

Abbot Beyne School Newsletter October 2017



Headteacher News

Welcome to our new, slimmed down, but more regular newsletter.

The Year 7 are coming to the end of their first half term as Abbot Beyne learners. A busy half term has been characterised by settling in, developing their understanding of the TRICs, Whitemoor Lakes, Rounders and iPad take home week. Two star - Edgars Scavinskis & Frances Nervez spoke eloquently of their first half term at the Prospective Parents Evening last week. In addition, a number of Year 7 students have visited our feeder primary schools to tell the Year 6 what life and learning is like at Abbot Beyne.

The Government published their Progress 8 data last week. Progress 8 measures how well students learn from their Key Stage 2 Sats to their GCSEs. We are delighted that our score of +0.21 put us 9th in Staffordshire and Top in Burton. At A Level our value added score of +0.22 was even better - second in Staffordshire. Both of these measures reflect the success of the partnership we forge between school, home and our students. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>.

Annabel Stoddart

TAEKWONDO CHAMPION

What an incredible achievement by a remarkable young lady!

Since September Heidi has achieved 2 silver medals at The English Taekwondo Open competition and a bronze medal in Sparring at The World ITF Taekwondo Championships in Holland.

She is clearly a very dedicated athlete who carefully balances her school career alongside training exceptionally hard in a sport that she loves. Heidi, the whole Abbot Beyne community is extremely proud of you!



ART NEWS

The Art Department has had a busy time over the past term with a very successful opening of the 'Snapshot 2017' exhibition in the gallery. The exhibition illustrated the talent that we have at Abbot Beyne and included student's work from Years 11, 12 and 13 from last year. The exhibition shows the diversity of skills in the department and is a testament to the talent and dedication of the Art students at Abbot Beyne. The exhibition was well attended by staff, students and parents and the visitors comments reflected the quality of the work, 'Shows the great potential of the many Abbot Beyne students', 'Best two years of my life', 'Amazing showcase'.



Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations

Year 11 mocks take place during December – the majority in the week beginning Monday 11th December. Students may feel that these exams are not important and do not count. However, they do serve several purposes.

1. Motivate students to start revision early

Research suggests that 75% of students consider themselves to put off things that they should be doing with 50% doing so regularly and to a level that is considered a problem. If something seems a long way away, the less impact it will have on people's decisions. By having the mock exams in December it hopefully reminds students that it is not long until the 'real thing'.

2. Practising effective revision strategies

Mock exams let students practise revision strategies and discover what works best for them.

3. Improving knowledge

Testing yourself is an effective way to improve your knowledge and ability to recall information. It has been found that students who did a practice test after a period of revision did better on the final exam than those students who didn't do the mock exam and had just spent the whole time revising.

Instead of seeing an exam as a potentially threatening event or as some sort of judgement on their ability, students should see their mock exams as a way of improving their knowledge and memory.

Also, if students have a particularly bad mock exam, better to have the shock in the mock, than the final exam. It can act as a call to action that perhaps they need to do more work, change revision strategies and develop skills needed to perform under pressure.

4. Practising under exam conditions

Pressure can affect students. For some, it can lead to nerves, anxiety, frustration and careless mistakes, resulting in a poor performance. For others, pressure allows them to concentrate more, work harder and perform better. It takes time and practice to perform well under pressure. If the final summer exams are the first time students experience these conditions, it is not known as to how they will react.

Mock exams are an opportunity for students to figure out and practise what works best for them.

5. Identifying topics that need attention

Doing mocks early enough in the year gives you time before the real thing to target areas that need improvement. Mock exam results can identify how best to spend the coming months for students.

Once these areas are identified, it is then a case of putting in the hours. It is not enough to think about what you need to do better, it is the action and the doing that really makes a difference.

Being comfortable and confident enough to ask someone else for help, be it a teacher, parent or carer, is a big part of having a growth mind-set. Mock exams can be used as a way of getting students to feel comfortable receiving feedback, which paves the way for further improvement and learning.

Mock exams can be very beneficial for students. Helping them to see that is part of the challenge. They can help students to start revising early, to practise effective revision strategies, to improve their knowledge, to familiarise themselves with pressure, and act as a guide moving forward.

YEAR 9 ARBORETUM VISIT

Creative Writing - On the 13th October, 2017, seven Abbot Beyne students from the Creative Writing Group were invited to an event at the National Memorial Arboretum - despite it being their inset day! This would stimulate their brains, and get them thinking about writing in the future. As the children arrived, they were greeted by jolly members of the Arboretum staff, who guided them into the classroom they were to be working in - after a little detour to the shop, of course! Once they were inside the classroom, the speaker began to tell the children about the Indian Soldiers that won the Victoria Cross (VC) in both World Wars. This was the highest medal of conduct in the early 1900s, meaning these soldiers were highly distinguished. The pupils also read the letters that some soldiers sent home to their families whilst they were away. However, the harsh truth was that most of these letters did not make it home, due to the content or just a misplacement of these. **Writing** - The students were told to write how they would feel, if they won a VC during the war, and the vast majority wrote that they would feel immensely proud of themselves. **Heading Home** - After profusely thanking the speaker, the students set out for Abbot Beyne, so that they could enjoy the rest of their inset day in peace!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 30th October

Back to school

Thursday 2nd November

Year 13 Consultation Evening 4.00pm-6.00pm at Evershed

Friday 10th November

Remembrance Service Assembly 8.30am at Evershed (students only)

Thursday 16th November

Year 10 Skills Show at The NEC

Year 11 Consultation Evening 4.00pm-6.00pm at Evershed

Wednesday 22nd November

Post 16 Evening 6.00pm-7.30pm at Linnell

Thursday 23rd November

Year 11 Blood Brothers Theatre Visit 12.15pm-6.00pm

Thursday 5th December

Celebration Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm at Evershed

Thursday 14th December

Christmas Concert 6.30pm-8.30pm at Evershed

Tuesday 19th December

School breaks up for Christmas at 12.35pm

Wednesday 3rd January

Inset Day - school closed to students

Thursday 4th January

Students back to school for 8.30am

Tuesday 30th January

Year 9 ACWY/DTP Immunisations at Evershed

Whole School Extra Curricular Timetable		
REMEMBER - Every day in both Learning Centres Homework Club		
For further information please see the Extra Curricular Timetable outside the PE Office		
	Lunchtime	After School - 3.10pm to 4.10pm
Monday	Art catch up Years 10-13	Homework Club
Tuesday	Art catch up Years 10-13 Junior Vocal Group Years 7-9	Bronze DoE (Selected Students) Psychology Sessions for Year 13
Wednesday	Art catch up Years 10-13 Knit, Natter & Craft Years 10-13	Dodgeball Creative Writing Concert Band & Soul Band St John's 1st Aid Course
Thursday	Art catch up Years 10-13	Netball Years 7-13 Football Years 7-13 Basketball Years Geography Explorers Club Years 7-13 (every fort-night) Debate Club Years 12 & 13
Friday	Art catch up Years 10-13	Silver DoE (Selected Students)

Polite Notice

To all parents/carers who park outside the school grounds, please consider our neighbours when parking and dropping off your children.

Please do not park on the zebra crossing or zigzag lines on the brow of the hill outside The Evershed Building.

Charity/Fundraising

Jeans for Genes raised £578

Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £96.50

TOP 10 CONDUCT WINNERS AUTUMN TERM 1					
	NAME	YEAR GROUP		NAME	YEAR GROUP
1.	Hope Cartwright	8	6.	Joseph Brittain	9
2.	Will Baker	7	7.	Ellie-Mae Farmer	9
3.	Georgia Sutton	8	8.	Hubert Serafin	9
4.	Oliver Hemsley	9	9.	George Springall	7
5.	Ailija Davidavicuite	9	10.	Joe Smith	7



The John Taylor SCITT

TEACHING
YOUR FUTURE | THEIR FUTURE

Are you considering getting into teaching? If so, please be aware that Abbot Beyne is an alliance partner of the National Forest Teaching School, who we work with to recruit trainee teachers who train locally through accreditation by The John Taylor SCITT. The programme offered is planned collaboratively with local secondary schools to give you the most up to date training offered by current practitioners, in order to attain QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). The John Taylor SCITT offer both a primary and secondary route into teaching, and can offer advice and potentially school experience for those who are interested in applying to begin training in September 2018.

You can register for School Experience at John Taylor High School in a range of secondary subjects by visiting: <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/school-experience/sep> and searching for John Taylor High School.

John Taylor High School will be holding a series of open events throughout the year, please register your attendance at www.jths.eventbrite.co.uk or alternatively, please contact Leah Axten via email at l.axten@jths.co.uk to find out more.

You can also find more information via the NFTS website: www.nationalforestteachingschool.co.uk

BURTON HOCKEY CLUB

Burton Hockey Club are looking for new members and are offering free taster session to age 13+ youngsters.

This session will take place at The Ellis Astro at The Shobnall Leisure Complex from 5.30pm to 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th October 2017.

If interested please ensure that you take a mouth guard, shin pads and hockey stick (if you do not have a hockey stick one will be provided).

