

# News from Abbey Park School

Term 3 February 2023

*'Potential into Performance'*



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

I begin by saying a huge thank you to the Performing Arts team for the production of the Little Shop of Horrors. What a magnificent way to end the term with such a polished performance of what is a challenging show to put on. The performers were so well-rehearsed in their movement, lines and singing, that the audience were enthralled. The comments from parents and supporters such as 'this could go on the Wyvern Stage', 'We've travelled from London, but it was well worth it' and 'this is the best school production I have ever seen', echoed around the Hall afterwards. Parents expressed their gratitude for providing the opportunity for their child to participate, which is testament to the work of the Performing Arts team. Be under no illusion, the 6 months in the making has been hard work but well worth it. All those involved are certainly Abbey Park Proud.

During the term there have been a number of subject consultation evenings and I would like to thank parents for their support in attending. Finding out about your child's academic performance is important and helps parents to support at home. As a school we are aware that some parents would like further curriculum information, so we are currently looking at how we improve this communication.

As I mentioned last term, it has been good for pupils to widen their experience from visitors and different trips. There have been quite a number of theatre trips – just recently the Yr10 Science trip to the New Theatre Oxford, provided the opportunity to listen to some eminent scientists one of which was Professor Robert Winston. The Yr11 Geography field-work was a great success. The pupils' conduct was excellent, as they explored Bristol Harbour to collect a range of data, which will relate to their final GCSE exam. Another valuable experience was that of the performance from a drama team called 'Alter Ego'. This allowed pupils across the school to gain awareness of the dangers in involvement in County Lines and Criminal Exploitation.

There have been some great sporting successes. Congratulations to Anubis M for his selection to represent Wiltshire in Cross Country at the South West Championships. This is a brilliant achievement, reflecting the commitment that he has to training and preparation for such events. Well done to the participants in the cross country who have achieved so much. Football results have been good also with both our Yr11 and Yr7 teams reaching the semi-final of their cup competitions.

It is good to celebrate pupils' success and achievements both in the classroom and out in sport and performances. As a school we are developing our opportunities to develop character and culture in our pupils. Mr Maddern, Assistant Principal has been exploring ways in which to do this and we look forward to the introduction of E-Praise next term, which is a logging system which will be rolled out to pupils and eventually parents.

Meeting many parents this term, at events and parent's evenings, has been a pleasure. Your support is so important to us and has enabled the school to develop continuously. Thank you for working in partnership with us.

Wishing you a good February break.

Best wishes

Mr Young



## Reasons to Celebrate

'Potential into Performance'

### 'Little Shop of Horrors' - school production

A total of 45 students participated and had been working on the show since September.

It has been a joy to work with this cast and watch them grow as people and performers during the process of making this show. The music is intricate, the choreography complex and the dialogue fast and frenzied. We definitely gave them a challenge with this one but I think you'll agree, they've more than risen to the occasion.

Over the course of a week, the team completed 4 performances and played to 3 different primary schools, over 240 parents, family members, ex-pupils and friends.

### Thank you from Mrs Hunter

*This was a brilliant show demonstrating the values of APS PROUD in every single way. Little Shop of Horrors was a professional show with all the pupils demonstrating high levels of control, commitment and enthusiasm in every performance and in all the rehearsals leading up to show week.*

*Congratulations to all the pupils and staff involved.*

### A message from Mr Young

*At Abbey Park the annual school production is always a highlight on the calendar, as the pupils and staff always put on such an excellent show. This year was no exception—The Little Shop of Horrors was amazing! You could feel the audience was transfixed with the standard of acting, singing and dancing. As I thanked them for attending, the positive comments just kept coming.*

*Well done all in involved, I am very proud of you. Bravo!*



### **TPAT Scholars presentation competition winners**

The TPAT Scholars have now finished their presentation project. In total, 27 groups across year 7,8 & 9 took part. The standard was extremely high with every group demonstrating many of our PROUD characteristics.

The winning groups were:

Y7— Cameron W & Tyler R

Y8— Eliska H, Caitlyn K & Altheya S

Y9— Amberlie K, Macey D & Jess C

## **Welcome back to the library!**

I hope you all had a wonderful break and New Year.

Last term was rather busy in here with sorting the last of the books for Accelerated Reading. We were also lucky enough to have several donations of books.

The students are enjoying the 'New to Us' titles.



## **The benefits of reading for pleasure**

As you know we at Abbey Park School understand the vital importance of reading. So, we are trying to establish a culture of 'Reading for Pleasure'. Studies have shown that reading for only 6 minutes a day reduces stress by 68%. It has benefits across all the curriculum, is a required skill in every subject and in every future career.

Several studies exploring the outcomes of reading for pleasure on the general population have also found a strong association with emotional and personal development. Studies have found that reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities.

With all of this in mind, we are working to create an environment that is reader friendly.

Please help us to develop a love of reading, by sharing books and discussing what you've read.

## **Community book swap**

To encourage you and your children to read and share reading, we have created a community book swap. This is based in the school reception.

There are a variety of books for children and adults, you can borrow books and return them.

If you have any books you no longer want, you can donate them to the book swap.



Happy reading!

Miss Bowie

Librarian

## Year 5 Maths Challenge

Last week, Abbey Park School had the honor of hosting the Year 5 Maths Challenge.

We had 18 competitive Year 5s from Orchid Vale, Bridlewood and Red Oaks participate in the challenge, alongside 6 Year 10s who helped lead the sessions.

The Year 5 teams completed 3 testing rounds, including a code breaker, relay race and a treasure hunt.

After a fun filled afternoon of maths challenges, the results were in:

1st & 2nd — Red Oaks

3rd — Bridlewood

Well done to all the Year 5s for participating, and showing great team-work and enthusiasm!

## Year 11 GCSE Geography fieldtrip

In January 2023, Year 11 GCSE Geographers completed their second and final piece of fieldwork visiting

Bristol Harbourside.

The day was a great success completing our data, which included a boat tour highlighting the changes and improvements which have been made over time.

Pupils asked questionnaires, completed land use surveys as well as other data collections in areas around Millennium Square.

The students should be very proud of their achievements.





This term PE has been full of a variety of fixtures and events. We have had some fantastic results.

### **Wiltshire Schools Cross Country**

5 of our Abbey Park athletes competed at Sheldon School in the freezing cold and fog. The athletes showed great determination and commitment. Congratulations to:

3rd place— Anubis M who has been selected to represent Wiltshire at the South West Championships

11th place— Abi H who has been selected for the reserve team.

Great performances also from Ella A, Charlotte H, Isaac T and Charlie C, demonstrating lots of potential for the future.

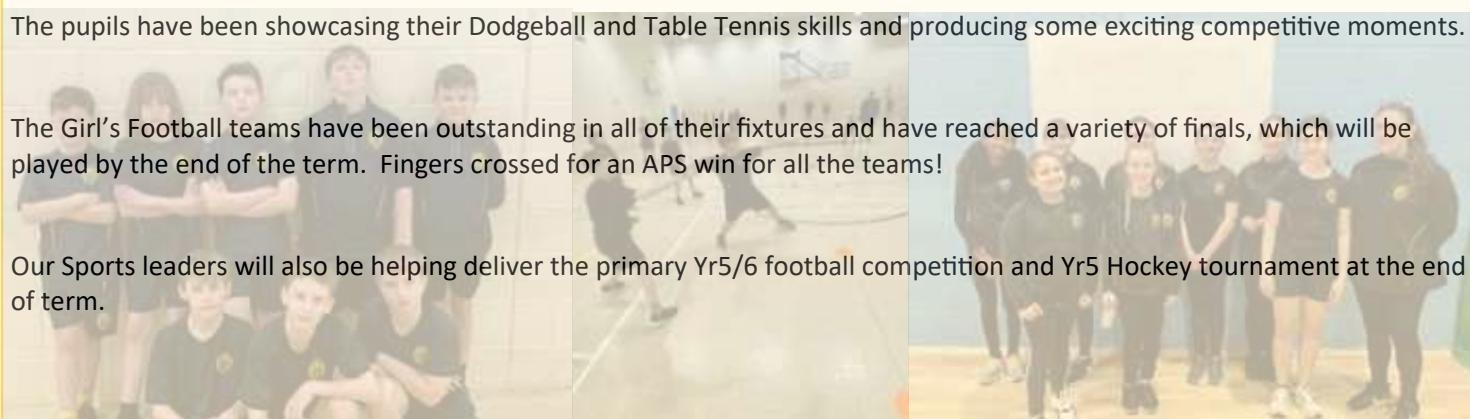


### **Swindon School fixtures**

The pupils have been showcasing their Dodgeball and Table Tennis skills and producing some exciting competitive moments.

The Girl's Football teams have been outstanding in all of their fixtures and have reached a variety of finals, which will be played by the end of the term. Fingers crossed for an APS win for all the teams!

Our Sports leaders will also be helping deliver the primary Yr5/6 football competition and Yr5 Hockey tournament at the end of term.



### **A visit from GB 100m sprinter Aiden Syers**

We were very fortunate to have Aiden spend the whole day at APS inspiring our pupils through a fantastic assembly. He then ran 7 practical PE sessions throughout the day to 150 of our pupils, who took part in his very high intense circuit where he certainly pushed them to the limit!

Aiden was very inspiring and passionate. He also commented on how amazing the pupils were and how impressed he was with everyone that took part. We are proud to have them at Abbey Park!



### **Next term**

We move onto the Girl's Basketball and Boy's Football league with plenty of matches to play.

To be part of the team pupils need to attend enrichment to show their interest in representing the school. There are also plenty of sporting opportunities to take part in during lunch time, so please encourage pupils to take a look at the posters advertised in the street.

Well done to all APS students who have taken part in fixtures & clubs this term. The PE department are very proud.

A.C.E performers will be announced during the last week of the term.

The PE Department



On Wednesday 25th January all pupils were invited to watch a live production of 'County Lines' by the theatre company AlterEgo. This was a powerful production highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of Child Criminal Exploitation.

The play, which has been seen by hundreds of professionals and thousands of young people throughout the UK, has proved highly effective in raising awareness around:-

- What is County Lines and how can it affect young people.
- The Grooming Process and how it can apply to CountyLines.
- The similarities and potential crossovers between Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- Where to go for help & advice.

As part of our whole school PSHE programme we felt this was an engaging and innovative way of raising awareness of the issues relating to Child Criminal Exploitation and giving young people the skills and knowledge to be able to protect themselves from this form of abuse.

Our pupils were an exceptional audience and enjoyed the production. Below are some comments from pupils about the show.



*'I thought the play was a really good live performance to show to all of the students, everyone was really engaged and enjoyed seeing the 'lesson' in front of them to learn from it. It was capturing and gave a good insight to students who have never before heard of the County Lines.'* - D.N

*'I thought the play was really useful, it made us feel like we were part of real life, it made you feel something for the character, that would put you off ever getting yourself into a situation like that. We are really pleased we were fortunate enough to see this live performance to enhance our learning and understanding on the topic of County Lines'*  
-E.S



Mrs Jackson

Head of PSHE

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](mailto:admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk)

## Assembly and PSHE this term:

During term 3 pupils have had assemblies about, Anti Bullying – what is bullying and what do we do at Abbey Park School about it, Consent, Sexual violence and harassment and what this looks like and how to keep themselves safe and who they can report it to, positive outlook on life, Holocaust memorial day, online safety, and behaviour expectations.

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

Year 7	Relationships, diversity, prejudice, first aid – practical, dental health, healthy living
Year 8	Dare to be you, kid doubt, be daring, be decisive, be decent, one size doesn't fit all
Year 9	Citizenship, what is democracy, what is government, general elections, voting ages
Year 10	Holocaust, persecution, dangers of extremism
Year 11	Applying to college, personal branding, rights and responsibilities in the workplace, trade unions and careers

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



**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.



SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

**EXCESSIVE USE**

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

## Advice for Parents & Carers

## SEXTING

**DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE**

**VISIBLE LOCATION**

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in to locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

**TURN OFF QUICK ADD**

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

## CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

## TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

## KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are public by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snap directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about shared stories as this allows people who are not in your contact list access to the post.

## BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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## School Calendar

### Term 4

<b>Monday 20th February</b>	<b>INSET Day — school closed to students</b>
<b>Tuesday 21st February</b>	<b>First day back to school</b>
<b>Thursday 23rd February</b>	<b>Year 8 HPV immunisations</b>
<b>Monday 27th February</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>Saturday 4th —</b>	<b>Maths Live — Disneyland Paris</b>
<b>Tuesday 7th March</b>	
<b>Tuesday 14th March</b>	<b>Year 11 group photo</b>
<b>Wednesday 15th March</b>	<b>PE trip</b>
<b>Monday 20th March</b>	<b>Year 9 HPV immunisations</b>
<b>Monday 20th —</b>	<b>Well being week</b>
<b>Friday 24th March</b>	
<b>Wednesday 22nd March</b>	<b>Y10 Gloucester University</b>
<b>Wednesday 29th March</b>	<b>Year 10 careers day</b>