

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter. This edition is full of the varied opportunities that our students have taken part in this half term. The many events have helped to develop their skills of leadership and organisation and contribute their time and effort to their community. The many trips and experiences have also helped develop their knowledge of the world in which we live, and in some cases, provide an occasion for awe and wonder.

At our Celebration Evening in December we celebrated another set of excellent GCSE examination results. These results were achieved through a combination of effective teaching, well targeted revision classes, well planned revision and lots of practise. The great results are also testament to the supportive and challenging culture that we nurture at Abbot Beyne and which parents and carers support too. Academic success comes from hard work, self belief and an understanding that the road to success is never smooth or easy, but is ultimately worth it. In addition, we are proud that our Year 11 made more progress than students in other Burton schools.

I am sure you will enjoy reading our newsletter, and I wish you all a happy and restful holiday.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Let's take a minute to look back on a pretty important year at Abbot Beyne!

"Everyone a Learner, Everyone Learning" . . . what an amazing mantra for students, staff, parents & governors to follow; and in doing so we have at last seen the fruits of all the hard work pay off with the fabulous news in May that we have now been recognised as a Good school by Ofsted.

But just when you thought it couldn't get any better ask yourself this question: Which high school in Burton upon Trent do students officially make more progress in than any other? Simple, it's our very own Abbot Beyne as recognised by our fabulous Progress 8 scores following last summer's exams. "So what is Progress 8?" I hear you ask, all this school jargon can be very confusing. Quite simply it measures students' progress across 8 subjects from age 11 to 16 and we are the number 1 for this in Burton upon Trent – hope it makes you as proud as me to read this.

All of the hard work and determination shown by the whole school has clearly shown that we can deliver continually improving and excellent results and Governors will continue to work hard with the School Leadership Team to ensure we keep our fabulous school heading in a positive direction.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our students and their families without whose support we couldn't deliver such a sparkling year!

Ian Livingston
Chair of Governors

P.S. If you would like to find out more about the role of Governors at Abbot Beyne, please do not hesitate to contact us

Halloween Disco



Sixth Form House & Sports Captains organised a Halloween Disco in The Evershed Building for our KS3 students. A 'spooky & fun' night was had by all!

YEAR 7

Deep Learning Day – Who Killed Miss Mulley?

On Thursday 18th October, the whole of Year 7 took part in a Deep Learning Day with The Communications Faculty where they used a range of pieces of evidence to try to solve the mystery of who killed the headteacher, Miss Mulley.

Students then worked in teams to create their own narrative version of this story, developing essential writing skills along the way.

YEAR 8

Deep Learning Day

During our Deep Learning Day Year 8 spent their time learning about healthy lifestyles. It was a chance for students to reflect on the choices they make and to also think about their future choices and how the decisions they make can affect their lives. In a world with increasing pressures on students and their personal lives we discussed social media and the way in which it can influence the choices that we make. Students were equipped with knowledge to enable them enough confidence to make healthy lifestyle choices in the future.

YEAR 9

Homelessness Project

Throughout this term, two of the Year 9 groups are looking at the issue of homelessness through literature. To develop their understanding and empathy, a speaker and resident from the YMCA in Burton came to speak to the groups.

EVERYONE A LEARNER EVERYONE LEARNING

Many students in the group commented that they were not aware of the scale of the problem of homelessness and poverty in our area and were shocked to hear that there is a waiting list for the flats that the YMCA provide, and even more shocked to hear that so many families in the area now rely on the foodbanks that the organisation run.

During this half term, 9N5 developed their writing skills by persuading others to make donations to the foodbank, then they collected goods to take to the YMCA before Christmas.

ENGFest 2017

On Tuesday 17th October The STEM Faculty took a group of Year 9 students to The Institution of Engineering & Technology in London to take part in their Festival of Engineering. W

The Festival looks to inspire the current and future generations of innovators and engineers through a series of mind-blowing talks, workshops and interactive exhibits.

During the day students took part in:

The students worked very well in all activities and greatly enjoyed the day. Joe Brittain received special praise and won some goodies for the quality of his work in the workshop activities.

YEAR 10 SKILLS SHOW

Once again Year 10 did themselves proud when they visited the annual Skills Show at The NEC in Birmingham. Students were able to listen to employer talks and watch theatrical performances on the Spotlight Stages and also wander around the halls to see hands-on demonstrations of the skills needed to work in Manufacturing, Engineering, Health and Hospitality and Graphic Design.

YEAR 11

Every year we begin our study of Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' for GCSE English Literature, we are struck by how many students are keen to see this fantastic musical performed live. This year was no exception and so on Thursday 23rd November, Year 11 students travelled to Nottingham to do just that. As always the performance was funny and tear-jerking in equal measures. The students loved the performance and commented on how impressed they were. They were also a credit to the school throughout the entire trip. Well done Year 11!

YEAR 13

In October our final year Geographers spent four days on the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coastline, South Wales. Our new AQA A Level Geography course expects students to create a research title, gather primary evidence to inform a 4,000

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EVERYONE A LEARNER EVERYONE LEARNING

word research dissertation. Students explored the natural sciences and processes at the coast; strategies applied to managing the coastline; flood severity mapping and coastal ecology. Every evening the students headed back to our base at the FSC Dale Fort Field Studies Centre to consolidate their learning, complete statistical analysis on their data and plan their investigations for the following day. It was a fabulous visit, with so many great memories.

Thank you to Mr Whelan and the students who attended the visit. Take a look at our many photographs of this visit by following us on Twitter at **AbbotBeyneSoc**.

House Benchball Results

Joint 1st place - **Pyxis** & **Orion** with 380 points each

3rd place - **Columba** with 360 points

4th place - **Hercules** with 320 points

Well done to **Pyxis** & **Orion**!

FUNDRAISING

MacMillan Cancer Support coffee morning - £96.50

Poppy Appeal - £179.84

Children in Need Non Uniform Day - £665

DATES FOR YOUR 2018 DIARY

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Wednesday 3 rd January | Inset Day |
| ➤ Thursday 4 th January | School open
Year 13 exams commence |
| ➤ Monday 8 th January | Year 12 Work Experience – all week |
| ➤ Thursday 18 th January | Year 10 Consultation Evening at Evershed |
| ➤ Tuesday 23 rd January | Deep Learning Day |
| ➤ Thursday 25 th January | Year 12 Consultation Evening at Evershed |
| ➤ Tuesday 30 th January | Year 9 ACWY/DTP Immunisations at Evershed |
| ➤ Thursday 1 st February | School Show – 6.30pm Evershed Hall |
| ➤ Friday 2 nd February | School show – 6.30pm Evershed Hall |
| ➤ Monday 12 th February | House Quiz Week commences |
| ➤ Friday 16 th February | School closes for half term |



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