



# ABBEY UPDATE

ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 2 - JUNE 2016 - ABBEY GRANGE C OF E ACADEMY - EDITION 2- JUNE 2016

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy some of the good weather that we had last week over half-term.

Just before half-term we had elections for a vacant Parent Governor post, and I am pleased to announce that Mrs Fran Bailey was duly elected. Her post starts with immediate effect, as one of the two specific parent representatives on the governing body. In her role, Mrs Bailey will take a particular interest in the Church of England ethos of Abbey Grange, looking at Collective Worship, other Chaplaincy work and the RS department.

Some advanced notice concerning a calendared event – the Music Festival, scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> July, has been cancelled for this year due to staffing issues.



Mr J. Norden  
Principal

## Christian Aid Week

15<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> May

This year for Christian Aid week the focus, as many will know, was Bangladesh and specifically the impact frequent flooding has on quality of life and poverty. We were encouraged to think about providing wormaries to improve soil quality so Global Justice group took this theme to heart as they set out on an ambitious fundraising programme to raise £250 for an 'island rescue package'. All things wormy were considered so the week started with the selling of ice pops and ice-lollies in glorious sunshine, then bags of wriggly cola or strawberry fed worms made a sweet treat in the middle of the week. As the weather changed, our planning helpfully coincided and on the Thursday and Friday it was hot dog time, with 10p discount for any student who could tell us a fact about Bangladesh.



We also had a form competition to 'design a worm' and congratulations go to S6 who cleverly incorporated the Christian Aid logo into their worm. Students had great fun planning and selling, designing posters and getting friends involved. It was a great feeling on Friday when we realised we had met our target and as the last few bits of money come in we are approaching £300. As well as describing the week as 'fun!!!', students felt really positive about the amount of money we raised and that we had more than reached our target. Thank you everyone for your support.

## Seeds from Space grown at Abbey Grange

A team of 10 space biologists have taken part in a 35 day STEM experiment to compare the germination, survival and growth of rocket. One packet of seeds had been taken into space by Tim Peake, the other had been left on earth.

This is part of a national experiment, run by the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and the UK Space Agency, to investigate the possibility of growing food outside of our atmosphere.

Our team of year 7 students had to compare how many seeds germinated and survived the 35 days, as well as a series of other experiments, including the rate of growth, and the number of leaves.

The results will now be sent off to be collated nationally, and in June, we will find out which packet went to space!



## Tomorrow's Engineers Energy Quest

Thursday 26th May

30 budding engineers from Year 9 took part in a Smallpeice trust/ Shell funded STEM event to design a solar car, and test it.

The event involved the students finding out what it means to be an engineer, and the diverse range of careers available. They then analysed how engineers are needed to sustain our energy usage with a growing global population.

The final challenge involved building a solar car, which they had to get to travel a certain distance (8 metres). This involved charging each car to a certain voltage, then testing how far this voltage would allow the car to travel. The winning

team got their car to within 10 cm.



## Lift up your Voices Friday 6th May

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May Geraldine and Carey Luce came to visit Abbey Grange as part of the 'Lift up your Voices' music weekend. Geraldine and Carey are nationally renowned worship leaders and worked alongside the existing worship band as well as a band who hadn't played together before. They also led year 7 assembly in the song 'Freedom is coming' before getting our existing choir singing away. In the afternoon a 'scratch' choir of year 7 students were enthusiastically singing away and bringing in lots of movement and even actions!

Later the students showcased what they'd learnt at a concert at St Stephen's Church, Kirkstall where family and friends also got to join in as well as be entertained in a lovely evening of music. Chaplain Kay Brown, says, "The students had a lot of fun singing together and the level of musicianship rose noticeably, but more importantly we saw students move from music to worship, which will enrich our whole community".



## Connor Wood—Athletic Achievements

Connor's raw talent was always evident in his PE lessons at school, but he considered himself to be a football player and not an athlete. This was probably why in Year 7 he entered the 800m race on Sports Day (for which he still holds the school record). Connor is now the Yorkshire Champion and new County record holder in both the 200m and 400m. He achieved the 200m record with a time of 21.46 and the 400m record with a time of 47.60. As a result of his success here he was selected to represent the Great Britain Juniors in the Loughborough International for the 400m and 4x4 relay. He is currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country at 200m and 3<sup>rd</sup> for 400m, this is in the U20 category and he is still only 17!



### Forthcoming events

Year 10 Mock Exams

w/c 20th & 27th June

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition

2nd—3rd July



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