

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

It has reached that time of year again where we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer! I am immensely proud to have been the Acting Principal during this academic year. It has been an absolute joy to watch our students grow and develop in all aspects of their lives. Walking into lessons and witnessing the energy, enthusiasm and love of learning from the students and staff makes me proud to come to work every day. Our students have also achieved many accolades outside of the classroom and it was breath taking to see the amazing talent on stage at our school production this term. One of my most special memories from this term was when 157 of our Year 8 students visited Normandy which fell at the time of the 75th anniversary. The way in which our students demonstrated: a willingness to learn, the compassion to remember and the respect they showed at each of the cemeteries and locations we visited, is a testament to all. I wish everyone a peaceful summer and look forward to welcoming us all back in September.

Jenny Thornton - Acting Principal

Work Experience in France

Bonjour! My name is Izzy and I am a current Year 12 student studying French. This April I was lucky enough to do my work experience in Rouen in Normandy. I spent a week living with a host family and working every day in a local record shop. This trip was a huge personal challenge, living and working in a foreign country and improving my speaking skills and I experienced many ups and downs throughout the week. However, being able to say I spent a week in a foreign country with people I'd never met and working in an environment with people who couldn't speak English gives me a great sense of achievement. For anyone wishing to do something like this I would highly recommend it and would be more than happy to share my advice upon how to make the most out of the trip.



ARTiculation Competition

On the back of Zach in Year 12 winning this year's ARTiculation competition he was invited down to the National Gallery in London to adapt his prize winning presentation into a HENI Talk. Heni Talk's are basically a video library of art history videos that have been presented by some of the leading national and international artists and art historians. Zach is the only non art professional who has ever been invited to give a Heni Talk so this is quite the accolade.

If you'd like to check out his video (only 10 minutes long).

<https://henitalks.com/talks/rembrandt-facing-the-darkness/>

Students from Abbey Grange C of E Academy continue with success in this competition, On 10th July Mr McGinty took two Year 10 students Ellie and Wisdom to compete in the Discover ARTiculation final at Leeds University. This is the GCSE version of the competition that Zach won in March. The students won again thanks to Wisdom's poetic presentation on Van Gogh's Starry Night. Ellie was also brilliant but unfortunately was pipped by Wisdom.

We are now the current national champions at KS4 and KS5 so can

justifiably call ourselves the best school in England at this. Ellie and Wisdom competed against a number of Independent schools.



National Dance Competition

Students practiced 1 to 2 hours a week to prepare for a Local and National dance competition. The Afrobeat group came 12th out of 15 schools in the national competition and the contemporary group came 8th out of 15. The contemporary group then moved onto the local competition competing against schools across Leeds and just missed out on 3rd place by 1 point.



Students put in so much effort and hard work to make their costumes stand out and worked tirelessly in practices. Majority of the students will continue to compete in next years competitions!

Big well done girls!

Miss Harrison

British Physics Olympiad

16 sixth form students took part in this competition which is to stretch their lateral thinking skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations. Students sit a one hour paper which consists of 10 minutes of thought provoking multiple choice questions followed by a short answers section that test subject knowledge and application. Congratulations to all who took part with a special mention to Joseph in Year 12 who was awarded Gold.



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Rugby Stars of the future

A huge congratulations to Ryan in Year 11 who has been signed on a 2 year scholarship for Hull FC after being successfully selected from The City of Hull Academy. This will mean that Ryan will be studying in Hull whilst playing rugby for their academy as of September.

Daniel in Year 11 was also a part of The City of Hull Academy and has signed a 2 year scholarship for Hull KR and will also be studying in Hull next year whilst playing for their academy.



Ryan and Daniel were both picked up by The City of Hull Academy whilst in a Yorkshire Cup School game in Hull.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Participation of students for these awards goes from strength to strength each year. This year 70 students in Year 10 have successfully completed their Bronze and are currently working to finish off their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. 16 students in Years 11

and 12 are currently doing their Silver award and 4 students in Year 12 their Gold award.

In to the Dragons' Den

The adventure of the Dragons' Den began in Business classes for Years 9, 10 & 12 back in December. The task – design an innovative new product or service. The ideas – Apps, Drones, Restaurants and Reducing Food Waste. The process – a Business Plan outlining market research, product design, and revenue forecasts. Challenging but fantastic work by our young entrepreneurs!

First round of the 'Den' was to present their ideas to class teachers. With careful consideration, each teacher chose their top 3 ideas. Next, the teams had to enter the 'Den' with Miss Rigby, and face their first real challenge – could they present under pressure to a new Dragon? Thirty teams were then grilled by the Head of Business - could they be the next Lord Sugar! Impressed by the standard of all teams and ideas, Miss Rigby selected six to go through to our Abbey Grange C of E Academy Dragon's Den with business professionals from the local area. Nerves of steel prevailed. What a fantastic and enthusiastic effort by every student who entered the Den.

Next we were off to York University where 'The Big Deal' competition loomed. The boy's team - Jola, Mohammed, and Yacine, and the girl's team Freya were the epitome of professionalism representing our school, our community and our ethos. Entering the Den, the boys were nervous but dressed for the occasion with their very classy D£stiny Brand and their youthful sales pitch. They WOWed the Dragons with their pitch. Producing a fully functional website, displaying a prototype of t-shirts (modelled by Jola and Mohammed) and an iPhone case (used by Yacine), the boys' group were fantastic.



Only Freya to go, and she was like a lone wolf, who faced the Dragons head on. Never a second of fear or nerves did she display, despite her audience of four Dragons. She smashed it, and with every question she answered, the more confident she became. Such an inspiration and fully deserved the plaudits she received from the Dragons. Well Done Freya!

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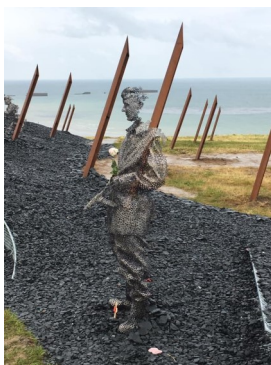
France Trip

June 2019

Over 150 Year 8 students were a credit to the school on a successful and enjoyable trip to Normandy in June. We stayed at the amazing Chateau du Molay which was an excellent base for our trip. After a 21-hour outbound journey, students were able to enjoy the excellent facilities including a pool, games room and playing fields. The playing fields especially saw some competitive games of students vs staff football, whilst the staff at the chateau put on enjoyable activities throughout the trip, including karaoke and a disco.



The students were able to experience some fantastic places such as seeing the over 900 years old Bayeux Tapestry and visiting the beaches of D-Day. A particular highlight was the respect and appreciations shown by all students at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach and the British War Cemetery at Bayeux.



The students observed and took part in a remembrance service at the British cemetery, with Ebenezer and Blessing laying a wreath from the Academy to mark our respects.



All students were exceptionally behaved throughout the trip and made all staff on the trip extremely proud and privileged to be able to accompany them on such a fantastic trip.

Kingswood Trip

July 2019

Our first Year 7 residential to Peak Adventure in Sheffield was a huge success. 156 students took part in challenging activities including abseiling, climbing, archery, team building, night line, laser tag and the daring 3G swing.



Over the 3 days we saw fears conquered and friendships built.



Well done to all who challenged themselves and thank you for a great weekend. Mrs Fairbrother

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Ethiopia Day

June 2019



The annual Abbey Grange Ethiopia Day took place on 27th June and it continues to go from strength to strength. Created partly to develop our links with the Ethiopian community, students had access to activities such as Lemm Sissay's wonderful poetry in English lessons, to presentations on the Ethiopian culture, food and coffee tasting and of course Ethiopian Dancing which some of our students took to with little effort.



Our Year 7 and 8 students took on the 'Haile challenge' although none managed to break the legendary Ethiopian's record for running a mile! We looked forward to developing this special occasion next year.

Interform Tomato Competition

During last term Mr Burgener organised an interform competition to grow a tomato plant, competition was strong even amongst the adults with the General Office looking like a mini allotment. Around 60 tomato plants were grown around school in form rooms and offices. One form did a non scientific study by having two plants. They sang to one and didn't sing to the other. The plant that was sung to produced more tomatoes proving that they have beautiful singing voices.



Congratulations go to Selby 6 (Mr O'Sullivan) the winning form group with the grand total of 186 tomatoes

Pretty Mudder Event

June 2019

On 1st June 2019 16 students took part in the 5k Pretty Mudder Event at Temple Newsam. The girls involved did an incredible job and raised over

£500 for Cancer Research. This was our third year running in the event and the girls represented the school in an excellent way. Well done to all involved'.



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Masterpiece in School

2nd July



AG5 by Eduardo Paolozzi, bronze 1958, was exhibited in school under the guardianship of Nigel Walsh, the Curator of Contemporary Art at Leeds Art Gallery, as part of our partnership with Yorkshire Sculpture International.



Guest speakers from ARTUK, YSI and the Henry Moore Institute talked to Year 7 about sculpture in the UK and Yorkshire's four sculpture galleries making it the UK capital of sculpture. Art students in Year 8 created 'man vs machine' card construction sculptures and Year 10 created wearable technology in workshops led by Alison Smith from the Henry Moore Institute and artist Zara Worth.

Year 9 GCSE Art students have been working with artist Zara Worth, who is interested in the way we connect physically with digital devices. The collaboration sculpture 'Prayer Hands', made by Year 9 students,



was exhibited alongside AG5. This will be on show during Create:Sculpt:Play on the Headrow in Leeds outside Leeds Art Gallery during the week 22nd July 2019.

The YSI sculpture festival continues for 100 days across our region, with many family friendly events in the summer holidays.



It has been another exciting year of STEM events at Abbey Grange C of E Academy.

At Key Stage 3, students have been wowed by Kjartan Poskitt, who delivered an excellent presentation entitled 'murderous maths'. They have seen rock and meteorites

brought back by the Apollo missions to the moon, delivered by Dr Sohan Jheeta from the University of Leeds, and have taken part in challenges during international Pi day, and were winners at the Rotary Club Technology tournament. DT club, STEM club and ICT clubs also ran throughout the year, inspiring the next generations into STEM careers.

At key stage 4, girls celebrated Ada Lovelace day with a special event in ICT. In addition, students have engineered model water purification systems leading to a prestigious CREST award with the Smallpeice Trust, they have designed solar cars whilst thinking about sustainability and the impact of Engineering on society with Learning by Design, they have seen World Renowned Scientists talk at the Science Live conference, they have evaluated how science and religion can work in harmony to solve problems at the OMG Science conference and they have participated in the UKMT Maths Challenge.

At KS5, various trips were organised including Engineering visits to Depuy Synthes and Xiros, The Science Live Biology symposium in Manchester, and maths students participated in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, and the Physics and Chemistry Olympiads, with awards being achieved.

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Eleven of our Year 7 students have been taking part in the brilliant club programme.

Through this they have visited two different universities and had a masters student working with them on a particular project. They all produced a dissertation based around a piece of literacy and we are very proud to say that they all graduated. When asked what she thought of the experience, Naomi's response was "It developed our minds through words whilst also promoting a positive mindset".

Sixth Form – Roundup

Enrichment

Year 12 students have really stepped up their efforts with engaging with the lower school this year. Nearly all students have given their time to support the Abbey Grange community, from gardening to being reading mentors. Feedback has been excellent and it is appreciated by all those who are supported. We ask our Year 12 students to develop their 'soft skills' such as resilience and communication, by supporting different areas of the school.

The rotary club were recently in for a gruelling day of mock interviews for

our Year 12 students in order to prepare them for employment or university interviews. Feedback was very positive and all agreed that our students are a credit to our school.

Metropol Day, opportunities to join the USA and skiing trip, trips to apprenticeship fairs, career insight days with companies such as PWC and open days to various universities, in addition to PSHCE days, enable our students to make well considered choices for life beyond Abbey Grange and be fully prepared for the next steps.

We wish our students the best of luck for those who are going on trips to Ethiopia and India in the coming months. We are proud of the opportunities that we offer our students and hope to continue to develop these opportunities as Mr Swarbrooke joins the Post 16 team to direct the enrichment opportunities. Students will be offered more opportunities in the coming months from NCS, our Careers team and the Post 16 team.

Results

We are hoping to continue to build our best ever results from 2018. Information regarding results day will be sent out in due course and information about how to fully prepare for any eventuality that may happen. We wish all of our students the best of luck for the best possible

outcomes, whatever they may be. The Post 16 team will be on hand both at A Level and GCSE results day. Please seek us out if you have any questions or concerns. Letters regarding results day for Year 11 will be sent out soon, with summer tasks attached to it which need completing before they return to Year 12 in September, as well as the Year 12 induction outline.

Sports Day

Year 12 finished the year in style with the Annual alternative sports day and barbeque. With a carnival atmosphere, it was great to see the students 'competing' against one another in events such as the tug of war, welly wanging and foot darts. Let's hope they work as hard in Year 13 as they did at sports day! Winning Abbey to be announced in the new year.

Year 11–Post16 sign-up

As our sixth form grows year on year, it is important that our students ensure they have secured their place with us or wherever they are going to continue their studies. Only students who have confirmed their place with us at Post 16 are guaranteed a place in our popular sixth form. If you are yet to confirm your place, you need to contact Mr Golding to do so.

Sign up for our alumni

We like to keep in touch with our students when they eventually leave Abbey Grange. A message has been sent to all Year 13 students on how to join our growing alumni in order for us to keep in touch with you. Please sign up if you haven't already

Year 10 Post16 Taster day and more

Year 10 enjoyed their Post 16 Taster Day on Friday 12th July, where they got to experience life as a sixth former. A large majority have indicated that they are likely to stay with us for Post 16 studies and taster day is the beginning of the application process for post 16 studies. Watch out for many more events throughout the next academic year.

Year 13 info evening–September 2019

We have introduced another parents information event for the parents /carers of Year 13 students. This will take place early in September and will go over important information such as UCAS predicted grades, University applications and how to make the most of Year 13. We hope it is a useful event that enables students, staff and parents/carers to work together in order to enter the final year with confidence.

EPQ

Another successful cohort of Year 13 EPQ entries have been sent off. A

special mention to the following students who achieved A*/A's: Alice , Erin, Imani, Danni, Charlotte , James , Jack and LeAndre.

Exam Information

Results Days

A Level–15th August

GCSE–22nd August

Now that summer exams have come to an end I would like to remind you about results days. A Level results will be available on Thursday 15th August 2019 in the school hall between 8:00am and 11:00am. GCSE results will be available on Thursday 22nd August 2019 in the school hall between 9:00am and 11:00am. If students are unable to attend there are 2 options: 1. Bring a stamped addressed envelope so we can post the results. 2. Collect a form from reception to sign to give someone else permission to collect the results on your behalf. Please note we cannot issue results to anyone other than the candidate without signed permission, this includes parents/carers.

Post Results Service

There are a number of services available to anyone who does not achieve the result they need in order to move on to the next phase of their education. Details about deadlines

and fees will be available when students collect their results, along with advice from members of staff.

School of Rock

July 2019

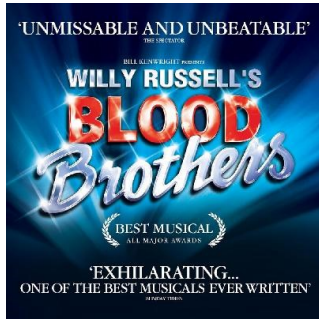
On the first week of July over 60 students took part in our School Production, School of Rock!

So much hard work was put into the production from students and staff, we started rehearsing in September! The production was brilliant with standout performances from Olivia as Rosalie Mullins and Daniel as Dewey. The students put everything they had into the performances and what a show they gave us, with acting, singing and dancing that could rival any professional company, all accompanied by an amazing band made up of teachers and students! Boy did we rock!



Drama

Year 10 GCSE & BTEC Drama see Blood Brothers



The Drama courses in Year 10 and 11 require our students to not only

write and perform their own theatre pieces but also to see a professional performance to analyse and evaluate in there exams. We took 35 Year 10 Drama students (and Year 12 A Level Drama stowaways!) to see Blood Brothers at Leeds Grand Theatre on Wednesday 15th May and, from the standing ovation at the end, I think it's safe to say they had a brilliant time! The show was full of fast paced movement, emotive performances and dynamic design choices to tell the tale of the infamous, tragic twins, Mickey and Edward, who could not escape their fate when 'the devil came knocking'. It was a fantastic evening and the students were an absolute credit to the school. We look forward to exploring their responses to the show as they prepare for their forthcoming Drama exams.

Year 12 A Level Performance Evening

Year 12 have been devising their own dramatic performances since

January and all of their hard work came to fruition in front of a live audience of family and friends.

The first group presented a powerful dystopian tale of P.A.R.C, a centre which raised children to be isolated from the outside world and to serve 'The Great One'. The playful nature of their chosen theatre company, Kneehigh, saw dynamic physical performances full of songs and games to celebrate the innocence of youth. This was all the more harrowing when the audience became aware of the manipulation and abuse that the children suffered in P.A.R.C and their naïve and oblivious commitment to the ideals of their heritage and culture. The students should be so proud of the emotional and skilful production they produced, dealing with such powerful and emotive material in such a mature and sensitive way. One audience member stated "I would pay to see that again! It was so professional and the writing and team work were outstanding."



The second group to perform presented the story of Madame LaLaurie, the torturous and vain 18th century slave owner in New Orleans. The group used their chosen practitioner of Steven Berkoff to ridicule the vanity and performative nature of the bourgeoisie but to also emphasise the physical suffering of her slaves who were mistreated in a variety of horrific ways. The contrast between the attic scenes, displaying the entrapment and human suffering of her subjects, to the party scenes of glaring smiles and exaggerated movements created an uneasy commentary about the past but successfully highlighted the psychology of a revenge tale where the oppressed fought back for their freedom. The audience were left stunned at the skilful and artistic representation of Berkoff's Theatre of the Absurd. A huge congratulation to the students for realising such a difficult narrative in such a symbolic and effective way.

News from the Chaplain

Kay Brown

I write as we are setting off for our third annual pilgrimage to Taize, this year in relative luxury on our bus (students are very excited as there are USB ports!) but still a long journey of approximately 20 hours ahead of us. We have Archbishop Jon Sentamu travelling with us, who, through the Archbishop Youth Trust, raises much of the funding for this trip which is open to our young leaders who have completed the award in school. This year is particularly special as the Archbishop is retiring so it will be his last year on the Yorkshire Schools Pilgrimage so we wish him well in his retirement.



This week in school we have held our final communion services of the year which are held in Abbey groups and were a lovely occasion to meet together in worship. We are grateful to Revd Amos Kasibante, Revd Heston Groenewald and Revd Stephen Kaye for taking our services and the many students who took part for making these such a wonderful

way to finish the year.

Earlier in the week we had a visit from Rotary International who conducted individual interviews with each year 12 student (over 170 interviews) as they start to make decisions about what they will do when they move on from Abbey Grange. This was really valuable to our students, and there was lots of positive feedback on all sides, with our visitors very impressed by the confidence and eloquence of the students they spoke to. It was a very intense day but a very valuable experience and once again we are grateful to all 13 visitors who gave up their day to be with us.

We are always glad to have visitors in school and at the end of May we had a group of young people from the Baptist missionary society join us for the day. They visited a range of lessons giving students the chance to ask the about their experiences of cross cultural mission in South America. Their presentation was engaging (the kahoot was very popular) and supports the new curriculum at GCSE for RS.

Our lunch groups have continued to develop, with a great youth alpha group running this half term which has allowed students to ask wide ranging questions and really engage with faith. As ever we are supported by Matt Lewis (LFIS) and Ben Jones (Missional Generation) who do a

great job getting alongside young people and supporting our Christian ethos.

Global Justice

This term in Global Justice we have split our focus between Climate Change and Recycling.



We looked at our understanding of climate change, the impact and what we can do to combat its effect, taking inspiration in no small part from Greta Thunberg. On the day of the last climate change protest we urged those in school to sign a petition urging our MP to work for climate justice, which over 250 signed, and spoke to others in the playground to spread the message. In September we will meet our MP to develop the conversation.

This half term we shifted our focus to recycling, collecting paper, card and plastic from classrooms and taking it to recycling bins as well as campaigning for a change to the cutlery in the dining hall and to have recycling bins around school. We hope to see these changes in September!

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Mindfulness

Our mindfulness group has been working with an artist through anti-stigma charity Space2 over several months to produce an installation that went live during 'mindfulness May'. At the heart of the installation were a series of heads which contrasted the face we show to the world with what we are thinking inside. These powerful images really made you think and were supported by a range of activities for classes to engage with when they visited. The project coordinator said it was the most creative and free-flowing project he had done in over 20 school projects and the students really enjoyed the freedom to express their thoughts and feelings. Staff and parents/carers who visited were moved by the ideas expressed and other students enjoyed adding their ideas as the exhibit was added to over two weeks.



The Listening Yurt also visited us during May, as Year 9 students got the chance to explore Leeds using virtual reality as we considered where we feel safe, experience quiet meditation in the Yurt and have conversations around mental health using chatterboxes. Students really enjoyed the time to step outside the classroom and take time for themselves, there was even a suggestion we do this every week!

Overall another busy and rewarding term. May I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday and I look forward to working with you again in September.

Farewell



On behalf of the Governors, staff and students at Abbey Grange C of E Academy thank you for your friendship, hard work and commitment. We wish you every success and happiness for the future, Bev Elliott, Subject Leader of Geography, Jen Smith, Subject Leader of RS, Heather Pennwood, Music Teacher, John McDermott, Nusrat Sadiq & Georgia Cotter, Teachers of English, Eleanor Levine,

Teacher of MFL, Rob Cross, Teacher of Maths, Laura Evers, Subject Leader of Drama and Grace Rogerson, Maths Intervention.

We also say goodbye to Sue Longfellow who has prepared and served food to the many thousands of students who have attended the school over the last 36 years !

We send our best wishes to Chris Fordham (Science Teacher) who is marrying Laura on 27th July.



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