

## WELCOME TO THE ABBAY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

It has been a great year at Abbey College despite the unprecedented challenges that 2020 brought. I want to start by personally thanking all our families, staff and students for their compassion, co-operation and support throughout.

There is so much to be proud of this half term. We have achieved a hat-trick of national awards and have been commended for our provision, practice and pupil progress. You can read more about this later in the newsletter but I am delighted with our continued stride towards excellence. Across the school, we have also seen our pupils achieve great things and demonstrate the Abbey College Spirit even in these truly remarkable times.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, festive break. We look forward to seeing you back in 2021.



## Ellie's Handmade Poppies

Remembrance Day was a little different this year at Abbey College but our talented Sixth Form student, Ellie Gilbert, helped mark the occasion by creating handmade poppies and donating all proceeds to the Royal British Legion!

Ellie first decided to make the Remembrance Day poppies for her family, but after our students and staff saw her efforts, they were inspired and set up a stand for Ellie to sell her extra poppies at school.

The poppies cost just £2 each and helped raise over £50 for the Royal British Legion!

Ellie one day aims to make badges to sell on online marketplace, Etsy.

Well done Ellie, we have been blown away by your creativity and passion!



## Our Hattrick of Awards

---

You may remember that last half term we were awarded the highest possible accreditation in the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Award, the Gold Award!

Since then we have also been awarded two more national awards, the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard and the Quality Mark Award for English and Mathematics.

The Quality in Careers Standard award is valid for three years and was given through the local awarding body Cambridgeshire County Council 'Investing in Quality'.

We were commended for the quality of our careers programme, as well as the information, advice and the guidance given to our young people.

The Quality Mark Award for English and Mathematics was given for continued developments and improvements in provision and practice in English and Mathematics, with evidence of their positive impact on pupil progress.

We are looking forward to continuing to build on the awards even further in the future.

A big thank you to all our staff who work so tirelessly and who have made achieving these awards possible!



## Our Autumn Challenge

---

Recently, we launched a new challenge for all our students.

The challenge was to submit a picture that really captured the autumn beauty – it could have been a red sky, pumpkin, leaves, conkers, bare trees, berries or anything in between!

We were blown away by the entries we received and wanted to share a few with you.



## Year 7 Created Career Plans

---

This half term, our Year 7 students started creating their career plan, using a program called Fast Tomato.

By taking a short psychometric questionnaire which gauges interests, attitudes and motivation, they are offered career and education suggestions, personalised to them.

We are so proud of our students for taking such an active role in their education, well done Year 7!



## Headteacher Commendations

Millie in Year 7	For consistently working hard in all her lessons. Millie always participates and tries her hardest. She also sets her own SMART goals in order to be the best version of herself.
Micah in Year 7	For being an exemplary student and making a superb start to Abbey College.
Riley in Year 8	For his outstanding effort in Science.
George in Year 8	For taking the initiative to create a poster on the Digestive System that was so good it was used as an information resource in class.
Keeley in Year 8	For the courage that Keeley showed in making such a powerful and emotional video for the staff training.
David in Year 8	For being such a kind and caring young man who is always positive and willing to support his year group.
Vincent in Year 9	For showing such a wonderful attitude to school life since the beginning of Year 9.
Kiran in Year 9	For putting together our Black History Month project.
Annabel in Year 9	For giving regular outstanding feedback in form time on the work she does with student voice in the school.
Rosie in Year 9	For bringing in knitted hats for the Countdown to Christmas collection for the homeless.
Ty in Year 9	For producing a video for staff training to raise awareness of mental health in young people.
Ruby in Year 9	For her wonderful and positive approach to school life and being determined to fulfil her potential.
Danny in Year 9	For working so hard on building up his confidence since the beginning of Year 9.

## Headteacher Commendations

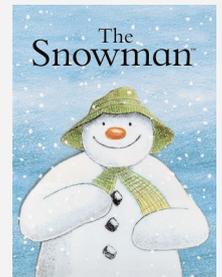
Taylor in Year 10	For his outstanding support when putting together our special Remembrance service.
Megan in Year 10	For supporting another Drama student with his lines and delivery.
Georgia in Year 10	For participating in our student voice group with so much integrity and maturity.
Charlie in Year 10	For his support towards another student and his bravery to carry out an individual public performance.
Jessica in Year 10	For producing excellent quality blended learning work.
Harvey in Year 11	For his superb efforts in English. Harvey has also been to every interact available.
Millie in Year 11	For showing a consistently fabulous attitude to learning since the start of Year 11.
Lily in Year 11	For showing such a wonderful attitude to school life since the beginning of Year 11.
Louise in Year 11	For producing a video for staff training to raise awareness of mental health in young people.
Lily in Year 11	For her fantastic leadership skills and positivity in lessons. She has also led a student voice and encouraged other students to be constructive.
Daisy in Year 12	For supporting students throughout the school. She displays a genuine passion for helping young people and encouraging them to overcome any limitations they face.
Ellie in Year 12	For crafting beautiful, unique poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion.
Zoe in Year 13	For writing a beautiful letter to all staff to raise awareness of mental health in young people.

## Curriculum Focus: English

From this half term, we will be introducing a curriculum focused section in our newsletters and celebrating different part of our curriculum each half term. This time, we focus on English!

First up, a **QUIZ!**

1. In which children's classic is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
2. In the Harry Potter series, what gift does Mrs Weasley famously give to her family members every Christmas?
3. Who wrote 'A Christmas Carol'?
4. The protagonist of which novel sets out one Christmas on a long sea voyage?
5. Who is the author of the children's novel 'The Snowman'?



How many of the hidden words can you find?

Candy Cane | North Pole

Carols | Ornaments

Christmas | Presents

December | Reindeer

Elves | Santa

Gingerbread | Sleigh

Jingle | Stocking

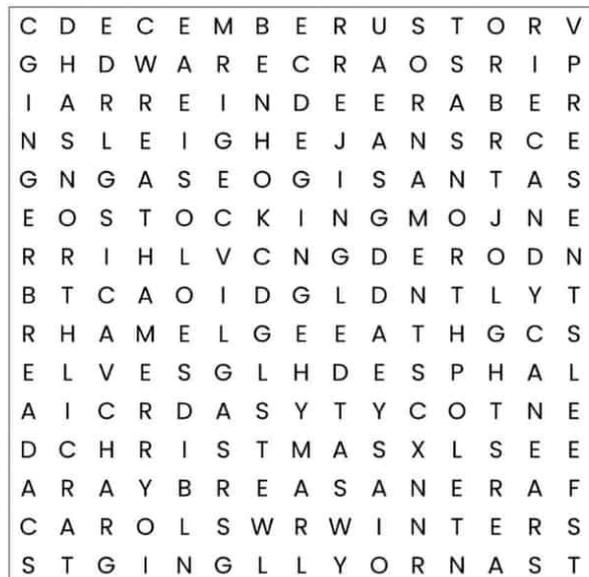
Holy | Tree

Lights | Winter

Merry | Wreath



## Christmas Word Search



To find out more on our Curriculum Journey, visit: [www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum](http://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/students/curriculum)

## A Million Dreams by Distant Voices

---

The Distant Voices choir released their latest single this half term!

The group collaborated with Abbey College Performing Arts to bring us 'A Million Dreams' in their biggest challenge yet. Lots of new students have been getting involved and the group saw a record number of videos submitted.

Well done to all our talented students who took part!

Click the link to take a look: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sLb1w\\_jwdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sLb1w_jwdQ)



## Year 7 STEM Day

---

This half term, our Year 7 students had their STEM day!

The day celebrates Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and we managed to take some great pictures of our students hard at work in the planning, designing and building phases of their projects.

A big congratulations to our joint winning form groups, 7W2 and 7D1. We hope you all learnt lots and had fun in the process too!

Thank you to everyone who took part and made the day such a success!



## Key Dates

<b>Christmas Holiday starts</b>	<b>18th December 2020</b>
<b>INSET day (Staff only)</b>	<b>4th January 2021</b>
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>5th January – 12th February 2021</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>15th February – 19th February 2021</b>
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>22nd February – 25th March 2021</b>

## Parent View

How do you think we're doing? We are always looking to improve and we would love to hear your thoughts!

Please share your views via Parent View by visiting [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) or searching for 'Ofsted Parent View' in your search engine.

