Abbey Multi Academy Trust

Newsletter

www.abbeymat.co.uk

Welcome to the summer edition of our Abbey Multi Academy Trust newsletter.

It has been a busy and exciting year at Abbey MAT with many successes to celebrate and share with you. As you read about some of the events that have taken place across our academies and the accolades they have received, you will hopefully gain a sense of what makes us all proud to be part of Abbey Multi Academy Trust.

Message from the Co-CEOs of Abbey Multi Academy Trust

We hope to use this newsletter as one element of communication in our drive to fulfil our mission 'To work in **partnership** to **educate**, **nurture** and **empower**.' We hope through the distribution of regular newsletters we will enable you to discover the ways in which Abbey Multi Academy Trust stretches pupils academically, supports them pastorally and helps them to develop socially and spiritually. As a Church of England Trust, we mirror the church's vision for an education which promotes 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Our core purpose is to educate the whole child; uniting excellence and academic rigour with spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.

At Abbey Multi Academy Trust we are passionate about making a difference to the lives of all our children and young people. They are at the heart of everything we do and we strive to inspire learners and change their lives as a result of our educational provision. We want all our schools to be the best they can be and for each student to discover the skills, abilities, talents and interests that lie within them, as well as giving them safety, security and the skills they will need to be active, responsible citizens and happy, caring adults in the future. Our aim, quite simply, is to do the very best for children and young people through recognition of their individuality and uniqueness. Childhood is a special and wonderful time and no-one gets a second chance at it.

The primary and secondary schools within Abbey Multi Academy Trust are prepared to truly collaborate. The schools have a desire to question, change and innovate to ensure that what they provide enables our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

We work as active partners both formally, as part of our Multi Academy Trust, and informally in the collaborative work we do with the Diocese, other local educational providers, local universities, local and national business and our local community.

We also welcome you to explore our Trust and academy websites where you can learn more about our aim to work in **partnership** to **educate**, **nurture** and **empower**.

As we approach the end of term, we wish all our staff, students and families a happy summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you, and those students and staff who are becoming part of our Trust community, back in September. Please check individual academy websites for return dates.

Helen Pratten and Catherine Garrett
Co-CEOs

Catherine Garrett

Helen Pratten

For further news & updates you can follow both the Trust and individual academies on social media

Recent Inspection Outcomes

We are very proud to be able to share with you the Ofsted outcomes for two of our primary academies. In their recent Section 5 inspection, Holy Trinity CE Primary, Rothwell achieved good judgements in all areas of the inspection and in their Section 8 inspection, Manston St James CE Primary maintained their good status.

These inspection outcomes are testament to the dedication, commitment and hard work of all the staff who work within these academies; they work tirelessly to ensure that pupils are educated, nurtured and empowered. The outcomes are also testament to the pupils who consistently demonstrate positive behaviours for learning and who work with enthusiasm and resilience. The reports also recognise the important work that school governors do in challenging and supporting leaders in their work; they give their time and expertise freely and work incredibly hard for the schools. Equally, the inspection outcomes share the many strengths of leaders who have been determined and relentless in their focus on improving standards and ensuring that pupils grow into well rounded, courteous, enquiring, confident and happy individuals. As with all reports, these inspections point out things that the schools can work on to be even better; school and trust staff will respond to these areas for improvement with rigour, determination and clarity.

'The staff team's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good. Pupils enjoy school and are motivated to try their best. They are happy, confident and supportive of one another. ' Holy Trinity Ofsted, June 2019

'The first set of results since the new trust took over show that standards rose significantly in all areas of the curriculum. This is because there is a relentless focus by the trust on ensuring high expectations and consistency across the school.' Manston St James Ofsted, June 2019

Interested in Being a School Governor?

What is a Local Governing Body?

A school's governing body is a corporate body.

The governing body act on behalf of the Trust Board of the Multi Academy Trust and the key responsibilities are to:

- Ensure the quality of educational provision
- Challenge and monitor the performance of the school
- Have input on the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Exercise reasonable skills and care in carrying out their duties
- Ensure that the Academy Trust complies with charity and company law
- Operate the academy in accordance with the Funding Agreement that has been signed by the Secretary of State

The Department for Education (DFE) sets out information on the role of the governing body in the Governor's Handbook. It says:

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on the core strategic function:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the Academy and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the academy and making sure its money is well spent

Who can be a Governor?

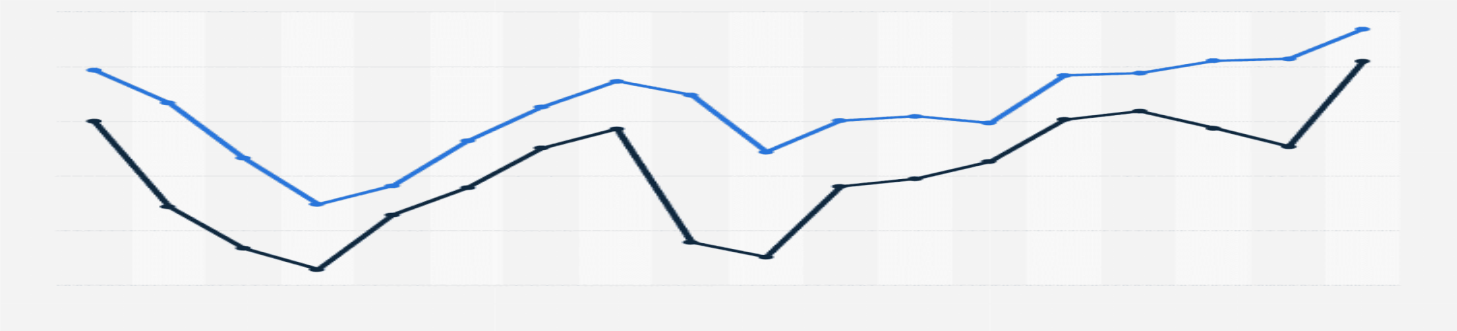
All types of people can become school governors, with the exception of anyone disqualified on the basis of child protection requirements, bankruptcy restrictions or recent criminal convictions. No special qualifications are required, but you must be 18 years of age or over.

Enthusiasm, commitment, an interest in education and team work are important qualities. You don't need to have a child at the academy at which you apply to be a governor.

Schools particularly welcome new governors who have transferable skills developed at work, such as business, finance or human resource skills.

We are looking for governors within a number of our academies. If you are interested in applying please contact Mrs Kerry Weatherill, Governance Professional, on 0113 2739170.

The Big Apple - here we come?



Earlier this academic year our Business & Economics students were share trading on the London FTSE with hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of virtual money. The students were taking part in a national competition run by the London Institute of Financial Studies that involved buying and trading shares over a four month period to make as high a return on their investment as they could, with the chance to win an all-expenses trip to New York to take a walk down the real Wall Street. A shout out to the best team name - "The Wolf of Butcher Hill"!

Basketball Champions

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Key Stage 3 basketball team has been competing in the Leeds School Competition at Leeds Beckett University. On 23rd January they were crowned the best team in Leeds, winning every game they played. To make the result even more impressive, it is predominantly a Year 9 competition, but the Abbey Grange C of E Academy team was made up of Year 7 and 8 boys.

Marjan - Year 8

Winner of Key Stage 3 – Young Muslims Writers Awards

Congratulations to Marjan in Year 8 who won a national award for Best Short Story in Key Stage 3 at the national 'Young Muslims Writers Awards' competition which was organised in association with The Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. The charity Muslim Hands sponsored the initiative.

The submissions for the award were judged by a prestigious panel of national and international authors, including professors from the Institute of English at the University of London.

Marjan was shortlisted in the top Best Short Stories (Key Stage 3) submissions and was invited to attend the award ceremony hosted at The Senate, The Institute of English Studies, at the University of London.

Marjan was highly commended by the judges on her awesome piece of work .

News from Abbey Grange C of E Academy

International School Award

Abbey Grange C of E Academy has been reaccredited with the British Council's prestigious International School Award for the third time. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Our project work focuses on links with partner schools in Spain, India, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and China.

Particular highlights from last year were the languages eTwinning project in collaboration with students at Colegio Huerfanos de la Armada, Spain, and also the visiting students and teachers from Dong'en Middle School, China.

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.'

News from Lightcliffe C of E Primary

Lightcliffe CE Primary Celebrates 150 Years

In 1869 Lightcliffe CE Primary was opened after being built using a £5,000 donation from Evan Charles Sutherland Walker. Mr Walker was the nephew of Ann Walker – yes, the one who has recently made an appearance on Gentleman Jack!

St. Matthew's Church held a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 19th May, which was well attended by the people of Lightcliffe. John Brooke (former Head Teacher) gave a moving talk about the educational impact of the school over its long history.

The school will be holding celebrations on Wednesday 17th July. There will be a street party, a celebration by the children of the decades – including dancing and singing. We will also be unveiling our Lightbox (pictured here) which has been designed by the children in school and made into a collage picture by an artist from Calderdale's Family Learning Team.

John Brooke is in the process of updating his book, 'History of a School', which is the history of Lightcliffe CE School. The later chapters include input from Tony Berwick and Charlie Woodbridge, the most recent head teachers. An evening of historical discovery will be held in September 2019 when local families will have access to the school's many logbooks and other artefacts before sending the materials for safe-keeping to the Yorkshire Archives.

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Big Bang Science Fair

Many students of Lightcliffe Academy attended the Big Bang Science Fair in Birmingham this year. During their visit, the students gathered information and freebies as they enjoyed activities throughout the day.

Around the convention, they learned that anyone could be an engineer and travel to countries developing items that could be used by the 6 million people in the world with no access to electricity or electrical items such as television and mobile phones. Students had the chance to see what it's like to be a midwife and take part in midwife training activities, using weighted dolls that are similar to human babies.

There were lots of other stands. The Royal Society of Biology had choices of radish or marigolds to plant. The 'Slime Station' allowed students to take tubs of slime away and many students were interested in learning about 'Your Digital Self', which had a photo booth and props to use whilst taking your pictures.
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Calderdale Space Design Competition

These are the winners of the Calderdale Space Design Competition. They had to design a settlement to live on mercury. They were a credit to the school and their teamwork was noted as excellent by the organiser. She was amazed by how they interacted throughout the day and worked throughout their lunch. Their presentation was really well delivered. We were really proud of them and they were 'buzzing' on their return to school. They were glad they had given up their half day off school and really want to compete in the regional competition in November.

News from Lightcliffe Academy

Focus on Employability

At Lightcliffe Academy we see preparing students for the world of work to be one of our most important jobs, therefore improving the life chances of all of our students. Since Christmas we have hosted more than 20 employers, ensuring over 1,000 students from all year groups have had an opportunity to chat about employment opportunities with businesses from various sectors, e.g. finance, science and technology, the armed forces, catering and hospitality. This culminated in the Sixth Form Employment Week, in which all Year 12 were involved in some form of work experience.

The Panel During Sixth Form Employment Week, Year 12 students had to present business ideas and solutions in the board room. On the judging panel (above) we had Charlotte (Director of Lottie Shaw's Bakery), Amy (O2), David (O2), Scott (O2), Mrs Fuller, Miss Drury and Mrs Harwood.

News from St Chad's C of E Primary School

The Daily Mile [tm]

Congratulations to St Chad's C of E Primary School who have won the Daily Mile competition.

Pupils and staff at St.Chad's have been participating in the Daily Mile for two years and are seeing the positive impact of this on pupil wellbeing. The story of the school's journey in introducing and embedding the Daily Mile initiative resulted in them winning the Daily Mile competition led by the Yorkshire Sport Foundation. The school won one of five £100 vouchers from Davies Sports to purchase new equipment.

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LMEP Music Champion School

In recognition of our school's ongoing commitment to music education and the opportunities for music making we afford all our pupils, we have been chosen to be awarded LMEP Music Champion School status.

In this year's round of awards only three secondary schools and eight primaries in Leeds have achieved this recognition.

Our Music Co-ordinator, Anne Futers, along with some pupils, attended a presentation ceremony to receive this award at Pudsey Civic Hall.

Pictured Left to Right

Andrew Eastwood, Chair of Leeds Music Education Partnership

Ashleigh Dunn, Head Teacher

Gina Marsland, Acting Head of School

Anne Futers, Music Coordinator

Jan Leaf, TA Music Support

Andie Wilson, Chair of Governors

We received:

- an LMEP certificate to display giving tangible recognition of the work we are doing to nurture, develop and enable our pupils' musical creativity
- an electronic version of the certificate and LMEP logo for us to include in our school prospectus and feature on our website
- an LMEP Music Champion School vinyl banner
- school membership of Music Mark (a strategic lead association for representing UK music education) including their welcome pack, certificate, logo, access to resources, termly newsletters, eligibility to attend the annual conference, plus the opportunity to have our school's music successes featured on a national platform via the Music Mark weekly bulletin.

York Youth Trust

Here are two BYA students who, together with 10 others, took part in an Archbishop of York Youth Trust fund raising event at Bowcliffe Hall. They made canapés with Mary Berry and Frances Atkins and met the CEO of the Bayford Group and Archbishop John Sentamu.

VOICE 21

At BYA we are partners with Voice 21 on improving oracy and were invited to attend their exhibition in London. Here are Anas, Michaela, Porsche and Dante who went along to lead on a session on formality scales and shared how oracy has impacted on their learning.

Annual Diocese of Leeds Conference

Here are our students who attended the Annual Diocese of Leeds Senior Leaders' Conference at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds in Spring. They led on the worship and were amazing. The Principal from an Academy in Halifax wrote: "I was at the Diocesan Leadership Conference in Leeds on Friday and I wanted to pass on my congratulations to the students and staff at Bishop Young for the way they delivered the collective worship. It was delivered beautifully and for me it was the highlight of the day".

Our students never fail to make us proud

Gotts Park Land Art

Christ Church Upper Armley have been involved in creating art for a large installation at the local park to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire. The artwork at Gotts Park features the winning designs from three primary schools in Leeds, and includes a school pupil's drawing inspired by the Brownlee Brothers travelling down the Bradford Leeds Cycle Super Highway by bike in the sunshine.

Humayra's artwork was deemed by judges to be outstanding and was therefore selected to be used in the design in the finished art piece.

Holy Trinity Staff take on the Three Peaks

On Saturday 4th May staff at Holy Trinity Rothwell CE Primary tackled the Yorkshire Three Peaks in order to raise money for books in school.

Pupils at the Primary Academy on Queensway have been making wish lists for additional books they would like in their class and, with the help of this fundraising, they surpassed their targets, making around £700 to share between seven classes.

After an early start of 4.30am, the team of eleven, including past teachers and friends, began walking at 7.00am.

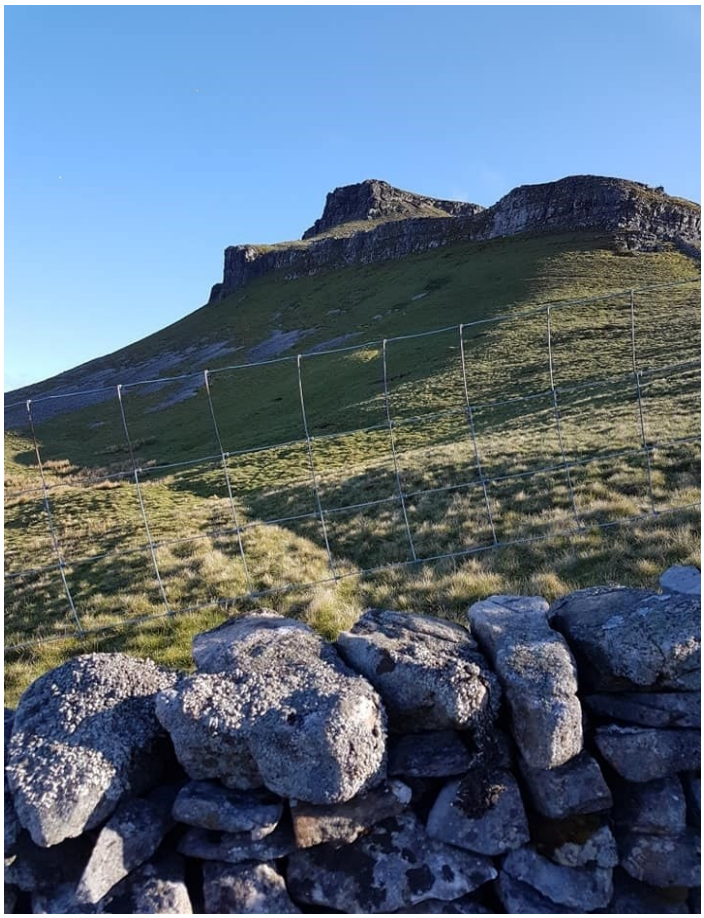
They began by initially tackling Pen-y-Ghent and found they had to share the popular climb with around 200 soldiers from the British Army who were also taking part in a charity walk!

The team then conquered Whernside and finally Ingleborough.

Six people in the team managed to climb all three peaks walking 28 miles, with some achieving a time of under ten hours.

Other members of the team achieved one or two peaks, meeting or exceeding their personal walking targets!

Staff, parents and children are very proud of everyone who took part in the charity walk that day.



Trips and Residentials

We have had lots of exciting trips, including a Year 2 day at Scarborough, Year 3 at Netherside for their first residential, Year 4 spent 2 nights at Boggle Hole and Year 5 were at Lineham Farm for 2 nights. Everyone had a great time, learning new skills and enjoying different challenges.

Pancake Pandemonium

We had our annual Pancake Pandemonium Race which raised over £1,300 for the Church Lent Appeal, an amazing amount for having fun and eating pancakes!

We welcomed our new Head Teacher, Mrs Dunn, who will join us permanently in September and has already made a huge difference to Manston St James.

Mrs Dunn, Head Teacher