



# ABBHEY UPDATE

ABBHEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 6 - FEBRUARY 2017 - ABBHEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 6 - FEBRUARY 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Last weekend I attended a conference at Church House in London for the official launch of the C of E's vision for education, entitled "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good" which promotes an approach by schools which combines academic rigour within the broader framework of wisdom, hope, community and dignity. This is definitely the approach that we take at Abbey Grange.

With this in mind I will finish my column by making a plug for the NCS (National Citizen Service), which gives 15-17 year olds the opportunity to spend part of their summer building skills and doing community action. Lots of Abbey Grange students have participated in the past, so much so that we were presented with an award for being an NCS Champion School at our last Presentation Evening.



Mr J Norden  
Principal

## Rotary Club 'Service about Self' Awards

Students across the city were presented with their awards by Lord Mayor Gerry Harper.

Katie Elton and Hania Tatarek-Gintowt were nominated by Abbey Grange for the fantastic work they do in school. Co-ordinating over 60 events last year, with over £13,000 raised by the school community, they ensure everything runs smoothly. Katie and Hania also run their own bun sales to sponsor a child through Compassion UK and have raised money for Diabetes UK by organising a 'trampolinathon'. Well done!



# God and the Big Bang

Exploring Faith and Science—  
January 2017

For the second year running we hosted a day-long conference called God and the Big Bang, where our Year 10 GCSE students were invited to discover, discuss and debate the interaction of science and faith.

The special event included hands-on sessions, with academics from universities all over the UK, focussing on a range of topics from the forces inside stars to the chemistry of bubbles, all allowing around 90 of our students to explore the compatibility of science and faith.

With the help of fast-moving, interactive presentations, our students looked at key areas like Particles and Nanoscience -how our understanding of matter is fundamental to how we understand the world and 'Ethics and Science: how do we make decisions?' as well as lots of practical fun around bubbles and cola with Mentos! Guest speakers included Professor Tom McLeish, Professor of Physics at the University of Durham and materials scientist Dr Jona Foster; astrophysicist George Hawker, who is in his fourth year at Cambridge, Naomi Brehm, a physics student from Durham; and Stephanie Bryant, Cambridge Natural Sciences graduate and God and the Big Bang's project coordinator.



The whole day really got students thinking, as well as being fun and enjoyable.

The students enjoyed the space to think and explore what others think, as well as reflect on their own ideas. The Q+A session showed the depth of thinking by our students and proved a fantastic opportunity for them to hear from people who have spent serious amounts of time thinking about science and faith. There was an added bonus as three students got a copy of Professor McLeish's new book, 'Let there be science!' for asking such searching questions as 'why didn't



God just make us theist?' to exploring whether Jesus may have come to other planets as well as our own.



Students particularly enjoyed the chance to ask their own questions of the scientists, as one put it: *'We had a chance to ask questions we wouldn't normally ask'*, another adding *'The event has supported my faith'*.

Many of the students commented on how much better the day was than they expected and were really buzzing by the end of the day!

## STEM – Year 8

Eleven Year 8 students had the chance to take part in an event to encourage girls to consider careers in the IT and creative industries, though our links with Ahead Partnership. They heard from women who set up their own start up companies, designed set top boxes, tested software and managed IT companies.



They also got the chance to take part in activities with companies ranging from science and communications to holidays and accountancy and see first hand how they use IT. Students really enjoyed the morning and were seriously considering a future in IT!

## Megan Robertson 2001 –2016

Students and staff joined together on Friday 27th January to remember the life of Megan, one of our Year 11 students, who very sadly passed away over Christmas. Some staff and students attended



the funeral service at Lawnswood and the Service of Celebration for Megan's life at Hyde Park Methodist Mission, whilst the rest of Year 11 attended a service in school.

The words written by one of Megan's teachers, which were shared at the service, sum up how we feel at Abbey Grange: "We will miss Megan's great personality in our class and she will always be in our thoughts".

At the funeral, Megan's family asked for donations for Epilepsy Research UK, and it is our intention to continue to raise money for this charity through the period of Lent, with students encouraged to bring in loose change, in particular if they are saving money by giving something up.

**epilepsy  
research uk**

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