

Volume 1

Summer 2025



Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers

Abbeyfield School

Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers

SENDCo's Welcome



Welcome to the very first edition of ***Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers***, our new school publication dedicated to inclusion, diversity, and the celebration of every learner's journey.

At the heart of our school is our shared SEND ethos: ***Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers***. This means we believe that every student, regardless of their needs or starting point, deserves the opportunity to thrive. Our commitment to inclusion is not a separate initiative, it is embedded in everything we do, and it is guided by our **ARK values**:

- With **Ambition**, we set high expectations for all learners. We believe in the potential of every child and work together to help them achieve their goals, no matter the challenges they may face.
- Through **Respect**, we honour each individual's unique journey. We create a culture where differences are celebrated, voices are heard, and every member of our community feels seen and valued.
- And with **Kindness**, we build a compassionate environment where empathy, encouragement, and support are part of everyday learning. We know that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in helping someone feel they belong.

This school publication will be a space to:

- Share inspiring stories and achievements from our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND),
- Highlight inclusive practices and initiatives across the school,
- Provide helpful resources and updates for families and staff,
- And most importantly, celebrate the power of community and connection.
- Together, we are creating a school where we are truly learning without limits.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Mrs Gother (SENDCo)

Abbeyfield School

School Life

Sensory Garden Project – Growing Inclusion at Abbeyfield School

We are thrilled to share that Abbeyfield School is embarking on an exciting and evolving project: the creation of a brand-new Sensory Garden. This inclusive, sustainable space will be developed in the former sixth form outdoor area and will serve as a calming, engaging environment for all students, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Rooted in our ethos of “***Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers***”, the Sensory Garden will offer opportunities for students to connect with nature, regulate emotions, and participate in hands-on learning. It will also support our wider curriculum through environmental education, biodiversity, and life skills development. This is not just a garden, it’s a growing community initiative. We are launching a new Gardening Club in September 2025, where students will take an active role in designing, planting, and maintaining the space. The club will promote teamwork, responsibility, and wellbeing, while giving students a sense of ownership and pride in their school environment.

As this project evolves, we are reaching out to our wider community for support. We are currently seeking funding, sponsorship, and donations, whether financial contributions, gardening tools, plants, compost, or professional expertise. Every contribution, big or small, will help us bring this vision to life and create a lasting impact for our students and families. If you would like to get involved, please contact the SENDCo at ABS-SENDCO@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk. *Together, we can grow something truly meaningful, a space that reflects our commitment to inclusion, wellbeing, and sustainability.*

SEND Team



Abbeyfield School

School Life



Year 6 - Top-Up Transition Sessions



I was fortunate to have the valuable opportunity to assist with the Year 6 Top-Up Transition sessions that were held in the Hub. My role involved helping both staff and students learn how to make origami butterflies. Although, it was hard at first it did get easier.

The students were initially quiet but on the second session (day 2) they were noticeably livelier and more enthusiastic. They asked a lot of questions about what school will be like in Year 7. They were very well-behaved, and you could see them socialising with the new people in their groups.

I personally enjoyed working with them when they were here because they were very kind and inquisitive. I answered all the questions that they asked me. I also told them that when they arrive in Year 7, they can always come and find me if they need help.



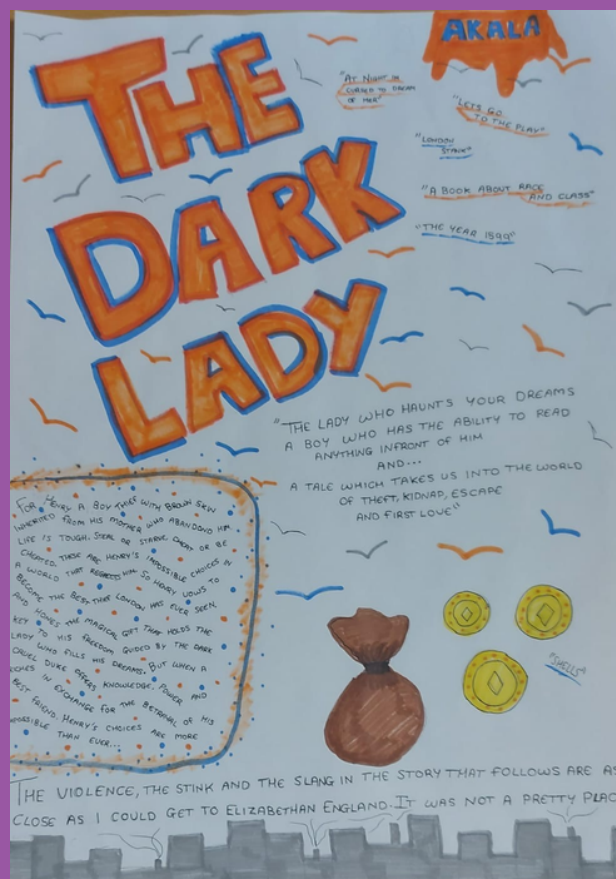
Liv (Year 8)

School Life

Year 9 – ‘The Dark Lady’ by Akala

This term, Year 9 have been studying the novel ‘The Dark Lady’ in English. Set in Shakespearean London and written by Akala, ‘The Dark Lady’ tells the story of a teenage orphan and his experiences in Elizabethan England.

The novel addresses themes such as racism, prejudice and poverty – all daily occurrences for protagonist, 15-year-old Henry. This fabulous piece of work has been completed in the Hub by a Year 9 student who interpreted the themes of the novel in a unique and interesting way – well done!

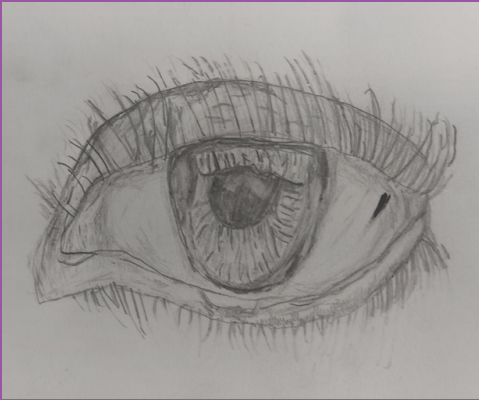


Miss Marr (Deputy SENDCo and English Teacher)

School Life

Students Art Work

We would like to take this opportunity to showcase the amazing work completed in Art lessons by our students. The lessons have covered a range of diverse art techniques, from detailed pencil skills to artist analysis of the famous graffiti artist Keith Haring, known for his bold lines, vivid colors, and energetic figures that often carried powerful social messages.



**Facial Features by
Laurencjusz
(Year 9)**



**Freehand drawing by
Edward
(Year 9)**



**Shoes by Georgina
(Year 10)**



**Graffiti Project Response to Keith
Haring by Adem
(Year 9)**

School Life

Young Interpreters

Our school has been part of the international Young Interpreters® scheme since 2021. It was introduced during the height of the Covid pandemic by Ms Magee, just in time to support EAL (English as an Additional Language) students from different countries and language backgrounds, helping them have a better start at Abbeyfield School.

The scheme, originally developed by Hampshire County Council and now widely adopted in schools across the UK and abroad, empowers pupils of all ages to use their language skills and cultural knowledge to support new learners of English. At Abbeyfield School, students are invited to join the scheme during an assembly. They then complete four hours of training and receive an official certificate, becoming fully qualified Young Interpreters. This is what some of our students have to say, about this fantastic scheme:



“Young Interpreters, also known as the Young Interpreters Scheme, are students trained to support their peers who are new to the school or have limited English language proficiency. If you want to be part of Young Interpreters, come to the EAL classroom!”

Danu (Year 9)

“I joined the Young Interpreters because I want to help people understand each other’s languages. That way, someone can have a friend who speaks their language. You can visit us in the EAL room during break time in the Maths block”.

Esther (Year 7)

School Life

Young Interpreters . . .

To raise awareness of the scheme, we organise some activities throughout the year, our most successful activity is the “Language of the term” display board and some contests, but our main goal is supporting new students.

Mrs Alvarez de Mesarowicz (EAL Inclusion Assistant & Young Interpreters Coordinator)



Thursday 10th July

Mufti Day > Celebrating Culture & Diversity



A suggested contribution of £1 please which will be given to a cultural charity

It's **Mufti Day** and we would like to encourage you to wear something that represents **culture** in one of the following ways:

1	2	3
An item of cultural clothing	Colours that represent your culture (eg British = Red, White & Blue / Scottish = tartan clothing etc)	Incorporating your countries flag into your own choice of clothes National sports tops can also be worn



School Life

New Position - SEND Administrator

Hello, I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed SEND Administrator. My name is Miss Chalmers, and I have worked within the SEND department at Abbeyfield for the last 15 years alongside our fabulous Teaching Assistants.

My new role has me supporting the SENDCo and Deputy SENDCos with day-to-day operations in the department, working with the Inclusion Lead and Teaching Assistants. Some of my responsibilities are parental contact, SEND referrals, Access Arrangements, transitions, and Annual Reviews.

I am looking forward to continuing to work within the SEND Department, in partnership with families and professionals, ensuring the students with additional needs receive the support and opportunities they deserve following the SEND Ethos of '**Learning Without Limits, Removing Barriers**'.

To contact the department for of all SEND-related matters, all future requests and correspondence should be directed to the following email address:

ABS-SENDCO@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk.



Miss Chalmers (SEND Administrator)

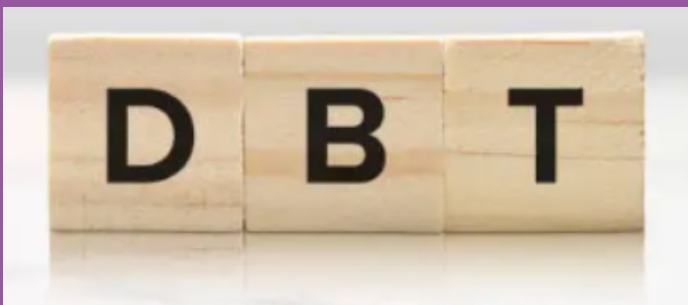
School Life

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Skills

We are excited to share a new strategy that has been introduced at Abbeyfield School: ***Dialectical Behaviour Therapy skills (DBT)***. Through this, we plan to help support students' mental health, enhance emotional regulation/behaviour, and improve academic performance by ensuring students attend more classes. This is because DBT equips students with coping mechanisms for stress, anxiety, and interpersonal challenges. This will involve running courses/workshops with students identified as in need of support. As well as supporting students, we plan to run workshops for parents/carers to ensure the skills are rolled out allowing support and knowledge to be shared holistically. Dialectical Behaviour therapy involves skills that include:

- ***Mindfulness*** - being present without judgement;
- ***Distress Tolerance*** – coping with stress in a healthy way; Emotional Regulation- managing feelings effectively;
- ***Interpersonal Effectiveness*** – learning to communicate effectively.

Through focusing and building on these skills in smaller groups, we aim to guide and support students to have a more positive experience at school.



Ms Fox (English Teacher and DBT Practitioner)

School Life

School Uniform



Do you have spare school uniform in good condition? Support a local family. Contact us to donate.



enquiries@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk

Gardening Club



Interested in joining our Gardening Club this September? Students & staff are welcome, get in touch to find out more!



ABS-SENDCO@abbeyfieldschool.org.uk

**An evening with
Abbeyfield**

Thursday 17th July
Doors open at **6pm**, Start time at **6.30pm**

Tickets: £4.50 Adults, £3.50 Students/
Children

Staff Performance!
Singers!
Dancers!
Musicians!
Acting!
Glee Club!

Refreshments and snacks will be available.

Abbeyfield School

Community Life

Eid al-Adha (The festival of Sacrifice)

Eid al-Adha is one of two public holidays that every Muslim celebrates every year, a bit like Christmas but we have it twice! Muslims have two Eid's (feast or festival) in a year, and each have a significant meaning.

Today I will be focusing on **Eid al-Adha the Festival of Sacrifice** which falls on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the final month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This year Eid al-Adha began on the evening of Friday 6th of June and ended on Tuesday 10th June, most of the Muslim community took the time away from their regular duties to celebrate with friends and family.

Eid al-Adha is known as the **Festival of Sacrifice** as it commemorates the devotion of Prophet Ibrahim, who was willing to sacrifice his son to obey Allah (Gods) command. However, before the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim's son, God exchanged his son for a ram to be sacrificed instead. This act by Prophet Ibrahim teaches Muslim's a powerful lesson in the submission, trust and divine mercy of Allah (God). Hence on this day of celebration Muslims re-enact this to remember the sacrifice Prophet Ibrahim was willing to make to obey God.

There are a few things that Muslims do on this day:

- **Prayer:** Muslims pray together as a community in Mosques or open spaces, in Northampton this is usually done at a local park to fit the many people who come together to celebrate.

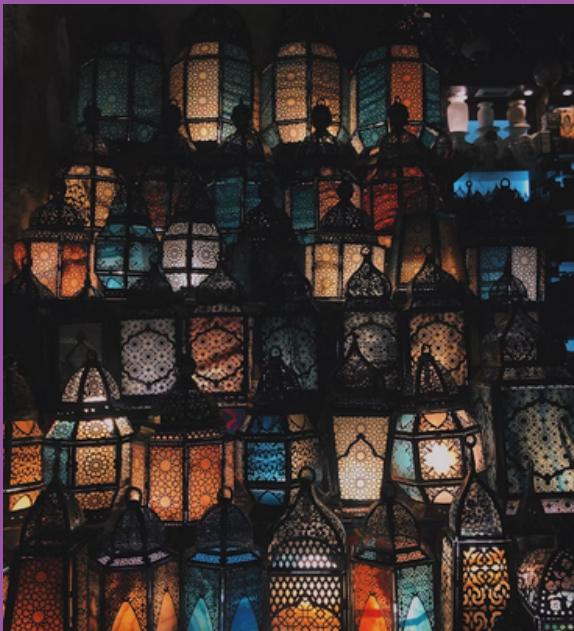


Community Life

Eid al-Adha (The festival of Sacrifice) . . .

- **Sacrifice:** Animals are slaughtered such as sheep, goat or cows. In Northampton a lot of people buy their meat from a local halal butcher and the meat is shared amongst family, friends and those who are less fortunate.
- **Charity:** On this day Muslims give to charity and look after those who are in need by giving food or money.
- **Family and Celebrations:** The best part of Eid al-Adha is the Muslim community spend time with the people they love, exchange gifts, give out sweets to the children and wish each other Eid Mubarak, which means Happy Eid.

Eid al-Adha is a time of spiritual reflection, a sense of community and kindness to one another. *I hope you have been able to learn something new and to everyone who celebrated Eid al-Adha, I hope this Eid brought you peace, blessings and a renewed hope.*



Further reading

- The Hajj connection - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhjjf4j#zyhqvj6>
- Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Breaking the Fast) Ramadan - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/68761299>

Miss Abdi (Inclusion Assistant)

Community Life

West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP)

West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP) is an independent group of parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). They work closely with local authorities, health services, and education providers to ensure that the voices of parent carers are heard and used to shape better services and outcomes for families across West Northamptonshire.

To find out more about WNVP and their family support events, please visit their website (www.wnvp.co.uk).



WNVP Team

Local Offer - Your Feedback!

The West Northants Local Offer website is undergoing some changes behind the scenes. So we've teamed up with West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP) to gather your opinions. We're looking for feedback, experiences, and insights from parents, carers, and young people with SEND. This will help us quickly understand what's working well and what can be improved, to better meet the needs of families.

Please visit the West Northants Local Offer website here -

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-offer>

Please add to the Padlet here -

<https://wnc.ai/lopadlet>



You don't have to give your real name. The Padlet will close on Tuesday 30th September 2025. Thanks!

West Northants Local Offer Team

Abbeyfield School

Community Life



PARENT CARER WORKSHOP

delivered by Dedoro Ltd. Occupational therapy

This will specifically focus on understanding the sensory needs of your child and is designed to help parents and carers gain valuable insight into how sensory processing affects behaviour, emotions, and daily activities.

If you have any questions or would like specific areas of OT covered during the workshop, please send them in advance. Email your questions or comments to admin@wnvp.co.uk, using the subject heading: **WNVP OT workshop**.

TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

7PM START

ONLINE

Please ensure you have registered as a WNVP member. Membership is **FREE!**



wnvp west northants voices in partnership

Community Life

Face Family Advice: Tools That Make a Difference

If you're looking for support with parenting challenges or understanding your child's or young person's needs, **Face Family Advice** offers a range of affordable, practical online workshops. These sessions cover topics like ADHD, anxiety, emotional regulation, and more, designed to help parents and carers feel more confident and informed.

Led by experienced facilitator Jane Keyworth, the sessions are friendly, accessible, and packed with useful strategies. Find out more at facefamilyadvice.co.uk.

**FACE**
FAMILY ADVICE • COMMUNICATION • RESOURCES

JULY 2025
Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK
Talks are 90 minutes long. £24 each or FREE with a school membership code
Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk on the PARENTS page



Schools can purchase a
FACE School Annual Membership
which means **ALL** parents and **ALL** staff
get unlimited **FREE** access to **ALL** 16 parent talks

Thursday 31 st July 19:00 - 20:00 FREE	 Supporting Healthy Screen Use Screens are here to stay. Identifying the issues and step by step guide to reduce the negative impact.
Monday 21 st July 10:00 - 11:30 £24 recording available	 Supporting a Child with ADHD Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.
Monday 28 th July 10:00 - 11:30 £24 recording available	 Facing Defiance Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.
Tuesday 29 th July 10:00 - 11:30 £24 recording available	 Anxiety Based School Avoidance Understanding and supporting children who are anxious about school. Steps you can take to help them back into the classroom.

facefamilyadvice.co.ukinfo@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FACE July Timetable	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours	
Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	8 July 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	14 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	22 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	22 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am

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Thank you for reading . . .



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