



ABBHEY UPDATE

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PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Welcome to this first edition of Abbey Update, which is intended to be a regular way of keeping you informed about what's going on at Abbey Grange.

With current Year 11, 12 and 13 students very close to their exams, it was great to receive last month an Educational Outcomes Award from the SSAT because of our 2015 GCSE results which put us in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment. I wish all current students every success in this year's exams.

As you can see from this edition, there are lots of other activities going on at the academy, beyond the academic ones, and it is brilliant to see some of what our students are involved with.



Mr J Norden
Principal

Wearable Technology Challenge Finale

Tuesday 15 March

In December, Mrs. McCullagh's lunchtime textiles club attended the launch of the Wearable Technology Challenge at the Yorkshire Cricket Ground – organised by Farnells, Leeds Beckett University and Ahead Partnership. They were presented with the opportunity to use a Codebug, a small programmable circuit, as part of a piece of wearable technology. In teams of four, students were given a day in January to come up with possible situations that the technology could be used to improve. Ideas included exercise instruction wrist bands, stress relief key rings, medical condition monitoring and enhanced garments. Over the following weeks, and further input from the University Student Ambassadors, students learnt more about coding the Codebug and how to integrate it into a textile product. The team of four Year 8 students took their design development presentation and final prototype for the ear muffs with a sequential LED display to the Wearable Technology Challenge Finale at Leeds Beckett University. They presented their work very well to the judges and other competitors. They were up against some seriously tough and older competition, and I am sure that they came a close fourth with their jazzy ear muffs!



WYG Engineering Challenge

Wednesday 23 March

15 design and technology students from our Multi Academy Trust partner, Lightcliffe Academy, came over to Abbey Grange to take part in an engineering challenge set by WYG, a global engineering consultancy company. They joined 15 of our own students from years 8 and 9. The two schools were mixed up into teams of 5 and set the challenge to plan, design and build a model of a new bridge. Students were given three quick talks by pairs of engineers from WYG. They were given key information about possible bridge locations and associated problems, environmental issues and solutions, possible bridge engineering solutions. Students had to consider flooding, newts, bats, and local people before deciding on the location and the bridge design. Every group did an excellent job of taking on board all of these factors and making a reasoned decision on how to proceed. After building their models with further consultations with the engineers, each team presented their solutions to the WYG team of 6 judges. They all made fantastic presentations and was a thoroughly engaging day organised by Ahead Partnership and WYG, and the students from Lightcliffe and Abbey Grange worked very well together. The WYG engineers were excellent, giving students a real insight into their work and the opportunities within an engineering career.



Italy Sport's Trip

April 2016

51 students from years 8-10 and 6 members of staff spent the first week of the Easter Holiday in Italy on a Football and Netball sports trip. A resounding success, the students did themselves and the school proud, winning more games than they lost and beating a rival team from Hull 7-0! Day trips to Verona and Milan, visiting the famous Romeo & Juliet balcony and AC/ Inter Milan's San Siro Stadium, in addition to enjoying

Milan City Centre, allowed us to take in some culture (and of course McDonalds!) when relaxing away from the sport. All enjoyed the experience although the 28 hour each way coach trip was hard work. Next year, Barcelona - by plane! Thanks to Mr Cross for his efforts in organising the trip.



Marrick

April 2016

On the weekend 15-17 April 39 students from year 7 to year 13 travelled to Marrick Priory in Swaledale, alongside teachers, Anna Kelly from LFIS and Ben Jones from Missional Generation. It was a packed weekend of activities, from problem solving challenges and a night walk to canoeing and kayaking and climbing challenges. The weather was just as varied, from snow to hail to sunshine! Alongside activities we spent time discussing our faith and worshipping together as well as relaxing and meeting new people. Our focus was the disciples encountering Jesus after the resurrection as we looked at the stories of John 20 and 21 and sought to apply them to our lives. Students had a great time, enjoying 'trying new things', 'activities, learning more about each other and making more friends' and 'a baby lamb being born!' They took away the knowledge that 'God loves me', that 'worship is a powerful and expressive form of talking to God that unites us all' and 'that it is fun to push your physical limit'. This is just a snapshot of what students gain from this weekend but after realising this is our 20th annual trip to Marrick, those memories really do last a lifetime!



Football Successes

April 2016

This year has been the most successful Football season for many years at Abbey Grange, with 3 out of 5 teams making some sort of finals. This week both the year 8 and 10 teams competed in the Leeds Schools Finals at South Leeds Stadium. The year 10 team won the cup with a impressive victory over Boston Spa 3-1, whilst the year 8 team were desperately unlucky to lose their final 1-0 to Corpus Christie.



**FORTHCOMING
EVENTS**

GCE/GCSE Exams

16 May - 29 June

Y8 France Trip Parents' info

Evening 19 May - 7pm

Year 11 Leavers Service

Friday 13th May 1.15pm



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