



# ABBEY UPDATE

ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 9 – OCTOBER 2017 - ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 9 - OCTOBER 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

This first half term has flown by, as we have welcomed 240 new Year 7 students, and a record 190 Year 12 students (most of whom were already Abbey Grange students). We were very pleased to repeat our great A-level performance for a second year running, and proud of the fact that the new Progress 8 measure at GCSE shows that our students achieved over one third of a grade better, on average, than students across England (with similar results at the end of their primary school education).

As usual, though, Abbey Grange students and staff have been involved in a whole range of activities beyond the classroom, as you can see in the articles contained in this newsletter. It was great to see so many students involved in the rewards trips last week, and a challenge for those who missed out to make improvements so that they can be included in the future.



Congratulations all our GCSE students who achieved excellent results, a reflection of the hard work and dedication of students and staff and an indication of the level of support provided by parents and carers during the exams. We are also delighted that 155 of our GCSE students have enrolled in our sixth form to begin their A Level studies.



We send our best wishes to our last year's Year 13 students who have now gone onto University, College or employment.

# IMYC Time Travel



This event introduced students to the International Middle Years Curriculum which is a thematic based learning approach.



In lessons Year 7 students are reflecting on the first theme which is discovery.



For each theme they study, they will be asked to write a short reflective journal using their iPads.



If you are wondering who the murderer was then please ask a Year 7 student, only once you know, please keep this to yourself just in case the same murder is committed again next September.

## Introducing our Head Boy and Girl



The role of Head Boy and Girl is a significant position at Abbey Grange, giving the successful candidates the opportunity to represent Abbey Grange at a variety of events for parents, governors, students and the general public. The role is a lot more than an opportunity to enhance a University application, with a number of responsibilities and expectations coming with it. The competition for the titles was strong and having chosen the Head Boy and Head Girl to represent towards of the last academic year, we were delighted to name Rachel Hall as Head Girl and Hishaam Maqsood-Shah as Head Boy. Both students are in year 13 and are currently applying to University, with Hishaam aspiring to study Medicine and Rachel hoping to study Creative Writing.

## Celebration Trip

### Alton Towers Celebration Trips

#### October 2017

Abbey Grange organised celebration trips to the Alton Towers theme park over two days for students with 5 or less negative comments for the academic year 2016-17.



We even had to find extra seats on the way home for the prizes won by our students.

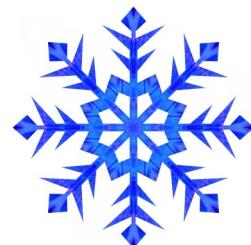


## PTA Winter Fair

### Winter Fair

#### Saturday 18th November

The PTA will be holding their annual Winter Fair at school on 18th November 12.30-2.30pm. There will be a Raffle, Tombolas, Silent Auction, Café, Games, Football, Archery, Cakes, Gift Stalls and Musical Entertainment!



It's the PTA's main fundraising event of the year and they would welcome any donations for the Raffle, Rainbow Tombola (students to donate items for the stall in their Abbey colour) and Silent Auction - these can be given in to the school office. Raffle tickets are £1 each and available to purchase on ParentPay.

Volunteers are needed to help set up on the Friday night between 5-7pm and the Saturday morning between 10-12.30pm, to help on a stall between 12.30-2.30pm and to clear up on Saturday after the fair. If you can help at any of these times please e-mail your contact details to: Steph Cassidy at svablake@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message for the PTA at the General Office.



'Wow' and gasps of amazement are a great way to start a lesson! As the touch screens rose up from their desks, students were taken on an interactive journey following the story they chose around the theme of Forgiveness, Fear or Rejection. Text messages from their characters, videos of inspiring figures such as Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafzai, Bible stories and contemporary Christian music blended together to give an experience



many rated as 5 star! Students were so absorbed they often started singing along, with one commenting 'I thought the experience was fantastic because you felt part of it'.

When students were asked about GSUS live, they enjoyed the story of someone's life as much as the technology but were also able to apply it to their own lives. Comments such as 'I learnt that I don't need to fear because God is there to help me' and 'anyone can be going through the same thing as you' to 'it is hard to forgive' and 'we can forgive everyone' show the depth to which students engaged. We hope to see the fruit of this in our community as the year goes on and are thankful to Leeds Faith in Schools for bringing the bus to us and to 'Counties', the charity behind GSUS Live for the vision to create this resource.

## Discovering the Space Within

October 2017



Prayer playdough? Shredding confessions? Year 7 students at Abbey Grange have again kicked off their time at high school with a morning of prayer activities hosted by Leeds Minster. Students engaged in 10 different activities, from plaiting wool to remembering how God and others support us to placing worries and concerns on a giant cross. Making models of things we are thankful for and lighting candles as part of intercessions were particularly popular but students also enjoyed time to stop and think about how unique they are (based around Psalm 139) and how to forgive. Accompanying staff appreciated the slower pace to the day, with time to reflect and take part in a guided meditation.

When asked which activity was their favourite the responses were incredibly varied and showed the depth with which students engaged, from 'letting all our worries off our shoulders so we could stop worrying' to 'Hands because I enjoyed drawing and reminding myself how God cares for all of us'. 'The playdough made me think about what mattered most to me' whilst the mirror activity 'was really fun and connected me even more to God'.

Chaplain Kay Brown said 'It was a wonderful start to Year 7. The students clearly enjoyed the activities and working together in small groups on a whole range of activities. It was also great to see so many volunteers from different

churches supporting us over the three days and enjoy being in such a beautiful space. The support from Janet Buttanshaw (Education Officer, Leeds Minster) in planning and making this happen was invaluable and it makes an important statement about putting our exploration of faith and relationship with God at the centre of all we do.'

## Black History Month

October 2017

Marcus Garvey states that "A person without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots". This belief has influenced the celebration of Black History Month at Abbey Grange during the month of October. Activities have focused on the achievements of black individuals and communities despite the challenges, barriers and prejudices faced. It was an opportunity to shine a light on black history and focus on the steps still needed in society. Year 7 students have been exploring the impact of individuals like Mary Seacole, Percy Julian and Jesse Owens throughout their lessons in addition to all students being able to watch films at lunchtime including Race and Hidden Figures. A brave group of students also performed an assembly for all abbeys highlighting the journey of the black community and inspirational figures and the importance of celebrating Black History. Bun sales and treat sale profits will be sent to the Stephen Lawrence Charity providing opportunities for students which were denied to Stephen himself.

Stephen Lawrence  
Charitable Trust

# Stem at A Level

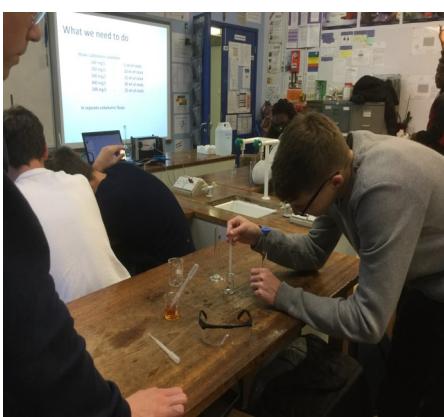
## Chemistry

September & October 2017

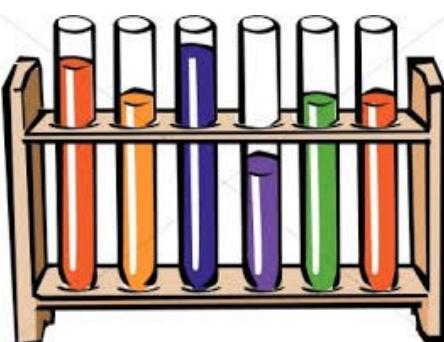
Spectroscopy in Suitcase was brought to Year 12 chemists, as they were challenged to identify the concentration of the unknown drug.



Making standard solutions and analysing them using a portable spectrometer was given context and meaning by post graduate students from Leeds University as they highlighted how the world of chemistry interacts with the world of sport.



Students got hands on experience as well as information about how chemists use analytical techniques and the wider opportunities chemistry offers.



This was followed a couple of weeks later by Year 13 chemists visiting Leeds



University for an afternoon of analytical chemistry, identifying a white powder as being aspirin, ibuprofen or paracetamol. Students really enjoyed using equipment we don't have in school such as infra red spectroscopy and melting point apparatus as well as the whole experience of working in the laboratory at a university.



They even learned about NMR ready for their upcoming lessons on the topic. Our thanks go to the Chemistry Department at Leeds University for providing both of these experiences.

# History Trip

Berlin

October 2017

Between 14 and 16 of October 53 Year 10 and 11 students visited Berlin exploring the history of the Nazi era and the Cold War. A 3:30 am start on the Saturday did little to blunt the enthusiasm as we got straight into a guided tour of the main sites running down Unter Den Linden including the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag.



The visit gave us the opportunity to visit a number of key historical sites including Sachsenhausen Concentration camp – a moving and atmospheric couple of hours as the sunshine burnt off the morning fog.



Many students particularly enjoyed the Sunday evening walk down to the Eastside Gallery; a preserved section of the Berlin Wall decorated with work from a range of graffiti artists. Our final morning was spent experiencing life in the former East Germany, including the horror of the Stasi interrogation rooms and life in an unreliable GDR lift!



# From Wilderness to Wildlife Haven

Thanks to funding from the Co-op community fund, we are working hard to turn an abandoned allotment and an overgrown pond into wonderful outdoor classrooms.



We started with the allotment area which was planted as a memorial to Megan Robertson in the summer and has been



used with some of our alternative pathway students to enhance their understanding of how plants grow and in particular, producing food-with the enjoyable extra of tasting it!



The pond area has been cleared and now a new pond is emerging.

The vision is to have benches for students having outdoor lessons as well as providing a pleasant environment for mentoring by older students. We are



extremely grateful to the efforts of staff, particularly Mr Burgener and Mrs Rowley, but also Mr Swinson, Mr O'Sullivan and other staff who have helped build the fence and landscape the area. Sixth form students have also played their part in clearing the ground of the many weeds and pieces of rubble.



We are also indebted to the Co-op for the initial funding, a grant from the GMB union and discounts from Woodlands and Pudsey Plant hire as well as donations of plants from Homebase and Morrisons. It really is a community effort for the benefit of everyone and we are not finished yet so if you can help in any way, please do get in touch!

## Dates for your Diary

1 Nov– Year 7 Pastoral Evening – 4.30pm to 6.30pm

1 Nov – Year 10 Moving on Evening – 6.30pm

6 Nov – Post16 Open Evening 6.30pm

**Tuesday 14 November – Training Day – School closed to students**

15 Nov—Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening 5pm—8pm

22 Nov—Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening 5pm—8pm



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