

Abbey College Community Round Up - April 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

This term has seen some devoted studying and hard work as our Year 11s and 13s prepare for their upcoming exams. They are all exemplary students who are rising to the challenge and I am extremely impressed with what I have seen so far. To all students: good luck, keep going and be kind to yourselves. Of course, our Year 10s have made the school proud with their work experience placements. We have received some amazing feedback from the employers and wonderful stories from the students, who I hear were very tired by the Friday evening!

Red Nose Day saw lots of Abbey College Spirit and a brilliant atmosphere around the school with students in non-uniform, football-playing penguins, dinosaurs roaming the grounds, a charity football match and a staff cake sale. An amazing £460 was raised for a fantastic cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Easter.



Performing Arts



Fourteen Year 9 and 10 students created their own electroacoustic album called Shotgun-14 by TPOAC (Ten Pupils of Abbey College), inspired by the school grounds and its local heritage. The album was launched as part of a project with Common Ground, a progressive organisation that helps young people explore heritage across East Anglia. Over the last year, led by talented sound artist Bill Vine with the help of musician Jack Wilkin, the students took part in a series of heritage workshops where they explored various recording techniques that led to the new album release. The students have had an amazing experience quoting, "It has opened up my eyes to a world of music that exists that I didn't know about before" and "It has made me stop and listen more to what goes on around us in different places." You can download the album for free [here](#).

Elsewhere in the Performing Arts department....

Matilda rehearsals are in full swing and we can't wait until the production in July.

The National Theatre performed an exciting show for our students. The show encompassed a wide range of topics on gender, identity and race.

Five Year 9 students are taking part in an inter-school competition with the Rudolph Walker Foundation. After a successful audition, the students are working hard after-school to get themselves stage ready for a performance at the Shaw Theatre in London. We look forward to seeing them make progress as they are devising the performance themselves - and we especially can't wait to see what will be a fantastic show. Well done!



Careers and Work Experience

A huge well done to all of our Year 10s who ventured out on work experience earlier in March. We have received some excellent feedback from placements and the students:

Well done to Jessica, whose 'attitude and work ethic was excellent.' Jessica 'showed artistic skill and creativity in conceptualising her design and was able to understand and work on professional software quite quickly.'

A great job from William, who 'was a joy to have on-site as his attitude and passion for learning was great.'

Daniel's work ethic did not go amiss: 'He was hard working and completed all tasks with enthusiasm.'

Lastly, excellent spirit from Pirayugen: 'He was extremely polite, professional, hardworking and enthusiastic. He joined in and took on tasks with diligence. He was an asset to the Year 6 school team. He was outstanding.'

Other things that have been taking place in Careers:

- [BAE Systems](#) and the [Royal Navy](#) came into school and ran an amazing and interactive Education STEM Roadshow for our Year 7s. The theme of the roadshow was 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space', which the students thoroughly enjoyed.
- The Year 12 employability enrichment programme has continued this term with a number of students taking part in a mock interview with an employer.
- Year 10s took part in an apprenticeship presentation and interview exercise.
- Year 8s had Options sessions using Unifrog to support them with their subject choices for next year.



Creative Arts



The Creative Arts department took their Year 10 and Year 11 Art and 3D design students on a visit to the coast. On a blustery but sunny February morning, they boarded a coach for Hunstanton to collect resources and produce drawings to use in their portfolios. Students photographed places, people, objects and buildings and collected some interesting materials to for their folders. Some even managed to have a classic chippy-style lunch on the beach!

In class, Year 9s had fun exploring portraiture and creating collages, whilst Year 10s have been creating lots of interesting sculptures in 3D Design, and prospective Year 8 textiles students created some amazing paper dresses! Year 9 textiles students enjoyed a local textile artist visit and workshop where they created looms and engaged with lots of exciting activities. Year 7 students have been exploring the work of Henri Matisse and creating collages and patterns. Year 8 have been learning about Op Art and have created some fabulous 3D Op artworks. Our Year 12 artists have been working towards their final pieces, whilst Year 13 have been working on their final Component 2.

Please visit our Instagram page to see more of the exciting things we do in Creative Arts:

<https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollegecreativearts/>



Sixth Form

This term, our Year 12 students have continued to work with their peers in lower years as Learning Ambassadors, Subject Prefects and mentors. We are immensely proud of the level of maturity and commitment students show within these roles and the leadership skills they are developing as a result. Mr Thompson accompanied four Year 12 students to the University of Oxford for an experience day in which they were able to attend lectures and tour the university. Philosophy students visited the University of Cambridge for a Religious Studies study day with guest speaker Libby Ahluwalia – a teacher, syllabus developer, examiner trainer and author of several acclaimed GCSE and A-Level textbooks. During the day, students attended seminars on religious language, utilitarianism and the problem of evil, as well receiving as a tour of the University. Earlier this week, our Year 12 students went on cultural capital and UCAS visit to London. Students chose out of visits to the Old Bailey, Houses of Parliament, the British Library, Bank of England or National History Museum before going to the UCAS exhibition at the ExCel Centre. This was an amazing opportunity which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. We were also lucky enough to be visited by Richard Zubrick, Chief Product &

Technology Officer of the Ambassador Theatre Group who shared his aspirational story of growing up in communist Czechoslovakia and his journey to where he is today.

The Sixth Form Fundraising Committee continue to run a number of initiatives to raise funds for endeavours within the school and external charities, including selling lollipops for Valentines Day, a dress-as-you-like day for Comic Relief and Easter sale for HCNN.

For Comic Relief, the PE department hosted a Sixth Form vs Year 11 football match, where students from these year groups were invited to watch for a £1 donation. All of the students played fantastically, but Sixth Form triumphed with a 3-1 win. They then went on to be victorious in the penalty shoot-out, so it was a good day for the Sixth Form Team all round. Year 11 have called for a rematch... watch this space!



Governor Update

We have welcomed two new Community governors to the Governing Body this term, Aiden Gully and Charlotte Downing. They both live locally and have a wealth of experience in the industry that they can bring to the Governing Body. We look forward to working with them in the future and hope they enjoy learning about all of the good work that takes place at the school.

This term, the Governing Body has observed presentations from the Faith and Ethics, Human Sciences, BITE and CCF Lead Learners, and are pleased to see the progress being made in these departments. During meetings, we also reviewed data for Years 9, 10, 12 and New Horizons, where we specifically looked at the progress of disadvantaged and SEND students.

A recent positive Parent's Forum meeting highlighted a need to restock the supply of preloved uniform. If you have any unwanted items, please feel free to give them in at reception. Parental involvement is always welcomed at Parent's Forum and we would like to invite all parents and carers to take part. Attendance at meetings is via Teams and they last no longer than an hour each half term. Different members of staff attend and deliver presentations to the group. For your chance to have your say, please do get involved by emailing parentforum@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk. The next meeting is on Thursday 4th May at 5pm.

We would like to thank Michelle Lynch for her hard work on the road safety working party which is cooperating with a number of community groups to improve student safety on their journey to and from school. A feasibility study has been commissioned following the student campaign to raise funds and this is set to take place shortly.

Young Carers



What Is A Young Carer?

Do you help to look after someone in your family who has a mental or physical illness, disability or is dependent on drugs or alcohol? Do you offer emotional and practical support, and take on tasks that are usually done by an adult? If so, you are a Young Carer and you are not alone. There is plenty of support out there for you.

Support available:

Referrals for practical help
Counselling
Homework support
Someone to chat to

For further information please contact Mrs Peattie Young Carers Champion:
01487 811761 or welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk

Poetry

Isaac in Year 8 earned a Headteacher Commendation for creating a brilliant piece of poetry work on the theme of conflict:

Just another day in the trenches...

Just another day in the trenches.
Bullets fly past the barbed wire overhead.
Dirt rains down on us from the dreadful tools of war.
Just another day in the trenches.
The Government talks of glamour.
But it is a miserable life simply surviving to see your rations.
Just another day in the trenches.
My friends are returning injured.
More die in the infirmary from their dreadful wounds.
I am sent out to my demise in no man's land.
Another death in the trenches.

Pride



Join AC Pride!

Hear our vision:

Abbey College promotes a safe learning environment for all.
We endeavour to be inclusive and to promote an LGBTQA+ positive atmosphere.

How we can help:

- 1-2-1 conversations with trained staff
- Tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic behaviour and language
- Referrals to specialist organisations

Our current focus is raising the profile of LGBT and the Pride Group, supporting young people and providing information for staff, students and parents.

What our current members say:

- 'I like the social side of the group'
- 'I feel safe to talk'
- 'Pride group is non-judgmental'
- 'We do fun things'
- 'It's a safe community'
- 'We can ask questions and learn from the experiences of others'
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For further information please contact Mrs Peattie LGBTQA+ Champion on 01487 811761 or at welfare@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk.

Farewell

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to some of our amazing staff who are moving on to pastures new. Teachers Miss Waldron, Mr Miller, and Mr Wilshaw, and Teaching Assistants Mrs Hardbattle and Miss Purdy will be leaving on the last day of term. We wish them all good luck and best wishes in their new ventures.

Social Media

We have a new Instagram page! Find it here: https://www.instagram.com/abbeycollege_ramsey/

Please follow us for news stories and to see what your child is getting up to at school.

Tell us anything amazing that students are doing out of school. If you have any out-of-school student success stories, please do let us know by emailing the office (office@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk).

Dates for the diary

Friday 31st March - Last day of Spring Term

Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April - Easter Holiday - School closed

Monday 17th April - INSET day - staff only in school

Tuesday 18th April - Students return for the summer term

Contact Us

<https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/contact-us/htcu>