



# ABBEY UPDATE

ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 10 - DECEMBER 2017 - ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 10 - DECEMBER 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Suddenly it's the last week of term before the Christmas holidays, and I'm left wondering, as you may well be too, where the time has gone since starting back in September.

We are now well into the season of Advent, and (at the time of writing) I'm looking forward to our annual church service at Leeds Minster, which is always such a great reminder of the community that we are, as well as a chance to focus on the hope that the Christmas story contains. Last week's Music Concert was a different opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit, and it was lovely to see such a diverse and large group of students performing in an event that always makes me proud to be Principal at this school.

Wherever you are this Christmas and whatever you are doing, I hope you have the chance to relax and to enjoy time with those close to you.



## Leeds Minster

### Wednesday 13th December

Once again staff and students from the academy came together for a service of celebration

'The Hope of Christmas'



Over 1500 attended our annual Carol Service. For the first time we had to leave a year group out of our festivities - Year 13 - as we have grown too big for the building but even so almost everyone in the same space was quite a stunning sight! The service was led by students, with over 30 taking part, as well as contributions from two choirs and concert band- a great way to celebrate a festival that lies at the heart of our Christian faith.



# Ethiopia Trip

November 2017

Post 16 Abbey Grange students raised over £6000 for charities in Ethiopia and took part in the Great Ethiopian run, a 10K running event which attracts thousands of participants.



Jess Priest - Year 13

Nine year 12 and 13 students and Mr Watson, Miss Elliott and Jill Adam travelled to Ethiopia for a week nearing the end of November. This experience was nothing less than life-changing.



Visiting the charities we had raised money for gave us back something that can't be bought.

Our eyes were opened to the privileges we are born into and raised with and taught us that we need to appreciate these privileges more than we do. Charities we visited included a safety



house for women and a home for the poor elderly. It was refreshing to see how happy people can be when they have so little and live lives that are so 'simplistic' in comparison to the hectic lives we live. We had plenty of opportunities to eat the local food, whether the spice was "enjoyed" or not! Luckily enough their traditional flatbread called "injera" was



always available to tame the spices heat.

I know that meeting Haile Gebrselassie was a tick off Mrs Elliot's bucket list; an amazing opportunity. It was inspiring to see the way he was with each and every



person who supported him, his smile never shifted from his face and it was contagious.

The Great Ethiopian Run was ultimately breath-taking. Don't get me wrong, the run itself was very hard with all the heat, hills and altitude (2,500m high) but somehow the atmosphere and friendly nature of each and every participant (there was 45,000 - biggest mass participation event in Africa) carried us through.

Once finished we were warmly invited into the culture, joining in the dancing and singing encouraging everyone across the finishing line.

Overall I wouldn't have changed



anything about my time in Ethiopia and it is something I will always remember!

## Inter-Abbey Sports Day

November 2017

On Monday 27th of November, Mr Rothera and Mr Nicholson hosted the first sporting Inter Abbey day of the year. This entailed nine boys and nine girls from each Abbey participating in a Football Round Robin tournament.

Year seven were first up playing some excellent Football, not been deterred by the weather. Year 8 went next followed by Year 9 and as the temperature declined the resilience of all the students was truly tested. Every student who participated in the tournament was an absolute credit to their Abbey scoring much needed points ahead of this year's Sports Day. The results of the day were as follows:

- 1st - Easby - 55 points
- 2nd -Whitby - 46 points
- 3rd - Fountains - 43 points
- 4th - Rievaulx - 42 points
- 5th - Selby - 41 points
- 6th - Bolton - 38 points



# Year 9

## GCSE Music Students

In November, ten Year 9 GCSE Music students went to York University for a day to find out about Music Technology.



The day was led by MSc students from the university and explored speaker design, building a basic microphone, audio app programming, studio recording and advanced surround

sound using 52 speakers. Students were given a tour of the campus



by undergraduate students and shown the excellent facilities the university has to offer. As a parting gift, our students were given a CD of music produced at the university and given the challenge to produce their own music technology masterpieces using the new Mac facilities in the Music department

## GCSE & A Level Awards

### Year 8 and 10 students

Mr Norden presenting certificates to students who took GCSE and A Levels examinations out of year, these students ranged from Year 8 to Year 10; the subjects included Arabic, Chinese,

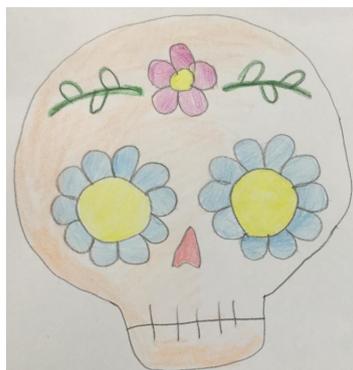
Mathematics, Urdu, Japanese, Russian and Persian. Many congratulations to all on the fantastic results.



## Modern Foreign Languages

Throughout November and December the Languages Department have been running a lunchtime club exploring different cultures and languages through a range of fun and interactive activities.

Weeks 1 - 4 focussed on Spanish and students enjoyed designing Day of the Dead celebration masks, taking part in a Spanish music mega Kahoot quiz and most of all enjoyed tasting Spanish tapas.



Weeks 5 - 7 have focussed on German and students have learnt the basics and are now able to introduce themselves and have again enjoyed a tasting session - sampling Christmas snacks while discovering how Christmas is celebrated in Germany.

After Christmas, Language Club will continue with Danish, Japanese, Chinese and many more exciting world cultures and languages!



## Exams Update

### Year 11 Mocks

Well done to Year 11 students who have recently completed their practice GCSE examinations. Over the two-week period they have worked extremely hard and hopefully their results will reflect this. The results will be issued to students on Thursday 4th January. Parents and carers will receive a copy of these results with their child's Year 11 Report.



### Post 16

Practice examinations for Year 12 will take place from the week commencing 8th January, earlier than stated on the school calendar. Year 13 internal examinations will follow in February.

### CGSE Re-sits

Results publication date for those post 16 students who re-sat their English and/or maths GCSE in November is January 11th 2018.

# Chaplaincy News

Last week saw the now annual visit of a team from St George's Church in Leeds, who delivered a version of their Contemporary Carol Service to the all year groups over four days. Combining carols with more contemporary music, storytelling and prayer, this was a great opportunity for young people to hear the message of Christmas in a relevant way and was received with great enthusiasm by our students.

As part of our Advent preparation all students have had access to the devotional 'The King is Coming', as part of our ongoing partnership with the charity Missional Generation and a new app is appearing for them to find out more about the Christian faith for themselves.

Advent started with a communion service for Year 7. The service was a lovely opportunity to take time to pause and reflect as the start of our preparations for Christmas. This built on the confirmation service which saw 14 young people from Year 7 to Year 11 make a commitment to live as a Christian and go deeper with their faith.

Remembrance proved a busy run up to Advent with a number of events both in and out of school marking this solemn festival. As well as fundraising for the British Legion, students led moving



assemblies exploring the impact of conflict on displaced people, whilst others represented Abbey Grange at the Armistice Day service at Horsforth Cemetery.

Post 16 students explored peace and conflict in a different way by meeting Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire at the Peacejam conference at Trinity University, Leeds. Over 200 delegates

from across Leeds schools and beyond got to hear Mairead's story, share ideas and inspiration and reflect on their own motivation to work for peace. Out of this has come the Amnesty Christmas card campaign running in school this week.

Fundraising activities have been embraced with great enthusiasm by many students, with Children in Need again proving a big fundraiser. Over £1400 raised by combining non-uniform with a fair that saw a bun sale, a duck race, a photobooth, a raffle as well as a giant Pudsey!



Other activities have also allowed students to put faith into action. Global Justice Group launched a highly successful Harvest appeal, combining a food collection with a delicious café to raise money for P A F R A S (positive action for refugees and asylum seekers), whilst many enrichment groups have focussed on loneliness and isolation in older people and are this week delivering gifts and cakes to our new community partners STEP (Supporting the Elderly People).

'Abbey Grange buys a farm?'

For our non-uniform day this year each form is choosing where its money goes.

Through the 'Present Aid' catalogue, forms can choose if they buy a goat or chickens- one form is ambitiously targeting a cow! Students are doing extra fundraising to be able to buy the gift of their choice and there is a lovely sense of giving from the students- as well as a bit of fun for all!



So in conclusion a busy but exciting term of growth and challenge and a well-earned rest in sight for all! We couldn't do all we do without the support of so many organisations and express our thanks to all concerned-you know who you are! I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and hope and pray that the light of Christ may be born in all our lives, this Christmas and on into the future. Every best wish

Kay Brown - Chaplain

## STEM

STEM events that ran this term included Year 8 girls attending an excellence hub program in Sheffield to promote women in engineering, Year 9 students investigating how planning Engineers design infrastructure, in partnership with Northern Power grid, Year 12 attending an interactive session on optometry as a career option, run by Specsavers, and Y12 and Y13 thinking about careers in the digital sector, in collaboration with the European Social Fund and Ahead Partnerships. A busy term!



# Winter Fair

## Message from the P.T.A

A big 'Thank you' to everyone involved in another successful Winter Fair. We received lots of donations and help from students, staff, local businesses and parents/carers. We had a hall full of different stalls and games, including: the Raffle, Tombolas, Secret Santa, Beat-the-Goalie and Archery! The school Concert Band provided excellent festive tunes which added to the fun-filled atmosphere!



Our charity stall "Yorkshire Air Ambulance" raised £53.62 and overall, we raised £2,000 for the school, which was a wonderful achievement.

"Hope you can join us again next year."

## Leading Parent Partnership Award

Abbey Grange has committed itself to achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award, a nationally recognised award to acknowledge the strong work we do to maintain and enhance links between the academy and parents/carers. We are aware that, although there are some real strengths to this area of our work, there are some areas which we would like to develop further. One of the main areas is our

provision of training or development opportunities for parents/carers wishing to support their children's learning.

We will be sending out an online survey in the new year to identify what parents/carers would like us to focus on but in the mean time, if there is an aspect of your child's learning you feel that we could provide extra guidance on, such as using iPads for learning or key techniques taught in English and Maths, then please contact:

Owen Hillier  
[ohillier@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:ohillier@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

## Women In Engineering

### Hannah Whittaker - Year 8

On the trip to Sheffield University we did many things, including challenges and activities. Firstly, we did a challenge where we had to make a tower out of only sticky tape, newspaper and straws. We had a time limit and everything in the shop cost pretend money, we only had a certain amount. We were split into teams and the winning group would be the ones with the tallest tower. To make things more challenging the tower had to carry 4 pound coins! Our team decided to balance the coins at the bottom and using the newspaper to make a big stick which would create the height. Luckily for us, most teams didn't have a strong tower meaning they all fell, meaning ours won! This challenge was supposed to simulate an actual project a university student could receive, since they also have time limits and a certain amount of spending money. Next, in the same teams, we looked at a problem in a less economically developed country and about how the poorer communities had to share a poorly-built toilet, which was basically a hole in the ground. We had to

create our own solution to this problem ensuring that it was sensible, practical and affordable. We came up with a complicated yet genius idea which gave us first place again! Next we had a tour of the campus which was led by one of the students. It was incredible how everything was so detailed and practical! We only looked at the engineering part of the campus and that took us a long time, just imagine how big the whole campus would be! We then had lunch which was our choice of sandwich, a drink and a bag of crisps. Finally we had the chance to rotate around a group of activities including a bingo, a virtual reality game and a linking task. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip as it taught me the different types of engineering and how it would be an extremely exciting course to take. It was an amazing experience and it even allowed me to make new friends from some of the other schools. Who knew that there is an engineering course you can take at university which is all about the properties of an airplane!



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