

ABBNEYFIELD SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER.

Friday 10 February 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Ambitious to
Achieve**

*Creativity Honesty Independence
Resilience Respect Responsibility*



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As the February half term comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all the hard work and successes of our students at Abbeyfield School.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our Performing Arts department and all the students who were involved in the fantastic production of "Legally Blonde." The dedication and commitment displayed by the cast and crew was truly remarkable, and the performances were of an incredibly high standard. Well done to all! Every single year the team seems to outdo itself with the quality of the performances, and we are very much looking forward to the 2024 production already!

Furthermore, I would like to highlight the successful year 9 options evening, where students and parents had the opportunity to learn more about the subjects on offer and make informed choices for the next academic year. Our teachers and staff were on hand to provide guidance and support, and I would like to thank them for their tireless efforts.

We have also had some wonderful sporting opportunities for our students, who have continued to compete and attend fixtures to broaden their skill and understanding. A standout positive has been our extended run in county cup and league football, with year 10 boys advancing to the latter stages of the cup competition. The opportunity for our athletes to showcase their skills and compete against other schools continues to be a valuable way of showing all of our school values on a weekly basis. Hopefully we will have some silverware to show come the end of the season.

On the spectating front, a visit to watch the BBL final was a great opportunity for students to experience elite level performance in Birmingham.

We have also had some wonderful careers opportunities, where we welcomed guest speakers from a range of industries to provide insights and advice to our students. This has been in addition to welcoming alumni back into school to support the school. It is important for our young people to have a clear understanding of the opportunities available to them, and I am grateful to those who took the time to visit our school and share their experiences.

Finally, I would like to mention our CET events and knowledge connected days, which provide students with hands-on, practical experiences and help to bring their learning to life. These events are a great way for students to apply their knowledge and develop essential skills, and I am proud of the enthusiasm and engagement they have shown.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to our students for their ongoing hard work and dedication. Your achievements are a testament to the effort and commitment you bring to your studies every day. I would also like to thank our parents and guardians for your continued support, as we work together to provide the best possible education for our young people.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

JAY KERBY

EXTRA-CURRICULAR.

JUNCTION

On Saturday, 4th February, the Senior Dance Group performed at Northampton School for Boys' dance show, "Junction," which is an event involving dancers from schools across Northamptonshire. The Seniors have worked incredibly hard over the past couple of weeks, and it was lovely to see their hard work and talent pay off on stage. A huge congratulations to all that were involved! You should be very proud of yourselves.



Y10 BOYS FOOTBALL

Last week Abbeyfield hosted Parker Academy in the semi-finals of the County Cup. Abbeyfield started strongly taking an early lead, but Parker hit back with two quick goals to move ahead 2-1. Abbeyfield didn't panic and increased the pressure on the opposition, forcing mistakes and not giving Parker the time to play on the ball. As Abbeyfield's domination on the pitch increased, so did the goals, with four more added and Parker only responding with a further one. Final score: Abbeyfield 6-3 Parker. A huge congratulations to all that were involved in the game and securing the first spot in the final, with the opponents currently unknown.

The team continued their run of fine form as they hosted Wootton Park this week in the local derby. Despite cruising to a 5-0 lead, two late goals from Wootton saw the game finish 5-2. Abbeyfield remain unbeaten in the league, a run stretching into the latter end of a second season.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COMPUTING.

We were extremely lucky to go on a Computer Science Trip to National Museum of Computing. We had four sessions which covered the past, present, and future of computer science. Students had four workshops.

1. Tour of Enigma and Bombe with the explanation of the role of technology in WWII.
2. Students had an interactive tour of museum using treasure hunt type quizzes about historical computers.
3. Session on the importance of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in today's age.
4. Session on VR where the activity was to diffuse a bomb with the help of the instructions given by a person, not physically present at the scene.

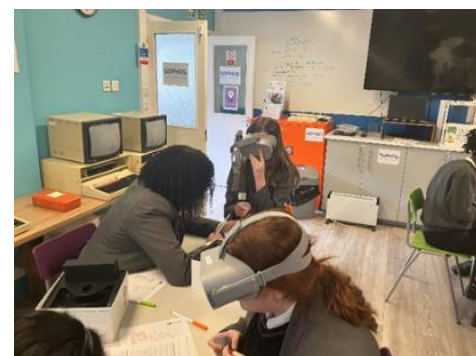
Here are some feedbacks of the students.

"The VR and the Self guide tour was very fun and interactive and informative"

"I really liked learning about the history of electronics and computer science. It was very interesting as it's not something we're taught much"

"I defused a bomb in VR session"

"There were fun activities overall and the guided tour was interesting. The VR was fun, and I enjoyed the AI and Robotics session as it was interactive and quieter (and less stressful)"



CAREERS.

CET ALUMNI EVENT – 24 JANUARY 2024

The Creative Education Trust have been working with Future First to be connected with Alumni. We had an amazing Alumni event – CET have now written a blog from the day, which can be accessed via:

<https://www.creativeeducationtrust.org.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=99>

It was lovely to hear from some of our Alumni about their experiences at Abbeyfield. One student stated “I made some lifelong friends who continue to mean the world to me, and the time at Abbeyfield has helped me become the person I am today”.

We had some excellent feedback from our year 12's who really enjoyed the event.

“I learnt a lot of information about a wide range of different paths I could take post-18. In particular, I really enjoyed the workshop on interview techniques, it was so helpful in giving me new skills I can use. It was also great meeting Alumni of Abbeyfield and hearing what they have done since leaving”. K. Dimitrov, Year 12.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

We celebrated National Apprenticeship Week at Abbeyfield:

- Tutor Time Apprenticeship information
- Apprenticeship links to subjects throughout the week
- 6th form careers breakfast club
- Automotive Club offered to years 9-13
- Pop-up apprenticeship Q&A in the library for all year groups

SIXTH FORM ABBEYFIELD MONTHLY CAREER INSIGHT BREAKFAST

This week was the start of a new initiative to bring the world of work directly to our sixth form students. On the first Tuesday of every month, we are hosting breakfast for Year 12 and 13 in the library from 8am until 8.45, they will be joined by 2 employers from a different industry each month. On Tuesday 7th February we welcomed Paul Mills from Screen Northants <https://www.screennorthants.co.uk/> and Connor Fitzhenry from Avalon Promotions <https://avalonuk.com/>. Students were able to chat with them about their careers and the paths they have taken. They were also able to talk to them about all the other careers that are available within the film and promotion industry.

Feedback from students was very positive and we are looking forward to the next one on **Tuesday 7th March.**

“This is a fantastic opportunity that was given to us as Abbeyfield student, and I really enjoyed the experience. I can't wait for more opportunities like these.” - Kerry, Prince, Japhet 2023.

“Very useful talks, especially if it's in the field that you're interested in. The people provided a lot of useful information and spoke a lot about their 'journey' to where they are right now. Great opportunity for people who may be unsure about their next steps or what field they want to pursue in”. M. Gopie

“The two individuals that came in were kind to all our career aspirations. When finding out about a potential marketing career, they informed us how they create successful marketing campaigns and how to acquire potential contacts from successful people. This informed me with the skills I need to acquire to be a success! Well worth attending looking forward to the next one”. R. Gwenzi

AUTOMOTIVE CLUB

We were very grateful for the Automotive 30% Club to come into school and speak with our students. The session was based on 'Inspiration for Innovation'. It was a privilege to hear first-hand from Sophie who is a current apprentice, and her journey since leaving school. It was great to hear all about the apprenticeship opportunities in the automotive sector available for students.

We had some great student feedback.

"This was a great opportunity to learn about apprenticeships"

"I found it very helpful. I learnt more about possibilities"

"I am now considering automotive apprenticeship"

"I learn a lot about alternative routes to success"

"So much learnt and so many opportunities, I was seriously inspired"



STARTING OFF APPRENTICESHIPS

We were privileged to have the owner of Starting Off Apprenticeships come into school on Thursday. We opened it up to the whole school during the lunch break and had students ranging from year 7-13 come along. Katie was impressed with the questions they asked, and how keen they were to learn more about local apprenticeship opportunities. We had some nice feedback from students:

"Very informative event, and it helped me with deciding my future", Ash G, Year 11.

FUTURE CAREERS EVENTS

- 23/02/23: Ignite the Spark (year 10 external trip to Northampton College)
- 28/02/23: Year 11 Mock Interview Day (all year 11 to take part in a mock interview with an external employee). We have asked that ALL of year 11 create a CV and print this and bring it on 28th February.
- 02/03/23: David Hyner motivational speaker for year 8 and 11.
- 06 - 10 March: National Careers Week (more information to follow)
- 17/03/23: Year 12 Leicester Careers Fair (external trip)
- 30/03/23: Medical Mavericks
- Uni Club (more details to follow)

PARENT APPEAL

We are hosting our year 11 Mock Interview Day on **Tuesday 28 February 2023**. We are looking for volunteers to come in and complete one-to-one interviews with our year 11's, during normal school hours.

This is to prepare them for interviews when they are applying for colleges, part-time jobs, or apprenticeships post-16. We already have quite a few local organisations coming in to support us, but it would be great to have some more. We can provide the interview questions. We are looking for people to interview them, give some feedback, and maybe have a brief chat about the career path you have taken. Please email Carla.duffy@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk if you are able to help.

Also – we are planning a careers fair on **Thursday 13th July 2023**, if you work for an organisation that may want to come in and support, or if you know of anyone you can pass this event information onto it.

Thirdly, we are planning to get **year 12's out on work experience** this academic year (more details to follow). anyone has any contacts of organisations they know that might be willing to give our students a placement, then please email: ABS-Careers@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk