



ABBEY UPDATE

ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 14-JULY 2018 - ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 14-JULY 2018

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

As another school year ends, there has been much to celebrate over the course of this year, whether it has been in the area of educating, nurturing or empowering, and I hope that these regular Abbey Updates have given you a flavour of the great things that go on at Abbey Grange.

I am particularly grateful for the partnership between parents and carers, students and staff which allows us to offer a distinctive and special education for our students.

As you will read later in this update, we have a number of staff that we are saying goodbye to this week, and I particularly want to mention Mrs Clarke who has been a member of the teaching staff at Abbey Grange since 1991, initially as a Languages teacher but more recently as Assistant Principal for Student Development. In all her roles, Mrs Clarke has had a very positive impact, so we will miss her hugely but also wish her a long and happy retirement.

May I wish you all a happy summer break, whatever your family is doing.



100% Attendance Winners



Congratulations to our first winners of the 100% attendance for a half term initiative. Theo and Daisy were randomly selected from the 644 students who had 100% attendance in the first half of the summer term. The draw takes place every half term and also includes two students selected for being above the minimum target of 97% and two students are selected from all the students with an attendance of 98% or over in that half term.



Ethiopia Day

28 June



Our annual Ethiopia Day took place on Thursday 28 June. This was a fantastic day that gave our students the chance to find out about our close links with this amazing African country. Students enjoyed Ethiopian themed lessons, listened to presentations from guests about the various charities we support and students took part in other activities.



Our Catering staff enjoyed a brief break from preparing an Ethiopian themed lunch by learning a few dance moves.



Year 8 students ran 5k in Ethiopian style heat to celebrate their national sport, hundreds of students sampled Ethiopian food and coffee provided by the Leeds Ethiopian community and Year 7 enjoyed an Ethiopian dance workshop.



Other activities such as art and music workshops were also undertaken by the students.



We raise thousands of pounds annually for charities such as JeCCDo and partners for Change.



We have 8 Ambassadors from our current Year 11 who will be travelling to Ethiopia in November as part of our annual visit there.

500 Word Challenge

Abbey Grange Inter-Abbey 500 Word Challenge.



This year we launched what we hope will become a glittering highlight in the academy's literary calendar: our very own 500 Word Challenge. On the 20 of June after weeks of fun at the Creative Writing Club with Mrs Kemp, our students worked with Voice Coach and local YA author Andrea Hardacre to deliver a evening of short stories to an audience of staff, friends, parents and carers who had the final say on the winning entry, judging the performances not only on the excellent quality of the writing but also on the authors' delivery. Our students wrote thrilling stories telling tales of our dark histories and possible futures; mysteries, time travel and crime stories. There were horror stories of foggy nights and in-flight food disasters. Competition was fierce but the victors were: in first place was Moyin : Fairy Lights

Fairy Lights—Loyalty is overrated. You begin to trust in someone, confide in them, tell them everything. Then theyleave you.

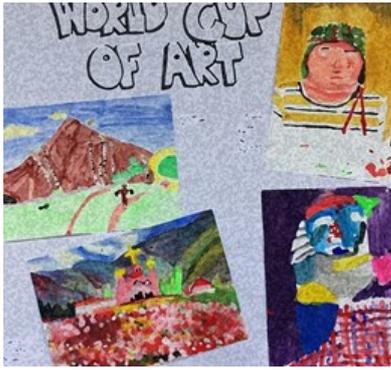
with runners up Marjan : Out of the Fog
Out of the Fog—Lost in thick fog in a world where nothing can be trusted.

and Hannah: 10 lives and Counting.

Why have one life when you can change things every day—make things different?

World Cup Art

3 July



A World Cup of a very different kind gripped Year 4 St Chad's students when they visited Abbey Grange on Tuesday 3 July. Students took part in a full day art workshop run by Mr McGinty and several Year 10 helpers (Sharmaine, Lidiana Ruby, Zachary, Liam, Jessica, Aneesah and Lizzie). The project entitled "World Cup of Art" required students to copy an artwork from a famous painter born in one of the 32 nations represented at the FIFA World Cup. The students had a fantastic day. The Year 10 mentors were a credit to the academy and the students from St Chad's worked enthusiastically all day in very warm conditions.

Year 10 mentors will continue with their help across the Multi Academy Trust when they assist Mr McGinty to run an art workshop with the nursery children at St chads..

Drama Department -

A Year in review



By Will (A-Level Drama student)

Another year and another fun-filled, extra-curricular timetable at the Abbey

Grange Drama Department. This year Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 all travelled to see live theatre performances, as well as mini showcases and looking ahead for the school production.

Years 9 and 10 set sail for the West Yorkshire Playhouse earlier this year to view 'Flying Lovers of Vitebsk'. Kneehigh's exquisite production, directed by Emma Rice, is based on the real-life relationship between French-Russian artist Marc Chagall and his wife Bella. The performance was non-naturalistic and incorporated beautiful movements to convey the sheer joy of the nurturing and generous love that Marc and Bella were lucky enough to share.

Year 11 witnessed an amazing collaboration between Kneehigh, Everyman & Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse as they came together to create "The Tin Drum". The novel originally written by Günter Grass, was described by The Guardian as "Kneehigh at their best", and our students seemed to think so too.

Our first year sixth-formers, embarked to West Yorkshire Playhouse also to experience the gritty performance of 'The Shed Crew'. The Year 12s witnessed an encapsulating production exploring gang culture in Britain in the 90's. Year 12 were also lucky enough to travel a second time this year to watch the National Theatre's modern adaptation of 'Hedda Gabler' at the Grand Opera House, York. The piece was amazing and our students enjoyed the themes included, as well as the alternative, modern take on the classic play.

As well as witnessing performances this year, some students performed their

own, extra-curricular mini showcases. Two groups were involved, each individually led by our very own Year 12 students, Alex and Louis. One group recreated the hit musical Mama Mia whilst the other group came up with their own piece 'high school drama'.

Progressing into the New Year there is excitement in the air as auditions for 'School of Rock' have started! The auditions seen this year are more than promising and we look forward to a performance in February next year...



Politics Club

June

On the 7 June, Politics Club had a visit from Alex Sobel, Member of Parliament for Leeds North West. He spoke about how he campaigned to be elected in 2017. There was a lot of discussion about Alex's work surrounding the environment. He made lots of useful suggestions to help the environment, such as avoiding buying plastic. The students, whose ages ranged from 11 to 18, asked some very insightful questions. One student was able to organise work experience at her local M.P's office as a result of the visit.



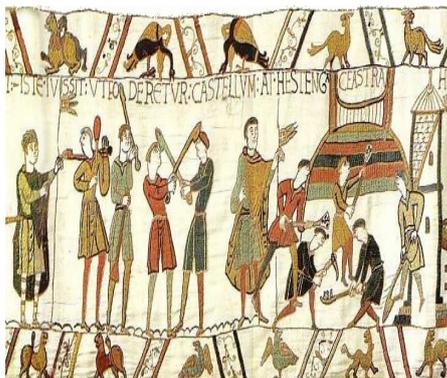
Normandy 2018

7-12 June

This year saw the sixth annual Year 8 trip to Normandy in France. Late on the seventh of June, four coaches of excited students and staff set off on the long journey down to the chateau that would be home for the next four days. Over our long weekend we visited the famous Bayeux tapestry; explored the events of D-day through visits to beaches, cemeteries and a cinema and explored the oceans at Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg.



Food always seems to be an important feature of these trips and this year was no exception. From waffles in Honfleur, via street food from the market in Bayeux, to frogs and snails at the chateau there was always plenty of new culinary experiences to be had. On the last day in France, just in case anyone was still feeling hungry, we descended



on a supermarket like a hoard of locusts to purchase all the sweets, chocolates

and biscuits that they could offer.

As always, the behaviour of our students as we were out and about was exemplary and this year the manager of the chateau was keen to point out that behaviour had been exceptional. Well done Year 8!



Sports Roundup



2017/18 has been another successful year for the students at Abbey Grange. Throughout the course of the year a number of sports teams have competed in the school leagues across Leeds and West Yorkshire. We have had a number of successful teams and clubs running in a wide range of sports; including Netball, Football, Rugby League, Athletics, Badminton, Indoor Rowing, Cricket, Rounders, Table Tennis and Dance; ranging from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form. .

To highlight a number of success;

Athletics: The Inter boys won the Leeds School Athletics Champions and Junior

boys came 3rd. The Year 7 team made it through to the WY Schools Final and the Year 8 boys were the winners at the Sports Hall athletics finals.

Basketball: The U14 and U16 basketball won the Leeds North West Competition and got through to the Leeds Finals coming 2nd overall.

Dance: Two teams entered the Great Big Dance Off in Halifax at the Victoria Theatre.

Disability Sport: A number of our students have also attended disability-sporting events taking part in festivals to promote inclusiveness and increase participation.

Football: The U12s were crowned the North West League Champions and Champion of Champions, and the U15s the Leeds Schools Cup Champions.

Netball: The U14 netball won Leeds Schools Invitational tournament.

Primary Sport: Our sports leaders have assisted in the delivery of a number of sporting events across Leeds (primary netball tournaments, football tournaments) and with our local primaries including weekly sports session delivered to St. Chad's students and supporting Holy Trinity in their sports day.

Rugby: The U13s got to the Sky 9's final, and the U15s got to the Leeds School Final, both finishing 2nd. Fraser Swarbrooke was nominated and won the Rhinos Foundation Teacher of the Year Award and was presented with his award half term during a Leeds Rhinos game on 22/06/18.

News from the Chaplain

Kay Brown

As I write we are making the journey to Taize as part of the Yorkshire Schools Pilgrimage, along with six other schools from across our county and in the company of the Archbishop of York, Jon Sentamu. We are looking forward to a week of inspiration and reflection, meeting people and coping with the challenge of camping. Taize is always a place of discovery and we would value your prayers for all the students and staff this week.



Over the past half term there have been other opportunities for reflection as the visit of the Listening Yurt for year 9 provided the chance to explore the city using virtual reality and try mindfulness meditation with a focus on reducing anxiety and breathing. Students were also listened to by volunteers from Leeds Church Institute who asked them what makes them mad, sad and glad about living in Leeds.



Fairtrade fortnight was somewhat affected by the snow so in June we revisited the theme, with assemblies involving a Kahoot quiz and workshops led by students for primary school children at a great celebration event at Leeds Civic Hall. Creativity and enthusiasm saw students role playing the journey of a banana and competing for chocolate prizes whilst speakers included the Lord Mayor and Leeds MP Hillary Benn.

Two of our students, D'Jenae and Simone, also visited Leeds Civic Hall, representing their group at the second Namaste celebration of religious and cultural diversity. They were shortlisted from all the entries produced by Year 9 as part of their Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award, producing a humorous spin on 'Bake-Off' and leading the affirmation for all the schools present- well done!



The end of year finished with Abbey Communion, which were a lovely way to end the year and let go of the things that maybe haven't gone so well whilst celebrating those things that have. Thank you to the many students that contributed, especially the music group,

and to those who led our services, Rolf Mason (St Luke's, Holbeck) and Arani Sen and Dan Ross (Christchurch, Armley).

In the words of our pilgrimage prayer, *may God be the fire leading us, the star guiding us and the Good Shepherd calling us, whether we are travelling or staying at home, may we all have rest and refreshment this summer.*

Dong'en Middle School

China

Abbey Grange welcomed 40 students and 6 teachers from our partner school in China. 127 students applied for the trip and 40 were selected to represent Dong'en Middle School. During the week the Chinese students attended lessons, held a performance for Abbey Grange students, took part in a Maths Challenge, shared cultural presentations with Year 8 and took part in food tasting! Thank you to the students who were lesson buddies and families who hosted the students for the week, in making a very memorable event for all.



Tana Pond

Tana being an Ethiopian lake where the longest river of the world – the Blue Nile originates)

Over the last year volunteers from the school community have been working hard afterschool and during the holidays to redevelop the pond area near the front car park.

Thank you to members of staff and sixth form students who have helped out along the way. It is still a work in progress but in September we hope to use the area for ecology lessons in science as well as it being a peaceful space that can be utilised for mentoring and meetings. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank local businesses who have helped us financially with this project. Without this support we would not have been able to make as much progress as we have.

Co-op Community Fund

GMB union

Woodlands in Horsforth

Morrisons in Kirkstall

Homebase in Greengates

Plant Hire in Pudsey

Abbey Grange CofE Academy PTA

BEFORE



AND SO FAR



STEM

STEM club had a great afternoon out at Rodley Nature Reserve in beautiful weather. We got to see how they manage different habitats and saw how the nature quickly moves in when the habitat is right. We got to do some pond dipping in a well established wildlife pond and they're looking forward to seeing our pond once it is more established. STEM club were really inspired and now have lots of ideas for Abbey Grange to help the nature around school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award - Updates



Bronze Award - This year 70 of our Year 10 students have successfully completed both their practice and qualifying expeditions. Both weekends were extremely hot and the students had a massive sense of achievement as they arrived at the finish. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Silver Award - Last weekend 26 students completed their practice expedition in the Yorkshire Dales in preparation for their qualifying expedition in the next academic year.

Photo of the whole group taken at Cracoe



Gordale Scar near Malham



