

# News from Abbey Park School

Term 2 - December 2023



*'Potential into Performance'*



**The Park  
Academies  
Trust**



# Message from the Principal

*'Potential into Performance'*

Dear Parents/Carers,

The festive season seems to come around again so quickly. We have been building up to the end of term, culminating in our Christmas lunch, Carol concert and House Assemblies. As well as these events, our Christmas Jumper Day raised a significant amount of money for Save the Children and our tutor group Christmas door competition has been in full flow. In amongst these activities, there has been a great deal of hard work and learning going on across the year groups. Year 11 have completed their mock exams and wait in anticipation for their mock results. Following this important experience, we look forward to meeting Year 11 parents for the subject consultation evening, to discuss pupil progress and ways in which they can support.

Our staff continue to provide Session 6 enrichment, sports clubs and trips. This last week we've had pupils out on trips to the Globe Theatre in London, Steam Museum and another Bristol Theatre trip to see a performance of Oliver Twist. I would like to thank staff for their time and dedication in organising and supporting these events and the pupils for their exemplary behaviour in their representation of the school. As Mr Lyons said on his return from Hansel and Gretel at the Globe, 'They had quite a magical day'.

Over the term, there have been a number of visitors to the school to support and enrich our curriculum. An organisation called The Blunt Truth educated Year 9 pupils on the aspect of knife crime, informing them on ways to keep safe and support others. On another very serious note, our Holocaust survivor visitor offered a good insight into history and supported our Philosophical Thinking course. There were some very interesting questions posed by our pupils, again showing Abbey Park Proud attributes. On a lighter note, our Olympic Athlete visitor Charlotte Wingfield provided an inspirational session for our Sports Academy Pupils, training them in sprinting, the hurdles and the 'Frosby Flop' high jump technique.

At the end of this term, we sadly see some members of staff move on to new roles and responsibilities. We say thank you and farewell to Mr Sanghera, Mr Flowerdew, Miss Jenkins, Miss Woloszczynska, Mrs Blackmore and Mrs Sharma. I would like to add my own personal appreciation to these members of staff who have shown much dedication and commitment to the pupils of Abbey Park School and wish them all the best for the future. We also thank our CEO, Benedick Ashmore-Short for his time at The Park Academies Trust and wish him well in the new role he is undertaking.

Fortunately, despite the problems with teacher recruitment experienced nationally, we have managed to recruit well for the New Year and welcome, Mrs Browning, Mrs White, Mr Bramley, Mrs Bramley and Miss Keogh.

It seems a long time ago, but at the beginning of this term, the community fireworks event at Red Oaks was fantastic and saw over a thousand people attend. At this time, we also held The Peace Project competition, supported by the Swindon Lions. As I said at the celebration of the pupils' work, this has been a very important project for Year 8 to engage in, particularly in this time of conflict across the world. We encourage pupils through our assembly/tutor programme and wider curriculum to consider the concept of peace and how it enables all to flourish in education, work and our daily lives.

I encourage all in our community to stay safe over the holiday period and look forward to working together in 2024. Just a gentle reminder that school returns for all year groups on Wednesday 3rd January.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas time and best wishes for the New Year.

**Mr Young**  
**Principal**

# English

## Year 7 trip to A Christmas Carol, Swindon Arts Centre

Captured in this photograph is the vibrant group of Year 7 pupils who embarked on an exciting journey to the Arts Centre this afternoon. Their eager faces reflect the anticipation and joy they shared as they immersed themselves in the timeless tale of 'A Christmas Carol'.

The pupils eagerly witnessed a mesmerising performance that transported them into the enchanting world of Dickens' classic story.

This unforgettable experience allowed the pupils to delve into the magic of theatre, igniting their imaginations and fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts.

Truly, it was a remarkable afternoon filled with laughter, inspiration, and the spirit of Christmas. Pupils represented us well and it was most certainly an Abbey Park Proud afternoon for all!



## Year 9 trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London

The day began with an immersive workshop on Romeo and Juliet. Guided by theatre professionals, pupils delved into the world of Shakespearean drama, exploring the themes of emotions, conflicts, and violence.

After a transformative workshop, the pupils eagerly made their way to witness a mesmerising performance of Hansel and Gretel. The enchanting melodies, dazzling stagecraft, and gripping storytelling unfolded before their eyes, leaving an indelible mark on their imaginations.

The trip ended with a magical tour of the Christmas lights that adorned the bustling streets of London. Twinkling decorations, shining angels and the joyful ambiance of the festive season enveloped them in a world of wonder and delight.



The pupils behaved impeccably and represented APS beautifully. An all-round Abbey Park Proud moment!

**Mr Lyons**  
**English Teacher**

## National Farmers Union

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, two Farmers, David and Emma, volunteered their time as part of the NFU Farmers for Schools to come in and give Year 7 a talk on food production and the breadth of careers which can stem from farming.

The pupils were amazing with their questioning, challenging both farmers to provide a reality of their jobs and animal welfare standards.

If anyone found the session interesting and would like to find out more, please see Mrs Graham who has a magazine which Emma has left for any pupil wishing to read up further and spark a passion for agriculture and farming.



## Remembrance

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November the whole school conducted a 2 minute silence to commemorate Armistice Day. This concludes a week of assemblies conducted by Mr Young focusing upon Remembrance. As the whole school led into the two-minute silence, two poems were read out by the pupil leadership team.

This year we were keen to implement an APS legacy, which allowed all staff and pupils within the school to share members of their families who have fought in conflict. This display of poppies we hope to expand over the years, adding additional names so that we are able to share stories and remember those who have close connections to Abbey Park School.



## Antarctic flag competition

A huge thank you to all pupils who entered into the Antarctica flag competition. It was fantastic to receive so many entries.

It was a tough choice but as a Humanities department, we would like to congratulate 4 winners who will go together to produce one flag for Abbey Park School to send on to the Antarctic research centre to hopefully take out to Antarctica.

A huge well done to Joey M, Ethan J, Ethan E, Holly W and Amelia B.

We hope to update you all in March 2024 when the researchers return back to the UK.

**Mrs Graham**  
**Head of Humanities**



***Our winning entries***



## TPAT Scholars

### Year 7 visit to Marlborough College

In November our Year 7 TPAT Scholars visited Marlborough College. Pupils took part in a Computer Science workshop taught by teachers from the college.

Pupils were given a taster session on coding using Python, where they created their own spirograph patterns. They also took part in a machine learning task where they taught their computer to recognise the difference between different animals and objects.

Staff 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 and we look forward to working with Marlborough College again in the near future.

**Mr Stubbs**  
**Assistant Principal**



### **Sporting achievements this term**

The PE department have had an exciting lead up toward Xmas this term with APS pupils representing in the Swindon school cross country at Nova, girls kicking off the football league and cup fixtures. We've also seen the U16 Boys Football team having a huge win in Swindon county cup, boys basketball league fixtures and an Olympic athlete delivering a practical athletics lesson, speaking about the demands of being an athlete to pupils.

A large number of pupils represented APS at this year's Swindon Schools Cross Country at Nova. All pupils did exceptionally well, and the PE department are very proud of them. A special mention to Anubis M-Zi & Douglas K for winning their races and Ronnie J finishing in the top 12. They have all been selected to represent Swindon at the Wilshire trials in January at Sheldon School. The PE department would like to wish them the best of luck at the next round.

The girls and boys football teams have both kicked off this term with the Swindon County Cup and league fixtures for the girls. The U16 boys had a dominant win in their 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the cup with a 9-0 win against St Joseph's College. The girls have also put in a dominant performance with U12s winning their tournament at GWA and U14s winning their first few matches. U16s are ready for their tournament in the final week to join in on the victory celebrations. League fixtures for boys commence next term and the PE team are excited and hope the teams can transfer their cup form into the league.

The commitment and attendance at boys basketball this term has been brilliant, with every team having weekly matches and fielding all teams for all age groups. The ability and performances have improved every match, and we hope to continue to get a few more wins in the final weeks before the holidays.

### **Sporting achievements outside of school**

The PE team would also like to make a special mention to the following pupils who have done brilliantly in their sports outside of school: Emily W (Year 7) competed in the British Judo National Championships in Sheffield on Saturday in the U14s girls under 52kg category (her debut in this weight category). There were 14 girls in this category and competed in 4 fights, winning 3. She is now ranked 3rd in GB - Well done Emily, brilliant news!

Charlotte H (Year 8) has continued her success in hammer throw and is ranked 1st in UK for her age group with a new PB of 32.95m. She is now competing in the U15 age category and competed at the weekend coming 4th in the southwest. This is competing against girls who are 2 years above her age - super well done Charlotte!

A congratulations Oscar B for being scouted by Bath Rugby after playing for his local team Bassett. He is now playing for Bath Development team and would like to continue his rugby career post 16 - We want to wish Oscar the best of luck with his college applications for these teams.

### **Session 6**

Next term the following clubs will be available after school - make sure you don't forget to sign up on Arbor:

Year 7 & 8 Girls Basketball - Tuesday

Y9, 10 & 11 Boys Football - Tuesday

Year 9, 10 & 11 Girls Basketball - Wednesday

Year 7 & 8 Boys Football - Thursday

Also, Interhouse sports will continue to take place on Monday after school, come along and join in to earn some points for your House!

Yr7/8 Girls Basketball- Sports Hall

Yr7 Boys Football- Field



## An Olympic Athlete at Abbey Park

We had the pleasure of having Olympic sprinter Charlotte Wingfield visit us to inspire some of our sporting pupils.

Charlotte delivered an inspiring assembly to the pupils where she discussed how she became an Olympic athlete and then outlined different aspects of being a professional athlete and coping strategies.

Charlotte then delivered practical sessions throughout the day which every pupil took part in and really enjoyed.

Thank you for coming Charlotte!

We wish everyone a safe Christmas and Happy New Year and pupils good luck with all their sporting events over the holiday period.

**Mrs Humphrey**  
Head of PE



## MFL

### End of term assessment

During December, our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have impressed us with their posters, mind maps and revision cards for their end of term assessment. It is nice to see their creativity displayed throughout their different revision styles from mind maps, posters, cards etc.

### Trip to Madrid

While our French and Spanish Y11 pupils have had their first GCSE mock exams, our Y10 Spanish pupils are getting closer to their Madrid Trip next year. They are very much looking forward to exploring typical Madrilenian tourist places such as Plaza Mayor, Museo Nacional del Prado and Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, as well as trying traditional Spanish food such as tapas, paella, bocadillos, tortillas and much more. We can't wait to hear all about their experiences practising the Spanish language and seeing some photos of their trip.

**Ms Tondo**  
MFL Teacher



## **Free sanitary products**

We continue to have a ready and available supply of free sanitary products 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.

## **Blunt Truth**

We were fortunate to have the production 'Blunt Truth' delivered to Year 9 pupils on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Part-funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and involving members of Wiltshire Police and the NHS, Blunt Truth is an hour-long workshop which aims to encourage young people to report through their school, the police or through FEARLESS (youth arm of Crimestoppers) if someone they know is carrying a knife. The extract below is from the Police and Crime Commissioner:

*As part of Operation Sceptre, a national campaign aimed at reducing knife crime, schools from Devizes and Swindon hosted Katie Rix, an ED Paediatric Senior Sister with the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the team from Wiltshire Police's Youth and Early Intervention unit who delivered the Blunt Truth workshops.*

*Pupils from Year 9 were shown a video highlighting the different outcomes of either reporting someone they know to be carrying a knife or the potential tragic outcomes if they don't. PCSO Shelley Grey talked to them about the situations they could find themselves in and who they could talk to if they were worried about friends or relatives.*

*Sister Rix led the pupils in first aid training for victims of knife wounds, with pupils taking part in practical demonstrations.*

Pupils displayed exemplary behaviour and modelled our Abbey Park Values.

## **Next term**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January we will welcome Alter Ego Creative Solutions back to Abbey Park to deliver an applied theatre project called 'Unacceptable' to every pupil across three sessions in the morning. Unacceptable is about Sexism, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence.

As a school we feel strongly about supporting our pupils with how to manage real life scenarios and support them in making the right choices, as well as feeling confident enough to challenge unacceptable sexualised language.

Alter Ego states:

*'Unfortunately Sexism, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence are an issue for every school in every community in the UK. In order to combat these issues, we need to understand and raise awareness of what they are, what creates them and what can be done to expose and respond to the harmful attitudes that perpetuate harassment and gender injustice.'*

A letter will be sent to all parents in the new year, explaining more about the theatre project.

**Mrs Jackson**  
**Head of PSHCE**

# Thank you!

*'Potential into Performance'*

Thank you to those students who helped support our collection for Swindon Food Collective.

We collected 14 crates of donations. Those photographed all received R4s for their amazing effort.

**Mrs O'Brien**

**KS3 Intervention Teacher**



Thank you very much for your generous contributions towards this year's Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal. An amazing 24 bags of donations were taken to Gateway Church to be distributed to children in Swindon this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

**Mrs O'Brien**

**KS3 Intervention 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**

It has been a busy 2 terms since I started at Abbey Park getting to know the pupils and their families.

If there is something about your child that you are concerned about and would like to discuss this, please contact the school office or send me an email [edmondsl@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:edmondsl@abbeyparkschool.org.uk)

There are also some great parent support networks in Swindon that I wanted to signpost you to:

	<p>The SEND Information, Advice and Support service (SIAS) provides information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children and <a href="#">young people</a> from 0-25 with SEND, as well as their <a href="#">parents or carers</a>. You do not need to have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to use the service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are <b>free</b>, you will never have to pay for their services</li> <li>• They are <b>impartial</b>, which means they don't take sides</li> <li>• They are <b>confidential</b>, which means no-one will be told about the things you talk about unless you give them permission</li> </ul> <p>Contact Information: Website: <a href="https://www.swindonsias.org.uk/">https://www.swindonsias.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:SIAS@swindon.gov.uk">SIAS@swindon.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Telephone: 01793 466515</p>
	<p>Swindon SEND Families Voice are a non-profit making Community Interest Company formed by parent and carers in January 2018. They are a group of parents that have children with additional needs. They feel passionate about ensuring the services in our area meet the needs of Swindon's disabled children and their families, and that all parents and carers feel supported.</p> <p>Contact information: <a href="https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/">https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com">swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com</a></p> <p>Telephone: 07486 873 405</p>

Christmas can be a tricky time for many children with SEND and they are often edged with anxiety. Too many choices, too many Christmas adverts, bright lights, music and lots of Christmas shoppers on the streets, are a constant reminder of the big day ahead!

You can access some useful tips to help through the festive period via the following website address below:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/>

I hope you have a great Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Louise Edmonds**

**SENDCo**

## **Swindon Youth Festival of Literature**

Term 2 is always a busy time for us in the library as it is when we celebrate the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature (SYFL). This event has been a collaboration between 12 secondary schools in the Swindon area. It has been built up over 16 years to become one of our most popular events and last year was the winner of The School Librarian Association community award.

The idea behind this series of events is to bring the love of books and reading to as many children as we can. We try to get a big named author in for our launch event at the Wyvern Theatre, this is then followed by each secondary school having an author in to give a talk and run a workshop for some groups.

We also have a primary event in which we invite children from surrounding primary schools to come along and listen to a talk by an author, hoping to ignite that love of reading.

## **Dame Jacqueline Wilson**

This year we were lucky to have none other than Dame Jacqueline Wilson as our headline Author, who launched our event with a talk at the Wyvern Theatre. A few of our pupils were able to join her on stage for a photo opportunity.



## **Steve Cole**

In school, we had the incredible Steve Cole visit, author of the young James Bond and Dr Who books. He gave a talk to the whole of Year 8 and followed this with a couple of workshops for some of our pupils, bringing out their inner authors and sparking their creativity.



## **Ash Dickinson**

This was followed by our annual visit from the poet Ash Dickinson. Twelve years on and Ash is still a hit with the pupils, even some of our older pupils stopped him for a chat. With his infectious enthusiasm, Ash led our Year 7s on a creative poetry session, which resulted in some fantastic poems being read out by a few of them.



## **Primary Event**

For our primary event, where we invite a number of our local primary schools to bring along their Year 5 classes. We had the delightful Jennifer Bell who brought the world of Wonderscape to life in an interactive presentation discussing her thought process and how she came to love reading and writing books.



## Illustration Competition

The winner and second place finalist for the illustration competition were invited to a workshop with Swindon based author and illustrator Steve Antony. This was held at the central library where a display of all the winning entries from each school was shown in an exhibition. The pupils learned about how to come up with an idea for a story and how to illustrate it.



## Celebration Event at Pattern Church

The week was rounded up with the celebration event which was held at the Pattern Church.

There was a prize for the overall winners for the competitions and our Library Ambassadors. This was attended by the Mayor Barbara Parry, Alex Call of Bert's Books and a representative from our main sponsor Bower Bailey solicitors. It was a fantastic way to end this year's festival.

## Competition Winners

Literacy is such an important skill that promotes the development of critical and creative thinking. It enriches our empathy and understanding, skills that will help us in all areas of our working life. This is one of the reasons that the literature festival is so important, it allows every child access to books, authors and a love of reading.

As part of the festival we ran three competitions, Illustration, story writing and poetry. The winners were:

*All winning entries are on display in the library*

### Illustration

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Elsie P
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Marianna A-P
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Maya S



### Poetry

- 1st place: Nika M
- 2nd place: Kira M
- 3rd place: Francessca L



### Story writing

- 1st place: Izzy B
- 2nd place: William W
- 3rd place: Holly P



We are already starting to think about next year's festival. This event is only made possible thanks to the heads of each of the secondary schools involved allocating funding and allowing the dedicated librarians the time to implement the events. However, as with everything else, rising costs are making this more difficult. It is a very worthwhile event as literacy is vital to every child and their future. If you know of a business or an individual who would be willing to sponsor one of our events or could make a donation, please get in touch via [kmurphy@dorcan.co.uk](mailto:kmurphy@dorcan.co.uk) the event co-ordinator. For more information about the festival and those involved please check out the website <https://www.swindonyfl.co.uk/>

Happy Holidays and Keep Reading!

**Miss Bowie**  
**Librarian**

## 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.

## Useful information

### Libraries

Where to find your local library.

#### **North Swindon Library**

Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

01793 707120

[northswindon.library@swindon.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Shops

Where to find your local book shop.

#### **Bert's Books**

54 Godwin Court, Swindon, SN1 4BB

07949 190977

[bert@bertsbooks.co.uk](mailto:bert@bertsbooks.co.uk)

Opening hours

- Monday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Saturday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday - 10.30am – 4.00pm

#### **Waterstones**

3 Canal Walk, Swindon SN1 1LD

01793 436465

[www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

Opening Hours

- Monday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Thursday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm



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

Mrs Hatcliffe: [hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk)

Miss Redondo: [redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk)

Mrs Candy: [candyk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:candyk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk)

Email – [admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@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) if you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker - 01793 466903 or email [swin-donmash@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swin-donmash@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/>

## Assembly and PSHE this term:

At Abbey Park School all pupils attend Assemblies and PSHE sessions each week.

During term 2 pupils have had the following assemblies: Welcome back – expectations around B4L, Careers, general safeguarding – forms of abuse, who to report to and how to get support, Languages, Black History Month, Mental health awareness day, Benefits of reading.

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

Year 7	Living in the wider world: Developing skills and aspirations
Year 8	Financial decision making – money management, personal finance and debt, budgeting, income tax and NI, ethical financial choice
Year 9	Careers – Planning and options, STEM subjects, careers in different fields, researching jobs, option talks
Year 10	Citizenship – Debate, Government spending, Ageism, Animal testing, Extinction 2020
Year 11	Relationships – Marriage and cohabitation, family life and legal status of marriage, Parenting, RSE, Resilience against gambling, mock results.

## 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  
DSL



Ms Redondo  
Head of Key Stage  
Year 8 & 11  
DSL



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)



## 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.

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something you chat intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## 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 sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
	English	Autobiography - <i>writing focus</i>	Macbeth - <i>writing focus</i>	An Introduction - <i>reading focus</i>
	Maths	Making generalisations about the number system 2 - Positive and Negative numbers, Expressions, Equations and Inequalities	Equations and Inequalities 2 Graphs	Probability Linear simultaneous equations – Solving Algebraically, Solving Graphically
	Science	Reproduction & Inheritance Separating Mixtures	Heat Transfer Types of Reactions	P1 Energy
	MFL	Spanish: Mi Insti - describing the school subjects we do and our opinions and justifying our opinions about school life French: Mon temps libre - recognising sports and leisure activities; describing how we spend our free time; giving opinions	Spanish: A comer - Saying what food we like and dislike and describing meals in detail Ordering a meal using the formal form Planning and reflecting on a party or social occasion French: À loisir - recalling leisure activities; explaining our use of digital technology and media; understanding how to organise and pay for a trip to the cinema	Spanish: En Forma - Describing diet, lifestyle, and fitness Daily routine Health and ailments, illness, and injury French: Ma vie en musique - recalling music genres and describing our preferences; explaining what we used to be like; comparing our past selves with our present; explaining how things have changed
	Humanities	Geography: 16th Century History History: 16th and 17th Century PT: 16th Century History	Geography: Globalisation and Development History: The Victorian Age PT: Does religion make us good?	Geography: Russia History: The American West PT: Ethical Issues
	Design Technology (DT)	RM - Chocolate moulds, reading task	RM - pewter accessory, reading task	RM - 3D modelling, reading task
	Visual Arts	Portraiture Project - Tamara Madden	Distraction	Man vs Nature GCSE Taster
	Performing Arts	Drama: Characters and Playmaking Music: Concerto through time	Drama: Sparkleshark Music: Reggae	Drama: Seven Deadly Sins Greed, Gluttony, Sloth, Wrath, Envy, Pride, Lust Music: Time Lapse/ Time Lapse sequencing
	PE	Badminton, Dance, Football, Handball/, Gymnastics	Badminton, Dance, Football, Gym, Tag Rugby, Basketball	Badminton, Handball, Football, Sports Leaders, Hockey
	Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE)	Society & Culture *Citizenship strand	Living in the wider world – developing your own identity	Government & Politics: Citizenship (British Values)

# Term 3 Curriculum Map - KS4

*'Potential into Performance'*

	Year 10	Year 11
<b>English Media</b>	English: Poetry: OCR Conflict Collection Media: Magazine	English: Revision for Feb. mocks. Media: Music industries - Component 2 section B
<b>Maths</b>	Foundation: Graphs & Transformations Higher: Perimeter, Area and 3D Forms, Solving Quadratics and Simultaneous Equations, Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Ratio	Higher: Circle Theorems, Algebra, Surds and Proofs, Vectors
<b>Science</b>	Combined: B3 Infection & Response P4 Atomic Structure Individual: B2 Organisation	Combined: C8 Chemical Analysis B6 Inheritance, Variation & Evolution Individual: C8 Chemical Analysis P7 Magnetism & Electromagnetism
<b>MFL</b>	Spanish: Mi gente - Talking about socialising and family French: Jour ordinaires, jours de fête - identity and culture	Spanish: Mi gente - Talking about socialising and family French: Jour ordinaires, jours de fête - identity and culture
<b>Humanities</b>	Geography: Urban Issues and Challenges History: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 and Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939 PT: Buddhist beliefs Sociology: Paper 1: The Sociology of Family	Geography: Resource Management History: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 and Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939 PT: Religion, crime and punishment Sociology: Paper 2: Social Stratification
<b>Business Computing Media</b>	Business: Topic: Computer Science:	Business: Computer Science:
<b>Design Technology (DT) Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition (FPM)</b>	DT: Theory: Systems approach to designing. Mechanical Devices. Forces & Stresses FPM: 3.2.3. Nutrition and Health, Food Skills	DT: NEA FPM: NEA 2
<b>Fine Arts Photography</b>	Fine Arts: Identity Project Photography: Social media	Fine Arts: Exam Photography: Exam
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Drama: Continue on from term 1 finalisation Music: Key Signatures Texture Tonality	Drama: Group pieces monologues/duologues Music: Listening activities and practice questions
<b>PE</b>	Fitness, Basketball, Football, Handball, Trampolining, Volleyball, Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Table Tennis, Basketball	Table Tennis, Basketball, Trampolining, Handball, Football, Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Fitness
<b>Personal, Social, Health &amp; Economic (PSHE)</b>	Health & Wellbeing: mental health	CEIAG: Living in the wider world

<b>Wednesday 3rd January</b>	All years return to school
<b>Friday 5th January</b>	Trip: Young Carers & Y10 Drama to Egg Theatre, Bath
<b>Wednesday 10th January</b>	Event: Unacceptable Theatre Company
<b>Monday 15th - Friday 19th January</b>	Event: Y9 Options Taster Lesson week
<b>Wednesday 24th January</b>	Event: Y11 Apprenticeship information
<b>Friday 26th January</b>	Trip: Y10 & 11 to Swindon College, photoshoot/model and drawing activities
<b>Wednesday 31st January</b>	Trip: Y10 to Harry Potter Studios
<b>Thursday 1st February and Friday 2nd February</b>	Trip: Y11 to Bristol Harbourside
<b>Friday 2nd February</b>	Event: KS4 Cyberhorizons
<b>Tuesday 6th February</b>	Event: Character Champion Pizza Party
<b>Wednesday 7th February to Friday 9th February</b>	Evening: School Production
<b>TBC</b>	Trip: Y7 Bristol M Shed and walking tour

**Half term break - Monday 12th - Friday 16th February**

**Inset Day - Monday 19th February (staff only)**

**Return to school - Tuesday 20th February (all years)**

# School Calendar



## Abbey Park School Terms and Holidays 2023 - 2024



September 2023						
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 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
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27	28	29	30			

December 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 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		

June 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

July 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				

August 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	

**INSET Days** 1st and 4th September, 16th and 17th November, 19th February, 3rd June and 19th July

**Lunchtime Finish** 20th December and 18th July

### Bank Holidays 2023/24 UK

25 December '23	Christmas Day	29 March '24	Good Friday	27 May '24	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '23	Boxing Day	1 April '24	Easter Monday	26 August '24	August Bank Holiday
1 January '24	New Year's Day	6 May '24	May Day Holiday		