

ABBNEYFIELD SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER.

Friday 31 March 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 Guardians,

As we approach the end of the Spring term, we can reflect on all of the hard work that has been undertaken by staff and students. It has been an eventful term, filled with successes, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

One of the highlights of the term was the presence of some of our guest speakers, who have truly inspired our students. Apprentice star Simba, for instance, spoke to our students about the importance of hard work, determination, and grit in achieving success in their chosen careers. We also had the privilege of hosting Medical Marvels, who shared their expertise on the latest developments in medical technology and research. There is no substitute for inspiring lessons and a determined approach to improve the quality of what students can achieve- we remain committed to giving students every opportunity to excel inside the classroom and in their future.

Furthermore, we held a highly impactful careers mock interview day for our year 11 students. This provided them with an excellent opportunity to practice their interview skills and gain valuable feedback from professionals in various industries. We believe that this experience will go a long way in helping them to prepare for their exams and future careers. We always hope that some of our students may be the next sporting star to emerge from Abbeyfield, and this term has once again showcased sporting talents in abundance. Fixtures across the sporting categories, opportunities for sports leadership, and trips to see high level sport have all featured.

Legally Blonde seems like a long time ago, but the showcasing of our students in Performing Arts remains as a standout selling point for our wonderful students. Thank you to all those who visited us for one of the show nights.

As you may be aware, there was some strike action that occurred across the Spring term. We want to thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging time. We appreciate your patience and cooperation, and we will continue to work hard to ensure that your child's education remains a top priority.

Sadly, all schools in the area have been affected by the tragedy of a local student from a neighbouring school who has lost his life due to a knife crime incident. We always aim to be both preventative and responsive in the wider safeguarding work that we do to support our students. Whilst our curriculum already covers wider safety and responses to threats of criminality, the last week have seen us have a local police liaison attend school for any students affected, our pastoral structures offering support, and all students have had a targeted talk and education session from police related to this. I also enclose the latest sourced supports for students if you're worried or affected by any of these issues. I believe that we can never have enough pastoral support in school, and we are expanding our teams to include counsellors and more support workers.

Finally, as we approach the Easter break, I would like to wish you all a very restful and enjoyable time with your families. Please take the opportunity to relax and recharge, so that we can return in the Summer term refreshed and ready to continue to achieve great things.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

JAY KERBY

LEGALLY BLONDE.

A few weeks ago there was high praise from Mr. Kerby when we had our after show wrap party! Certificates, pizzas, a sing song, and a good catch up with cast and crew - the perfect way to celebrate the success that was Legally Blonde the Musical! Plans are already under way for next year's production of Everybody's Talking About Jamie.



GCSE DRAMA.

Congratulations to our Y10 Drama students who last week all participated in their Devised performance inspired by a range of stimuli. It was great to see such a range of performances, styles and techniques be incorporated into their work. Our Y11s are busy rehearsing for their scripted pieces which will be taking place after Easter holidays.

UKMT RESULTS.

Congratulations to all our students who competed in the intermediate maths challenge.

Phoebe, James, Jake, Molly, Jenna and Angelina have entered the next round of the competition – for Phoebe, James and Jake this was the Pink Kangaroo, for Molly, Angelina and Jenna it was the Gray Kangaroo.

Jenna and James gained a Merit. (The **top-scoring** 25% of participants each receive a **Certificate of Merit**).

Phoebe C.	75	Gold
Gabriela B.	73	Gold
Jenna F.	71	Gold

Nicolai B.	55	Silver
Olivia B.	55	Silver
Jake S.	67	Silver
James S.	70	Silver
James X.	62	Silver
Angelina B.	69	Silver
Molly C-H.	58	Silver
Stefan D.	63	Silver
Ewan E.	66	Silver
Kleandra L.	55	Silver
Alan M.	66	Silver
Sajid R.	55	Silver
Keira S.	55	Silver

Abigail B.	46	Bronze
Evie C-H.	46	Bronze
Julia D.	44	Bronze
Francesca G.	45	Bronze
Lukas G.	48	Bronze
Nevina I.	44	Bronze
Bartek J.	47	Bronze
Tia J.	46	Bronze
Claudia M.	51	Bronze
Julia Z.	49	Bronze
Elsie A-M.	44	Bronze
Oliver E.	49	Bronze
Sanvi J.	43	Bronze
Naomi O.	54	Bronze
Liv R.	45	Bronze
Oliwier S.	48	Bronze
Shaquila S.	44	Bronze
Matilda W.	48	Bronze

YOUNG INTERPRETER SCHEME.

From a bit of a slow start, the Young Interpreters are now forging ahead with a couple of projects. The display board is well under way and the scripts are going together for the promotional film. The board will be updated regularly with cultural information and a language of the month. The language for April will be Polish.

A big thank-you then to Ayan, Ozan, Moon and Clara for agreeing to be the talking heads in the film. We are very excited at the progress being made in this venture. It is great to not only have the young people fronting it but a very knowledgeable crew behind the scenes. So, again, a big vote of thanks to Robert, for agreeing to film the proceedings, and to Alex for being the technical whizz in editing the finished product. We love that it is all student led and the finished project will be all their own collaborative work.

As well as the above, the Young Interpreters have been asked to come up with plans and ideas for a weeklong cultural event/events. One of the aims of the Young Interpreters is to raise cultural awareness within the school, so this is an excellent opportunity for the students. Creative juices are flowing so please look out for further information in future newsletters.

Dziękuję za przeczytanie tego, mam nadzieję, że podobało ci się czytanie o aktualizacjach.

Mrs Magee and Mrs Alvarez

SIXTH FORM.

Sixth Form has been buzzing this term, with opportunities and productivity. Year 13 have completed their PPEs with some really excellent results, and some stand out progress performances. This is a great chance for students and teachers to work out where to focus their attention in the final few months. Well done to all, keep up the hard work.

During this final week of term, we held our Sixth Form Interviews for Year 11 applicants. We can't wait to be able to speak to everyone in more detail and get to know our new cohort. We took a trip to Cambridge university for a small group of Year 12s, and we have heard from numerous students on our social media about their sixth form experiences beyond the classroom, including an Insight Day at a Law firm in London, extracurricular performances, business breakfasts in the areas of Media and Law, as well as our next one in April looking at Physiotherapy. Mrs Wawrzesta has given us more detail on a brilliant Sixth Form masterclass below. Lessons have been super productive with BTEC coursework and NEAs being completed, and new content being taught in exciting and memorable ways, like the brain hats used in Psychology!

We are currently busy planning a range of fantastic events, including our Leaver's Prom, a rewards trip to Alton Towers and hopefully a residential to climb Snowdon in October. We have finished this term with lovely treats made by some of our sixth formers, delivered to staff and students as a well done or thank you. It certainly feels like a wonderfully busy and exciting time for all our sixth form. We wish them all a safe, restful and productive Easter break.

Mrs Dedman, Head of Sixth Form.

This term our sixth form students welcomed Senior Mental Health nurse Ruby Colley from Imperial College London to talk about her extensive experience working in the mental health sector. Students listened as Ruby talked about her experience working in forensics, mental health facilities and her current role as a Senior Mental Health nurse in the dementia unit at Imperial College. Students were fascinated when learning about how the brain works, different types of dementia, the causes of this and the treatments delivered by the team. The class also participated in a communication game specifically designed to show students how it may feel to have limited communication skills, something very common within patients with dementia. The students loved the session with Rochelle in Year 12 commenting 'The session was really emotional and has even inspired me to look into this area of study further. I am currently arranging work experience in this industry'. We look forward to the next masterclass in April on architecture.

Mrs Wawrzesta, Deputy Head of Sixth Form.

KNOWLEDGE CONNECTED.

Last week saw another successful day in which all of Y7 explored the concept of Meaning as part of our Knowledge Connected curriculum. Students spent the day exploring how to code and incorporate key signs, messages and infrastructure both across the curriculum and beyond the classroom. There was great engagement and lovely reflections from students about their learning.

PRAISE AND REWARDS.

Thank you to all our parents who recently completed our Parent Survey about our current rewards programme. We have some new and exciting initiatives coming into place which will reiterate all the great effort and achievement students are demonstrating daily. Watch this space!

CAREERS.

SIMBA FROM BBC THE APPRENTICE

We were lucky enough to have Simba visit us from BBC The Apprentice this week. Miss Fisher actually taught him Business at Secondary School and he still uses lots of his lessons learnt from his time in education. He came in and spoke about his journey since leaving school and talked about how he motivates himself and drives his business forward. It was interesting to hear about his experience of being part of The Apprentice, and we had some great questions from students.



Y11

We are in the process of collecting Intended Destination Data for the whole of Year 11. It is a statutory requirement from the Government that all year 11's give an intended destination after completing year 11. This could be staying on with us at 6th form, moving to a different 6th form, college or an apprenticeship. Their intended destination may change after results day but it is just an indication at this stage so the government know where the students have applied to.

If your child has not applied for any destination, then it is extremely important that they do so as soon as possible. College courses can become full. As well as a plan A, students should have a back up plan B to fall on. We have had Timely Advise here this week who have been helping students apply to college, apprenticeships and 6th form. Students should talk to their tutors, head of year, or the careers lead if they need any additional support.

On 17th March year 12's went on a visit to Leicester Careers Fair. It was a great exhibition, and students got to explore and speak with representatives of National Universities and organisations.

Work experience has been launched to students, and parents will be receiving a letter and power-point presentation outlining the key dates and information. We would really appreciate your support with this, encouraging your child to seek their own work placement and complete the paperwork to the deadlines set.

MEDICAL MAVERICKS

We had a brilliant event called 'Medical Mavericks' in school this week. It was an interactive workshop surrounding careers in health. Students got to test their skills with a wide range of mock medical equipment whilst they learnt about careers in health care.



CHARITY AND COMMUNITY.

The Charity Committee are currently working on two projects, which will run from now until the end of the academic year. They are collecting:

- 1) Books for our Books2Africa project (<https://books2africa.org/>) and
- 2) Pens and Pencils for our PensForKids project to children in developing countries across the world (<https://www.pensforkids.co.uk/>)

Any stationery and book donations are welcome between now and July 2023 and students can currently drop them all off to M3.

If you are looking to have a spring clean and declutter your homes over the Easter break, we are collecting:

- Any books you may still have from primary
- Old textbooks you are no longer using
- Books that have been read and are unlikely to be read again
- Cooking books
- ANY stationery

The charity committee themselves have done astoundingly well to have collected 1000 books in their first 24 hours and we look forward to see how well we do over the next 3.5 months. Showing students how much their actions can impact people globally, has been empowering for so many, so a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support in all our projects!

