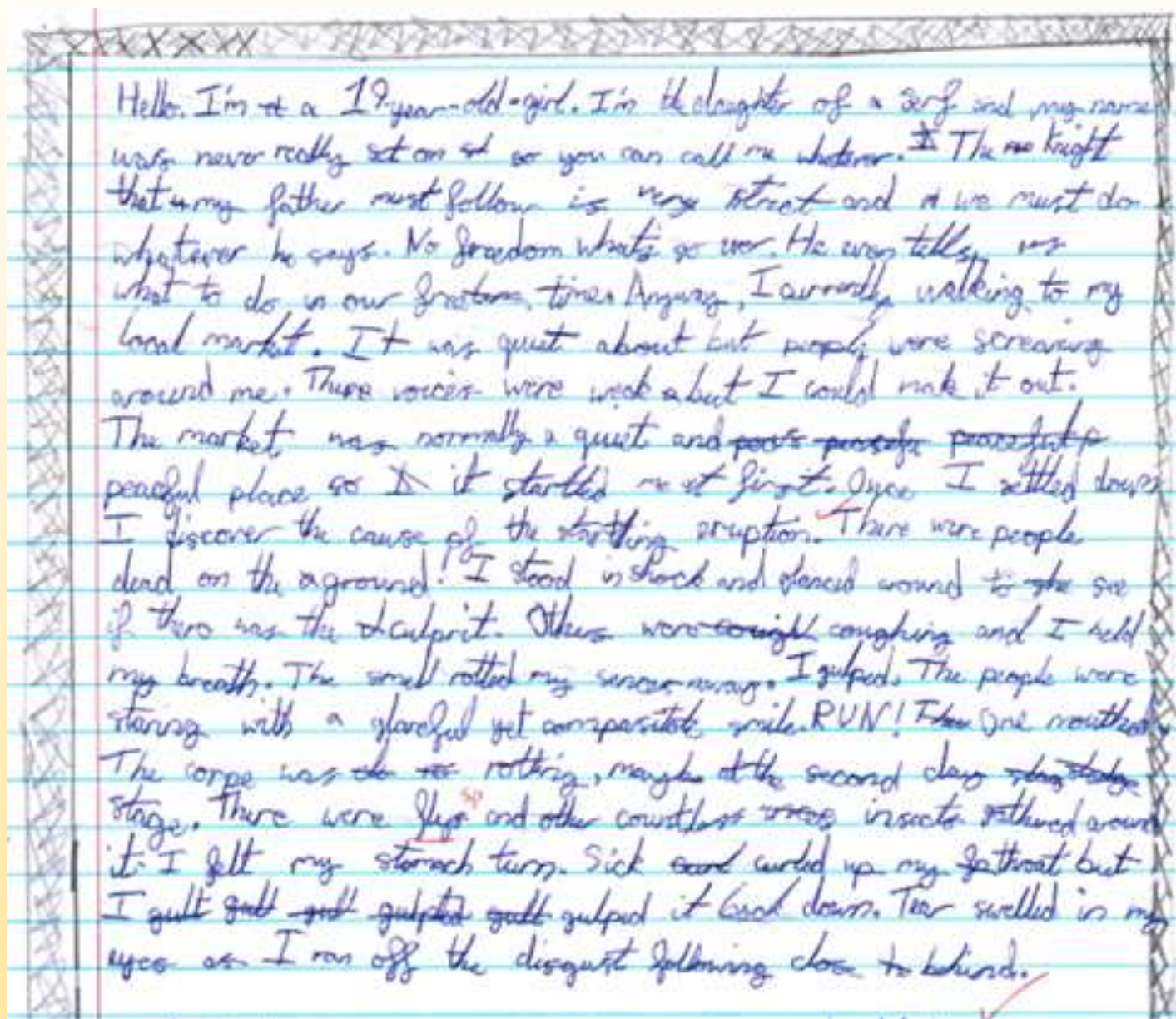
Happy Christmas!

The PE Department

Black Death creative writing

This term in Humanities, Year 7 have been learning about life in the Medieval era. Recently, students have learnt about the Black Death and the impacts that it had on Europe. Our historians have got really creative and have been working hard producing a piece of historical fiction on what it was like to live through the Black Death. Pupils had to think creatively about what people at the time would think, feel and experience as they navigated through life trying to avoid the dreaded bubonic plague.

Already, classes have produced some fantastic work which will go up on display. The most impressive pieces of creative writing will be submitted to the Historical Association for their national historical fiction competition!



XXXXXX

Hello. I'm a 12-year-old-girl. I'm the daughter of a serf and my name was never really set on so you can call me whatever. ~~The~~ The knight that my father must follow is very strict and as we must do whatever he says. No freedom what's so ever. He even tells us what to do in our free time. Anyway, I was walking to my local market. It was quiet about but people were screaming around me. Those voices were weird but I could make it out. The market was normally a quite and ~~peaceful~~ peaceful place so it startled me at first. Once I settled down I discover the cause of the startling eruption. There were people dead on the ground. I stood in shock and placed wound to see if there was the culprit. Others were coughing and I held my breath. The smell rotted my senses away. I gulped. The people were staring with a glared yet compassionate smile. RUN! The one next to me. The corpse was ~~so~~ rotting, maybe at the second day ~~stage~~ stage. There were flies^{sp} and other countless ~~was~~ insects gathered around it. I felt my stomach turn. Sick ~~and~~ curled up my throat but I ~~gult~~ ~~gult~~ gulped it back down. Tears swelled in my eyes as I ran off the disgust following close to behind.

Personal Social Health & Citizenship Education (PSHE)

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.

Free 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.

Mrs Jackson - Head of PSHCE

Relationships and Sex Education Policy – Parental Survey Response.

Thank you to all of the parents who took the time to engage with and respond to our call for your views on our Relationships and Sex Education Policy annual review in July.

We received very positive comments. A summary of the parental views are below. We are proud to share these results with you:

- 95% of our parents who responded felt that RSE was an important part of the school curriculum.
- 94% of parents who responded felt that RSE topics taught in school make a real difference to young people's lives.
- 95% of parents who responded felt happy to talk to their child about growing up, sex and relationships.
- 93% of parents who responded understood and agreed with the content of the APS RSE Policy.
- 91% of parents who responded knew where to find the RSE content map on the APS website to know and understand what their child would be learning each year in RSE - *Signposting of this has been increased as a result of the survey outcome.*
- 3% of parents who responded made suggestions of things they'd like to see in the RSE Curriculum at Abbey Park School - *All of these have been actioned.*

Thank you again for your support. We will complete the survey again in the summer term and look forward to hearing your views again on our RSE policy.

Mrs Jackson - Head of PSHE

Year 8 Explorer Dome

Explorer Dome delivered a fantastic roadshow demonstrating the properties of solids, liquids and gases to Year 8 students. They were shown exciting experiments, daring demonstrations and were able to get hands on in a few elements of the show.

The aim of the show was to encourage pupils to question the world around them, think critically, promote observation skills and imaginative thinking. There was a fantastic buzz throughout the day!

Well done Year 8 for engaging in the event, asking some great questions and linking their learning to a different context.



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.

Designated Safeguarding lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	SWIS - Social Worker in School
			
Mrs Stevens	Mrs Bulpitt	Ms Redondo	Mrs Nia Turner

Contact details and circumstances – always keep us up to date!

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for every parent/carer. 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.

Email – admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Assemblies

During term 2 pupils have had assemblies about, Anti Bullying, including wearing odd socks to school for the day, Remembrance Day, Road safety, General safeguarding - who to talk to if they are worried about themselves or someone else, Prevent and Radicalisation, online safety and types of abuse, Disability awareness month – being kind, Careers and Celebration assembly.

During PSHE this term pupils have been learning about the following topics under the umbrella of 'Living in the wider world':

Year 7	Skills and aspirations, 'You are awesome' project
Year 8	Money management, finances and debt, Tracking, Budgeting and taxes.
Year 9	Careers, option planning, Researching future jobs.
Year 10	Motivation and work ethic, CV writing, Entrepreneurship
Year 11	A Levels and degree information, Vocational and T level information, Apprenticeship and Job interview prep.

Useful contacts:

Swindon MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) if you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker - 01793 466903 or email swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk

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/>



Where to get help

- ▶ Safeguarding team
- ▶ The Pastoral Team
- ▶ Miss Yeoman – School counsellor
- ▶ Reporting tool – school website
- ▶ CEOP
- ▶ Child line
- ▶ NSPCC
- ▶ The dock – online
- ▶ The police
- ▶ Our school website



Best wishes

Miss O'Connor

This term we have said goodbye to Miss O'Connor, our Year 8 Pastoral Support Assistant (PSA). We wish her all the very best in her new role.

Miss Clapham

We say goodbye to Miss Clapham, temporarily, as she goes on maternity leave. We wish her all the best on her new adventure and look forward to cuddles once the baby arrives.

Welcome

Mrs Harewood & Miss Diaz-Butcher

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs Harewood (Year 9) and Miss Diaz-Butcher (Year 8) to the pastoral team as our new Pastoral Support Assistants.

School Calendar

Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January	First Day of Term 3
Wednesday 11th January	Drama Trip
Monday 16th -	Year 9 Options Taster Lesson week
Friday 20th January	
Thursday 19th January	Year 7, 8 and 9 Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 25th January	All Years - AlterEgo County Lines show
Thursday 26th January	Drama Trip
Wednesday 1st -	School Production
Tuesday 2nd January	
Monday 30th -	Wellbeing Week
Friday 3rd February	
Monday 6th February	Science Trip
Thursday 9th February	Science Trip
Friday 10th February	Last Day of Term 3 School

Term 4

Monday 20th February	First Day of Term 4
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