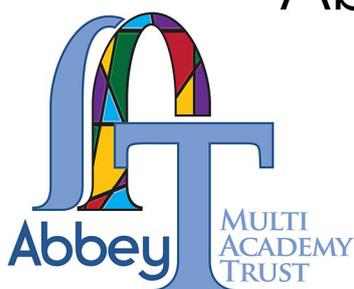


# Abbey Multi Academy Trust



## Newsletter

www.abbeymat.co.uk



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

It has been a busy and exciting term 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 are very pleased to be writing this message as the substantive Co-CEO post holders of Abbey Multi Academy Trust. Our vision is to develop a high performing Multi Academy Trust that delivers the best educational experience for pupils from 3 - 19. We aim to ensure that each of our eight academies, supported by the Trust central teams, will provide environments which are welcoming, caring, calm, disciplined and purposeful and which will stretch our young people academically, support them pastorally and help them develop socially and spiritually.

We recognise the power of partnership working and seek to share and receive good practice with and from other organisations to ensure that all our students experience high quality education that enables them to achieve their full potential.

Every member of staff, every pupil, every parent/carer, every trustee and every governor makes up Abbey Multi Academy Trust. We are all the Trust and whilst we all make a difference within our individual schools and settings, it is through our shared vision and values and our partnership working that we have the ability to effect change and make a significant difference to the young people within the communities we serve.

We have recently launched our new five-year strategic plan setting out our vision and our five-year strategic ambition. This is available to view at <https://www.abbeymat.co.uk/strategy>. We firmly believe that we will achieve what we are setting out to do if we truly work in partnership to educate, nurture and empower our pupils, students and staff. Through a commitment to values led education we can work together to be the change we want to see, live out our vision to promote 'life in all its fullness' and strengthen our collaborative commitment to work in partnership within a caring and Christian ethos.

Our staff conferences, in November 2019, were an example of partnership working at its best. John Tomsett, the Headteacher of Huntington School in York, was the keynote speaker at the secondary conference and delivered an inspirational session on enabling teachers to be the best they can be through high quality professional development with teaching and learning at the centre. Colleagues participated in two workshops which were led by a number of staff from across the three secondaries.

Threedom Solutions, a company who provide team-building and resilience training across business and educational settings, facilitated the primary/corporate conference. The theme of the day was boosting wellbeing and resilience and all attendees participated in three workshops designed to provide employees with useful strategies to promote positive mental health.

As this term comes to a close we would like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work and for their commitment to our young people.

We wish everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas and every good wish for 2020.

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

## Electric Vehicle Charging Points @Abbey MAT

At the end of last year Pod Point's Electric Schools Campaign was launched. It aims to raise awareness of the many benefits of transitioning to electric vehicles, not least in terms of how they can help fight air pollution - which has been described as a public health crisis - and climate change. The campaign also strives to inspire young learners on how EV technology will revolutionise the way we travel and use energy.

For the campaign, up to 30 primary schools in highly polluted areas were given the opportunity to claim a free 7kW Pod Point EV chargepoint and installation, worth over £1,200.

Abbey MAT was fortunate enough to be able to secure two free Pod Point charging points at St Chad's C of E Primary Academy and Manston St James Primary Academy.

Additionally, two further discounted charge points were installed at Abbey Grange C of E Academy and Lightcliffe Academy.

Helen Pratten, Co-CEO, said: "Taking part in the Electric Schools' initiative is a great way to boost staff understanding of electric vehicles and demystify this technology. Having charge points on site really helps bring this topic to life."

In order to promote the use of EVs, increase awareness of them and to help reduce vehicle pollution Abbey MAT is pleased to be able to offer **free** use of the charging points to all members of staff. At the moment they are not being made available for public use due to their location on our sites.

For further information about the location, availability and use of the charge points within Abbey MAT please contact your local site/facilities staff.

Below are some useful links to look at for more information about EVs and charging.

General introduction to the benefits of EVs (includes both financial and environmental benefits):

<https://www.zap-map.com/electric-vehicles/ev-benefits/>

### Costs

<https://pod-point.com/guides/driver/cost-of-charging-electric-car>

<https://pod-point.com/guides/driver/how-long-to-charge-an-electric-car>



Here's a calculator where you can compare the costs of a journey in an EV vs a petrol or diesel car

<https://www.zap-map.com/tools/journey-cost-calculator/>

Visit [pod-point.com/electricschools](https://pod-point.com/electricschools) or email [electricschools@pod-point.com](mailto:electricschools@pod-point.com) to find out more.



## Phishing Prevention Advice by David Ryder, Head of IT Published in the online Education Technology Magazine

Following an increase in phishing emails during summer 2018, David Ryder, Head of IT at Abbey Multi Academy Trust in Leeds, identified a vast number of emails coming from other educational establishments and affiliates. Identifying the potential negative impact of a user 'falling for' a phishing email and giving away credentials, along with their ongoing cyber security projects, they prioritised work around phishing and mitigating the risk of a breach.

They created a seven-point best practice guide for schools throughout the country. Abbey Multi Academy Trust utilise the Microsoft 365 email system. Whilst some of their actions are specific to this platform, they are transferable to other email systems.

Here are the seven points they identified:

1. **Mandatory Phishing Training for All Staff** - Each of our 8 academies have had a training session from the Head of IT Services, providing awareness of phishing emails and the impact of them. This training is to be renewed annually with updated information. A version of this is also provided to students as part of ICT lessons.
2. **Mail Flow Rules** – We have created a set of mail flow rules, which we can amend manually when we have suspicious senders or content in the subject/body. This gives us granular control over email blocking.
3. **Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)** – Microsoft offers MFA free for educational licences. Enabling this for all staff accounts across the Trust means even if credentials are given away, there is much less risk of an account being accessed.
4. **'Search and Destroy'** – When users report a suspicious email, we have developed a procedure where any of our infrastructure team can quickly search the entire email system for similar emails and then purge them. The procedure enables a full system search and purge in under 5 minutes. In most cases, phishing emails which go through this procedure are removed from inboxes before the user has even seen them.
5. **Mail access protocols (Mail Apps)** – As with most email systems, 365 allows access to a mailbox via different protocols. We have denied access via SMTP/POP/IMAP for all users. This stops automated systems accessing a mailbox and sending out emails from that user.
6. **Phishing Campaigns and Training** – We run regular internal campaigns whereby we send customised phishing emails. We collate the data which shows us details on the users who have fallen for the phishing email. We use this data to target training sessions and awareness material.
7. **Alerts via 365 Security Centre** – An additional module for 365 is the security and compliance centre. Part of this system allows us to create policies and rules which then alert us to suspicious activity within the email tenant. These alerts can help us identify users who may have fallen foul of phishing, therefore starting a lockdown/repair of breached accounts.

## Year 12 Visit to Ethiopia



A group of Abbey Grange students from Year 12 spent one week in Ethiopia and had an amazing experience. The students were chosen through an application process in January 2019 and then spent the following months fundraising a minimum of £1500 to cover the costs of the visit but also to provide a donation to the Great Ethiopian Run charity. Overall, £3000 was presented to the Charity at a pre-race party in Addis Ababa.

The students were true ambassadors for the academy. They fully embraced the opportunity and engaged with everyone they met. The students had the opportunity to meet people ranging from CEOs of major charities and Trans-National Corporations, Olympic champions, people working in charity

projects to local children. The positive comments about them throughout the week were overwhelming.

The visit provides a once in a lifetime opportunity. We visited the Rift Valley and saw Gelada monkeys in their only global habitat of the Ethiopia Highlands. The students visited inspiring charity projects; their donations contribute towards many projects, such as an orphanage where the students met the founder who is described on Wikipedia as 'Africa's Mother Teresa'. The evenings allowed students to participate in events such as a traditional Ethiopia evening, where they engaged in dancing, had a meal and sampled a traditional coffee ceremony.

The link to the Great Ethiopia Run is unrivalled. Abbey Grange is treated as VIP's at all functions. We attended the pre-race press conference and listened to key sponsors and government ministers. We attended the Children's races and all the students had the opportunity to start a race and help with the warm-up dance for each race. The enthusiasm of the young children in these races was inspiring. They went on a pre-race open top bus tour of Addis Ababa and felt like a winning FA cup team on a celebration tour of the city! The students were invited to a pre-race party in one of the city's top hotels and were the first group to hand over a Charity presentation cheque to Haile Gebrselassie and Double Olympic champion Meseret Defar in front of Africa's media and international guests.

The race itself is Africa's largest road race with over 45,000 participants. The atmosphere is 'party like' and was awarded 'Runner's World' international road race of the year in 2019. The students went to the post-race party on a hotel veranda overlooking the main square where the race started. They shared a table with Italian social media 'influencers' who spoke to them about their work and commented on the students' engagement and maturity.

Overall, this trip has provided students with many life changing experiences and opportunities that will live with them forever. The group were a credit to Abbey Grange C of E Academy and the Trust as a whole.

Garth Watson  
Assistant Principal. Abbey Grange C of E Academy





# News from Bishop Young C of E Academy

This term has been a busy one, welcoming and settling our Year 7 students into Bishop Young Academy life, as they make new friends and join the many clubs and societies on offer. We have taken every Year 7 student for a cinema experience which they have really enjoyed, and we have introduced them to the Principal's Award for producing brilliant work, or for demonstrating the BISHOP character. Here is a snapshot of students receiving their certificates.



We were delighted with the significant improvement in our Year 11 examination results, which sees Bishop Young Academy as the most improved school in Leeds in 2019. We now move on quickly to prepare our Year 11 students for their GCSEs by sitting their mock exams, practising good exam habits and attending interventions on offer.

Our stand-out support for student mental health and wellbeing has been recognised both locally and nationally this term, featuring on BBC Look North, BBC Radio Leeds and also on National BBC Breakfast.

In October we took 28 students on our first ever international trip to Tossa de Mar, Costa Brava, visiting Barcelona and Camp Nou Stadium and we are now looking forward to our first ski trip to Sappada in February.



On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, a group of our students took part in the Bar Mock Trials competition. They faced tough opposition and managed to reach the final, being narrowly beaten by Greenhead College. We are extremely proud of this fantastic achievement.



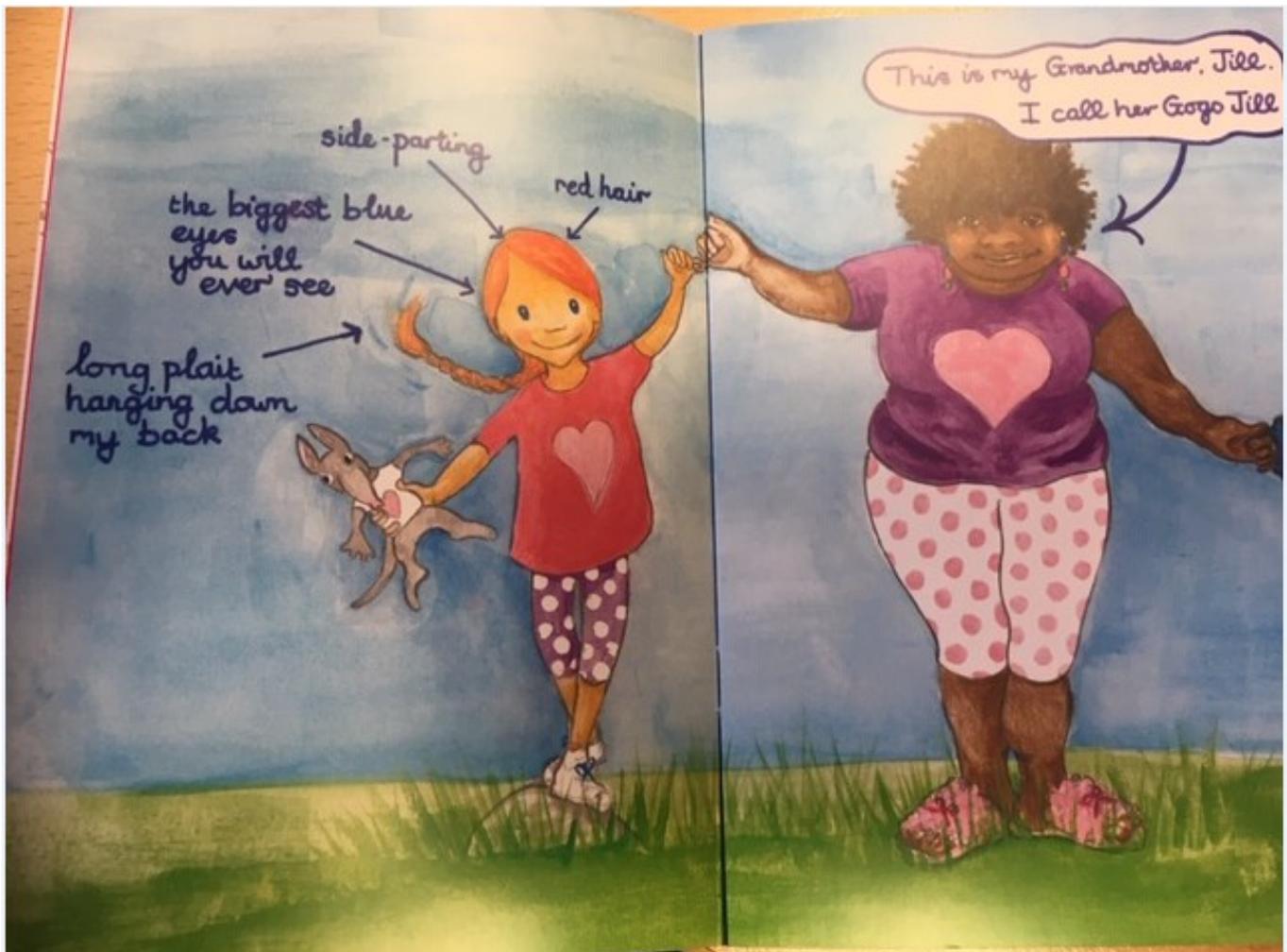
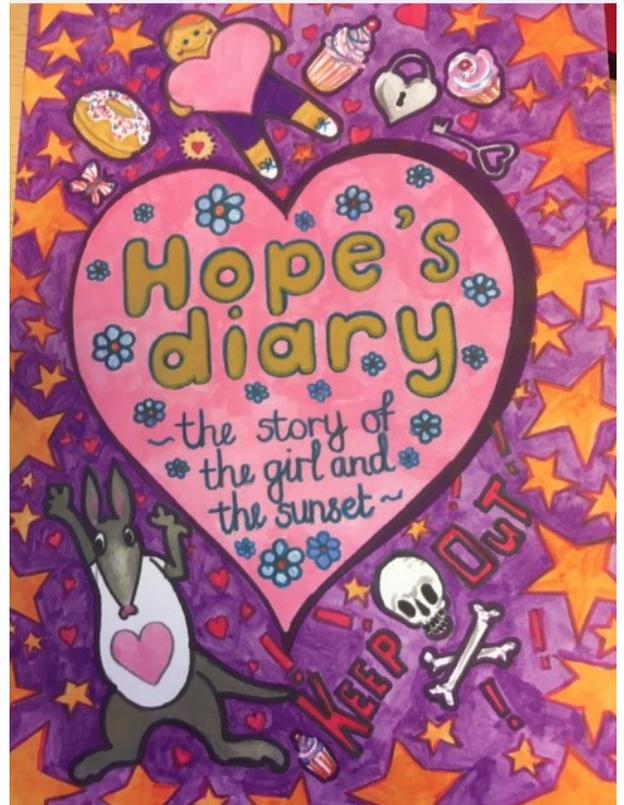
This year we have been successful in our bid for Christmas gifts through Cash for Kids so that we can ensure that every one of our students has something to open on Christmas morning.

On this note, on behalf of everyone at Bishop Young Academy, we wish all Abbey MAT students, families, staff and governors a holy, peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy 2020.

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At Christ Church Upper Armley we were delighted when one of our Year 6 pupils became a published author - winning the Greggs Foundation a story for Hope competition. Anaiyah McIntosh, aged 10, was the overall winner and her story was made into a stunningly illustrated book which has been published and given free to all Greggs Breakfast Clubs.

She won lots of fantastic prizes for both herself and school and sat with the illustrator, signing her books for all her class mates. Her story was both moving and inspirational - she is following in the footsteps of other famous writers who are ex-pupils at CCUA - Alan Bennett and Barbara Taylor-Bradford!!





# News from Holy Trinity Rothwell C of E Primary



Following on from our 'Good' inspection in June we have continued to deliver on our promise of delivering a vibrant, engaging curriculum filled with first hand experiences for our pupils. We have had classes visit The Green Moon and Bolton Abbey and have had a panto in school. School Council attended the South Leeds Youth Summit and we have competed in the Leeds Indoor Athletics competition, an Under 11 football tournament and the Leeds Schools' Cross Country. We have had Leeds City Basketball delivering a lunchtime club and have Elite and Leeds Wildcats delivering after school clubs. Pupils have participated in pedestrian training and have had workshops run in school by Yorkshire Water and Google. Our Harvest Festival donations have supported the Rothwell Food Bank and we have collected Christmas Shoe Boxes which are now on their way to Liberia. We continue to live up to our motto that we are the small school with a big heart.

As we approach the end of term we would like to wish all those in the Abbey family a peaceful and Happy Christmas.



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## Swimming Gala 2019

A huge well done and congratulations to our fantastic swimmers who represented Lightcliffe Academy on Friday 15th November in the annual Calderdale Schools Swimming Gala. A fantastic effort from all our individuals and teams who competed throughout the night and represented themselves and our school in highest esteem.

## Calderdale Schools Cross-Country 2019

Yet another fantastic set of sporting results for Lightcliffe Academy to be proud of with an array of outstanding finishes in the annual Calderdale Schools Cross-Country event at Savile Park in 20th November. An unbelievable effort and fantastic service to our school in what were extremely challenging conditions under foot .



## Key Stage 3 Curriculum News

In November Key Stage 3 History students were asked to complete a project for Black History month. This could be researching an influential individual, recreating artwork by black artists, visiting the slavery museum or researching the Windrush generation. The best work was displayed in school. There were some fantastic entries and it was incredibly difficult to judge but the winners were... Mia Robinson, Logan Knapton, Kadine

Feather, Lola and Lexie Hobson and Isabelle Holgate (Year 7).



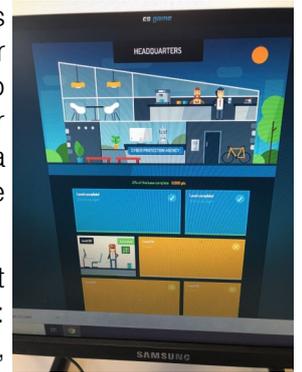
Key Stage 3 students have been challenged this

term to work on developing their oracy skills. Students have been debating the causes of WW1 in History and whether the rainforest should be a global or a national asset in Geography. All the teachers were very impressed by the students' efforts.

## Cyber Assess Computer Competition News

Year 9 Computer Science pupils entered the Government Cyber Assess competition which aims to inspire the next generation of cyber security experts as there is a shortage in the UK's cyber capable workforce.

The following Year 9s have made it through to the second stage: Delton Chapman, Max Johnson, Alfie Joyce, Keiran Kaushal, Finlay Sunderland, Toby Wilkinson



There are four stages in total that include hundreds of hours' worth of challenges and tasks. These challenges can cover everything from Linux to programming.

## Attendance Celebration Event

Over one hundred students across Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a slap-up Pizza Feast to celebrate their achievements in Half Term 1. Each student had managed to get 100% attendance across the eight weeks and, in addition, had a perfect behaviour record. Forty large pizzas were demolished with little left over and students enjoyed a positive social event enlivened by a little communal singing. Well done to all.



## RSA - Apprenticeship Workshops with Year 13 students

On Wednesday 29th November David Selby from RSA came into school to deliver three workshops to Year 13 students who are considering applying for apprenticeships next year. They looked at interview skills and how to give examples from activities students do both in and out of school to answer potential interview questions.



On 5th December all the students who attended the workshops visited the RSA offices at Dean Clough to have a tour of the business and

have a mock one-to-one interview from an RSA employer, as they would have at a real interview, to help students to develop their own interview skills which they will need when they start applying for apprenticeships.



## The most wonderful time of year!

It has been a fantastic time at Lightcliffe Primary school this December. Each of our year groups have celebrated the birth of Jesus by taking part in Christmas Performances.

The Reception children told the story of how the snowman was able to help Santa in his special work of delivering presents across the world. Year 1 told the importance of our Christmas traditions such as Christmas cards, Christmas trees, Christmas dinner, etc and that the story of the Bethlehem Baby is central to all we do.

Year 2 performed a beautiful traditional nativity in church with excellent singing, acting and story telling.

Year 3 shared a Christingle Service, with a modern twist, with parents and friends.

Year 4 also told of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem through song and fine acting.

Years 5 and 6 have shared a joint performance of a Nativity Rock in church with an afternoon performance for grandparents and friends and an evening for parents.

All shows have been very well attended and the 'true spirit of Christmas' has been shared by all.

The children have also shared their Christmas with others across the world by supporting the *Operation Christmas Child* appeal and sending shoebox gifts to others in need.





Reception and Year 1 visited The Wonderdome this week to learn all about our solar system, universe, space travel and more.

Our Year 2 pupils had a visit from the Bee Man. He couldn't bring the bees as it was too cold but he did bring some honey and lots of other items associated with bee keeping.



As part of their 'Predator' Topic, Year 3 were visited by The Flying Squadron. During the workshop they met Xena the Barn Owl, Louis the Lizard and Lilly the Rabbit whilst learning about predators and their prey.

Year 4 have been creating Roman shields. The children have been inspired by various designs and have used different items to make their shield extra special.



Resilience Rocks! Our Year 6 classes were involved in a music based workshop which taught the children some techniques to help them deal with pressure and to become more mentally resilient.



**Whole School** We have celebrated Harvest by donating gifts for PAFRAS and the local community. During Heritage week we visited our local area and had a talk from Mr Loveday, ex-MSJ staff and local parishioner. We celebrated Children in Need by wearing spotty accessories with our uniforms and all donations were added to Mr Whippy's JustGiving page for CIN. Mr Whippy visited the school and every child received an ice cream!



We took part in National School Meals' week by enjoying lovely meals and holding a poster competition. Our winners were photographed with their posters and received baskets of fruit as prizes.





Everyone is excited and busy putting together our numerous festive events.

Our pupils have been working really hard rehearsing their Christmas shows. Key Stage 2 will be performing 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw', Key Stage 1 'Everyone Loves a Baby' and even our Nursery pupils will be performing 'It's a Baby'. With our retiring collection this year we have chosen to support St George's Crypt.

We are also busy collecting food donations again for the Trussell Trust food bank with our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative. We have been collecting socks and other clothing/sanitary items for The Immanuel Project, a charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people in Bradford, to help them put together Christmas gift packs.

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, eight of our pupils took part in the LSMA Christmas Choir Concert at Leeds Town Hall. We were incredibly proud of their wonderful singing and for being amazing ambassadors for our school.

Our Christmas Carol Service is held at St Chad's Church (Far Headingley) on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December and our term ends with Christmas parties and a traditional Christmas lunch for all.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the MAT staff and their school families a very Merry Christmas and all good wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

