

July 2022

Abbey Grange C of E Academy Newsletter

In partnership to **Educate, Nurture, Empower**



Welcome

This newsletter celebrates the achievements of the students for the final half term of the year but also looks back at the academy's first full year of undisturbed education (except for a half day due to an extreme heatwave!) in a few years. And, this half term has encapsulated the events of the year quite well. We've had a small spike in covid absences, Y11 and Y13 exams, end of year assessments and mock exams, proms, rewards events, celebration assemblies, communion, extra-curricular clubs, enrichment opportunities, visiting speakers, musical achievements, ARTiculation Finals, English scholars, physics Olympiads, culture week, STEM events, debating achievements, drama performances, sporting achievements and trips, trips and more trips. And student attendance has been up to 10% higher than the national figures. What this tells me is that our students have shown up, got on with the job in hand and took every possible opportunity to get stuck in to school life that they can. And that is what we call Abbey Character.

There's been a lot going on this half term and I make absolutely no apologies for that. It was really important to us this year that we caught students up not only in curriculum and progress gaps but also in all the opportunities that they have missed over the last few years because of Covid. This has meant that there has been a huge quantity of trips, experiences, events, competitions and clubs over this half term, and we have tried to ensure that every year group has had a chance to get involved. We are tracking the take-up of our extra-curricular, enrichment and trip offer this year in order to ensure that we have even wider accessibility next year and that opportunities are more spread out across the year. It is natural in schools to conduct trips in the summer term due to the weather and the exams finishing but we recognise that there needs to be a more equitable spread. This

year, the academy has offered over 4000 places on trips, many of which for full year groups, over 70 clubs 1418 students attending at least 1 club and held 78 events in school. This is exceptional and I thank all the students who took up these opportunities, the parents/carers for sorting packed lunches and dropping off/collecting at ridiculous o'clock and, of course, the staff who have put these events on – many during their spare time late at night or at weekends.

When events happen in school or opportunities arise, we put this information on Class Charts for both students and parents/carers. All students have Class Charts, but Parents/carers also have a version of the app that gives them messages but also alerts them to attendance and positive awards (and negatives). Looking at our system, we find that a large minority of our parents/carers do not have a Class Charts account – they are free and available in app form on the phone or iPad, or on your desktop computer. If you are struggling to access this, please email it@abbeytrust.org and they will be able to support you.

I have to mention Culture Day (and week). Culture Day was the brainchild of a group of students from different cultural backgrounds who wanted an opportunity to present their culture to staff and students of Abbey Grange. This conversation grew as the students discovered just how many different cultural backgrounds we have at the academy. We believe that the academy has well over 100 different cultural backgrounds whether that is through one parent or two, or grandparents. In fact, many students represent several cultures in their family. It was also a great opportunity to celebrate the culture of our location whether that be Leeds, Yorkshire, England or the United Kingdom and it was so great to see the Union Flag and the St George Cross, flag of England on show

Welcome

across Culture Day as well as flat caps, tweed and outfits in red, white and blue. The academy spent a week celebrating food before Culture Day itself which had a fashion and dance show representing Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Eritrea, England, Pakistan, India, Jamaica, Australia and so many more cultures. It was a very moving day and our students spoke to us about how safe they felt to celebrate their culture through presentations to class, language, food, dance and being able to wear clothes that represented their heritage.

As the students enter the summer holiday, it is always important that they keep ensuring that they give themselves opportunities to have new experiences, to build confidence and to enrich their lives. There are a plethora of opportunities for students to do this by cooking a meal for the family, going to a museum or an art gallery with some friends, reading a tough new book, organising an event to raise money for charity, learning and speaking a foreign language, writing a song, writing a poem, writing a story! The list is endless. I'm sure you will encourage your child to enrich their summer.

We say farewell to some staff this year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their service to the staff, students and families of Abbey Grange. In some cases, Mr Fell and Mr Huntley they have been here for over 30 years and influenced the lives of 1000s of students. Jean Hughes, in our kitchen, has also served students for over 30 years. We wish them all the best in their next venture whether its retirement or promotion.

And as we say farewell to staff leaving us, we welcome new staff beginning with us in September. The academy held a new staff induction day on Friday, and I can tell you that we have recruited some absolutely lovely, positive, enthusiastic, passionate about their subject, experienced and outstanding teachers. It is important to note that we have some new Subject Leaders in some crucial

subjects and a brilliant group of maths teachers to add to our maths team. There's some details below but I can tell you that I have observed every member of teaching staff and interviewed each one personally and they are a cracking bunch to add to our amazing team:

Mr Ahmed - Maths

Miss Anderson - History

Mrs Best - Maths

Miss Chadwick - Science

Dr Evans - Science

Mr Fisher - Head of Science

Mr Gibson - Head of Maths

Mrs Graham - Maths

Miss Javaid - Maths

Ms Law - Art and Design Technology

Mrs Lopez-Cruz - MFL

Ms MacMahon - MFL

Miss Mahmood - Maths

Mr Oyeboode - Design Technology and Engineering

Mrs Solentini - Head of MFL

Mrs Wright - English

Miss Wylde - Maths

All there is to say now is a huge thank you for your support in my first year at Abbey Grange and our first full year of full education. You have made me feel part of the Abbey Grange family. Now the job is to make the academy bigger and better each year and to ensure that we are providing the best education and the best nurture any school can offer. Have a fantastic summer. Well done to our students for working so hard and being so committed. Thank you to our families for your infinite levels of support. And thank you to staff for their hard work. I will see you all either on one of our results days, on Sixth Form enrolment day or on the first week back in September.

Mr Prinsep
Principal



Attendance Update

In September, we will continue to work with our students and families to support positive attendance. The attendance target for the whole school is 97%. We know the majority of our students will either meet or exceed this target next year.

If your child is absent, you must report this by 8am on the day of absence. To report absence, please complete the absence form on the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/221793541865060>

You will get a message confirming receipt of the submitted form to the email you provide with school. Whilst we encourage parents to report absence using this online system, calls can still be made to our attendance line.

If your child is absent for a period of more than 5 days, we are now required to request medical evidence to support this absence and so that we can accurately code this. Failure to provide this will mean the absence would be recorded as an unauthorised absence. For more information linked to attendance, please do look at the attendance policy on the website. It is important to note that the DfE have made changes to the requirements of schools around absence and we need to adhere to these.

Punctuality is something which is also key to all at Abbey Grange. In a half term period, 2 late marks result in a break time detention. 6 late marks result in a day in RFI. We really want to support students developing positive habits that they will need in life after school. If there is a barrier to this, please do ensure your child's form tutor is aware of this.

Classcharts

As a school, Class Charts is one of our most used methods of communication. It is a way the school sends messages to students and parent/carers as well as the system that underpins our school's behaviour policy. For this to work, it is key for all our parents/carers to log on and check this at least weekly. If you are struggling to use this or log on, please contact our IT support team on it@abbeytrust.org

Supporting our expectations

We appreciate the support we have had from families this year. The students are a real credit to the school with their positive behaviour and smart uniform. We will be contacting families in September about the rewards trips for July 2023 and the criteria to be invited.

The uniform policy is going to be reviewed in the Autumn Term so please look out for the request for you to join in the consultation process. Thank you for supporting us with this.

If your child has a medical reason for needing a toilet pass or an adjustment to the uniform, please ensure you email the medical evidence of this to your child's Year Manager by September 5th so they can ensure these are in place for the start of the academic year.

Contact Details

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Key Stage 4

Achievement Director

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Year Managers

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Mr A Hare (Post 16)

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Attendance update continued

We want to make all families aware that we will be following the DFE updates to Leeds Authority guidance with regards to term time absence and holidays. Whilst we took measures in the last academic year to recognise that families were keen to catch up on missed holidays and opportunities to see loved ones as lockdown restrictions were lifted, Leeds Authority outlines the expectation that students attend school without this disruption. Holiday requests will not be authorised and if your child has 5 or more days unauthorised absence, Leeds Authority will be issuing fines.

Mrs Hudson Frost – Assistant Principal of Care and Conduct

Debating Club - Year 7

On Tuesday 12th July, we were pleased to hold our very first debating day with our Year 7 students. After a morning of debating activities in forms, 19 students were nominated to participate in planning, preparing and presenting a debate on "should we have a universal language". They watched a mock debate presented by our KS4/5 debating team, who helped coach the Year 7s in their preparations. They held up excellently to scrutiny by the KS4/5 judging panel in the final debate, and showed a wide range of oracy, questioning and presentational skills. We look forward to more debating days next year.

Mr Williams

Culture Week

This half term, Abbey Grange held its first ever Culture Week, which ended with a non-uniform day encouraging students to come to school wearing clothing and flags representing their culture. It was a huge success!

After many months of planning and organisation by a brilliant team of Year 12 students, Culture Week came to fruition with a number of different activities throughout the week, including a World Cup themed football match and sales of food from around the world which were made by students across school.

Friday ended the week with a blast, including a fashion show and dance performance for each year and a celebration of global music, food, and dance for sixth formers. During the assemblies, students showed so much energy and enthusiasm to celebrate various cultures - which apparently could be heard from the other side of the school!

It's been lovely to see staff and students' eagerness to immerse themselves in different cultures and learn about their peers. Staff have told me how involved and engaged everyone's been throughout the week, and how excited people have been to share and learn about different cultures. Now it's been done once, there's no doubt that it can happen again in coming years! We hope Culture Day leaves a legacy at Abbey Grange C of E Academy."

Sharon – Year 12



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

John Woods
Steve Huntley
Betsy Reid
James Dobson
James White
James Stubbs
Martin Knight
Annie Pallister

Richard Fell
Jack Dobson
Fran Martini
Celia Benfield
Caroline Marsh
Geraldine McCullagh
Gabrielle Renavent
Jean Hughes

Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to Scarlett and Maddie for achieving bronze and Lottie for achieving silver in the British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge. The Junior Physics Challenge competition is designed to engage and challenge students of all abilities by offering them a range of problems to solve. Although most of the questions are based around the current GCSE curriculum, students were able to gain more marks if they had a general knowledge in Physics as well as taking a keen interest in practical work in lessons. The test looked at all sorts of Physics - from calculations using mechanics, physics in the news, the history of physics and numerical reasoning. All three students performed admirably and were in the top 50% of entrants. This an outstanding achievement - well done!

Ross Cockburn - Assistant Achievement Director for Science

English Scholars Success

A huge well done to the English Scholars in Years 7,8 and 9 who have produced some amazing portfolios of work this term in response to some thought-provoking, evaluative, Literature based tasks:

"Futuristic and dystopian literature is always bleak in its outlook" To what extent do you agree? (Year 9)

"Shakespeare's works challenged the stereotypes and traditions of Elizabethan England, and they continue to do so in our society today" (Year 8)

"Young characters are presented negatively in Shakespeare's plays" To what extent do you agree? (Year 7)

Students worked independently and collaboratively in their own time to evaluate the statements and they read widely to produce some excellent models, essays, videos, poems. Some even baked cakes to explore and evaluate these topics! The work in the final presentations was of an excellent standard and was a delight to see, as commented on by the English Department, Senior Leadership Team and Mr Cooper, Executive Principal. It has been a delight to work with such enthusiastic and talented students - well done to all.

Mrs Romero

A "Journey of Discovery"

Mrs Bose and our Art Department have signed the academy up to a ground-breaking national art education project that has the vision to "transform how we understand the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans and its impact on all of us." Abbey Grange is an incredibly diverse academy with students from all across the city of Leeds and up to 70 different languages spoken at home and it is crucial that we join the national conversation around this. Doing this through art is a great way of helping students visualise this issue both through their own cultures and through our responsibility as British citizens to explore our country's role in the Trade's creation and its legacy.

The project will involve taking our students through a "Journey of Discovery" that follows nine themes:

1. Mother Africa
2. The Reality of Being Enslaved
3. Stolen Legacy: The Rebirth of a Nation
4. Abolition and Emancipation
5. A Complex Triangle
6. Echoes in the Present
7. Still We Rise
8. Expanding Soul
9. Reimagine the Future



The
**World
Reimagined**

The project will involve training for all staff in topics such as racial literacy, language busting and mental health and wellbeing when teaching racial justice. The project will be delivered to students through Y8 Art lessons where they will look at "The World Reimagined". Mrs Bose was successful in securing a £1,000 Globe Bursary to cover the cost of a 3D Fibreglass Globe which will be exhibited in Leeds during the summer. The work of Y8 will help our Y12 Art Students create the final globe artwork. Mrs Bose has also acquired funding to broaden the representation of the book choice in our library as well as starting to look at the pronunciation and meanings behind the incredibly wide range of names we have of students studying at the academy.

This is a very exciting opportunity for students at the academy to get involved in using art to explore the world.

Mrs Bose

KS4 ARTiculation Finals

On 22 June, Ingny and Lottie (Yr10) competed in the KS4 final of ARTiculation, a national competition designed to foster students passion for the arts whilst developing their critical thinking and public speaking skills.

Both girls performed superbly and received warm praise from the adjudicator Jane Marriot, Trust Director of Harewood House. Ingny spoke about Japanese sculptor Isamu Noguchi and Lottie presented the work 'Self Portrait with two flowers raised in her left hand, 1907' by German artist Paula Modersohn Becker.

Lottie won the competition for her overall presentation, which was absolutely fantastic. Lottie triumphed over stiff competition from 5 other schools from across the country.

Chaplaincy News

As we reach the end of the Summer term and holidays loom, there is much to look back on and be thankful for over the past year. This has still been a difficult and challenging year at times but it feels like we are rebuilding our community, rooted and grounded in our Christian ethos. Over the year we have unpacked what our ethos means, with a focus this term on living well together, diversity and inclusion. We have explored this through assemblies led by staff and students, through worship in form time and by re-establishing the rhythm of the year through services and events.

Looking back to Easter we celebrated the festival with communion services led by Revd Julia Wilkins and EllieMae Hebden from St George's Church in Leeds, with support from interns and students in their team. This was a great way of marking the season, with a focus on sacrifice as we remember all that Jesus has done for us.

On the first weekend of the Easter holidays students from across the year groups travelled to Marrick Priory in Swaledale, alongside teachers, Kim Lawrence from Leeds Faith in Schools (LFIS) and Ollie Greenfield from Missional Generation. It was so great to be going back again- for three year groups it was their first opportunity whilst for year 13 they finally got to return! It was a packed weekend of activities from canoeing to abseiling alongside discussing faith and worshipping together as well as relaxing and meeting new people. Our focus was the journey of Peter, from his first encounter with Jesus to meeting Jesus in the storm to restoration and healing after the resurrection. Students were asked to put themselves on the journey, from encounter to healing, and it was amazing to see the breadth of responses.

The faith and fellowship students experience at Marrick Priory is supported by the work of chaplaincy through a variety of lunchtime and other activities. It has been wonderful to see young people leading cell groups as once again students from different year groups are able to mix. With the support of LFIS and Missional Generation, as well as St Paul's Church, Ireland Wood, Rock Solid and Horizon are well established as places to make friends and play games; whilst drop ins and mentoring also provide safe places for students to be themselves. This term we have said goodbye to Ben Lawrence, who has moved into chaplaincy at a school in Bradford; his replacement Mark Atkins has quickly settled in and connected with students and staff alike.

During the term we have had a couple of projects running from chaplaincy which look at how we treat each other. The first was run by a charity called Tender who work with you people to educate to end abuse. Twenty-five year 9 students worked intensively for two days, learning a lot but also expressing how much they enjoyed expressing opinions and listening to others. At the end of the two days, they presented to the whole of year 8 with great confidence.

We also welcomed the Anne Frank Project into school. Twenty students from years 7 and 8 learned the story of Anne and her famous diary and how to present this to others. They then presented the story to every class in years 7 and 8 over three days. The team also had a day in school with a poet who helped them to reflect and respond to all they had learned. The students wrote some amazing spoken word pieces on prejudice and discrimination and the poet Matt said they were the best students he had ever worked with! Students gained confidence in presenting as well learning important ideas and many are planning to become ambassadors with the Anne Frank project going forward.

Chaplaincy News continued

It has been great to see the enthusiasm with which Abbey Grange students have embraced opportunities to get involved with fundraising again, from bun sales and competitions to sponge the teacher and non uniform days. Over the year students have raised over £6000 for more than 30 charities, from local to national to international. It is wonderful to see the generosity but also commitment and ingenuity students bring to helping others.

Marking key points in the year is always important so it was great to be able to hold a communion service on the final day before GCSEs formally started for year 11, with thanks to Revd Joanna Seabourne for presiding. In the final week of term, we will be holding Communion Services to celebrate all our community has achieved and experienced this year. We look forward to welcoming Revd Phil Arnold from Christ Church, Armley, Revd Chamil Fernando also from Christ Church and Revd Hannah Lievesley from St Chad's Far Headingley to celebrate with us.

May I wish you a safe and enjoyable Summer and every blessing as you spend time with your families. I look forward to working with you all again in the new term!

Kay Brown, Chaplain

Accelerated Reader Programme

A group of Year 7 & 8 students have been doing the Accelerated Reader programme for two mornings a week. I have been particularly impressed at the determination and commitment that these young people have shown to improve their literacy skills. Some of them have managed to read half a million words, or more, which is fantastic; including: Ash, Lucy, Firas, Asher and Jacob. The students who have impressed me the most over the last year are Veronica, Gracie, Annie, Dromor, Jordan and Mohammad.

Well done! Keep reading.

Mrs Hinchliffe

Galeena helpers

A big shout out to my fabulous dream team Galeena helpers who have been there on a regular basis to help with admin, stamping, stickering, sorting, shelving and tidying. I couldn't have done it without you! Many thanks to: Anabel, Eva, Lois, Naomi, Ava, Angel, Scarlett, Beth, Melaniia, Alesia, Lottie, Jacob, Liv and Jess.

Mrs Hinchliffe

Extra Curricular trips and activities

Having had limited opportunities to run extra-curricular clubs and activities for the past two years, this year we have worked hard to return to pre-covid levels. Across school, a total of 46 trips took place and were attended by a total of 4331 students. This number will increase further next year, with exciting trips such as skiing in Italy and the Year 8 France trip already organised.

Abbey Grange students are spoilt for choice when it comes to enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. 78 activities were held this year with 1418 students attending at least one club. Many attend several clubs. We are proud of this level of activity and how committed our students are to getting involved and following their passions. Hopefully, as the Abbey Character and pledges are further embedded, and with more opportunities to run lunchtime clubs, every single student will be a regular attendee at clubs!

Mr Golding

Sports Roundup!

Boys' Football

After a really successful season and fulfilling over 100 fixtures throughout the course of the year the boys football teams ended up in two finals (Year 9 and Year 10) in which both sides narrowly missed out in extra time and on penalties. We also had the Year 11 and Sixth form teams make it through to the cup semi-finals. We have also had 9 boys who have been offered Leeds City Boys trials this month.

Girls' Football

The season got off to a good start and we entered the U14 girls into the League where they came 5th out of 25 schools. The season will start in September, and we will now have an U12's, U14's and U16s team who have all been entered into the football league.

Cross Country

We have had successful cross-country season with our U13 girls winning the Leeds School league and U15 boys currently in second place in the team competition with one race to go.

Athletics

We have had an amazing athletics season commencing with the Leeds schools' athletics trials where six of our students were selected to represent Leeds schools. Four students progressed to the English Schools Athletics Championships. Jensina, Mehitabelle, Alice and Hillary were all amazing with Hillary being crowned fastest senior girl in the Country and Mehitabelle finishing second. In the team competitions we have had success at both local at national level. In the English schools' track and field cup both our inter boys and junior boys' teams won the West Yorkshire round and progressed to regional finals. In the Leeds school's athletics, we finished first with our inter boys, second with the inter boys and junior boys finishing third.

We have also had success in the individual races with 3 of our athletes; Philippa Year 11, Ben Year 10 and Talitha in Year 7 all selected to represent Leeds Schools in the West Yorkshire qualifier. Talitha had a great race and gained her a place on the West Yorkshire Schools Cross Country team.

Hilary (on left) and Mehitabelle (on right) celebrating recent sporting success.



Table Tennis

In table tennis we concluded an excellent season by winning the Leeds schools U15 league, beating Bishop Young C of E Academy and Dixons Academy in the grand final. In badminton both the U13 boys' and girls' teams reached the finals against GSAL with the boys narrowly missing out on victory.

Swimming

The under 13s and 15s swimming squad finished third in their pool at the Leeds Schools Swimming Gala which was held at The Grammar School at Leeds.

Sports Roundup! continued....

Tennis

We have also had our first season taking part in the Leeds schools tennis league with our U13 boys finishing in second place narrowly missing out to Roundhay School and the U13 girls finishing in third place.

Basketball

In basketball our amazing Year 7 team who are Leeds Schools Champions after winning the finals of the competition at Leeds Beckett University got through to the last eight of the Junior NBA Championships at Leeds Beckett where they finished as the third best team in Yorkshire.

Dance

Another successful year for all three dance teams at The Great Big Dance off. Dance teams have now been selected for next year's competitions and I am looking forward to entering them all into the local and National competitions and remaining in the top 3 schools across the North of England. We currently have 31 students who have signed up for a Major sporting even in July 2023 which will see students head down to the F1 Grand Prix to perform at one of the biggest dance movements in the UK.

Wimbledon 2022

We also took over 40 students to day 3 of Wimbledon in June which was a fantastic trip. We managed to watch lots of tennis on court 2 in the glorious sunshine including sixth seed Carlos Alcaraz who beat Tallon Griekspoor in straight sets to progress to the next round. We also took the opportunity to sit on the famous Murray Mount/Henman Hill to watch Britain's Cameron Norrie in his second-round match.

Womens' Euros Trip 2022

45 Students were taken to Old Trafford to watch the opening game of the Women's Euros 2022. This game saw England beat Austria 1-0 and what a fantastic opening and competitive game from beginning to end. Not only did we win but we also help beat the world record for the

greatest number of spectators at a female football game. We wish England all the best for the rest of the tournament, and we hope they bring the trophy home!



A Year in the Art Department

We've had another fantastic year in the Art department where students from all years have worked incredibly hard to develop their creativity and technical art skills. This year saw the return of external moderation at GCSE and A-level and both visiting moderators were complimentary about the range and standard of artwork seen. It was a real pleasure to have Ofsted in the department over the two-day inspection so that they could see all the hard work the students put into their work and the pride they have in it. We were actually sad to see them leave as we had so many amazing classes and work to show them that they didn't get chance to see!

Art Story 2 - A Level Art and Photography Exhibition

On Wednesday 13th July our Year 12 Art and Photography students hosted our annual summer exhibition and did an amazing job doing so, hanging the work, organising the music, designing the promotional materials and the ordering the refreshments. The night was a huge success with lots of parents/carers and staff commenting on the standard of work.

ARTiculation

This year was our first where all Year 12 Art and Photography students competed in the ARTiculation Prize, a competition run by The Roche Court Educational Trust which aims to foster students' passion for the creative arts whilst developing their public speaking and critical thinking skills. Hannah won our internal heat and progressed through to the regional final at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester where she spoke with great passion and personal insight into her chosen piece, Jewel Changi by pioneering architect Moshe Safdie. Sadly, Hannah didn't progress to the final but performed immensely and did herself and the school extremely proud.

Discover ARTiculation

Although our luck was out in the post-16 competition, we were quite rightly rewarded in the KS4 edition of the ARTiculation Prize, Discover ARTiculation. We had two amazing

Year 10 students in the final, Ingny and Lottie, and it was Lottie who claimed first prize for her presentation of Paula Modersohn-Becker's painting 'Self Portrait with Two Flowers Raised in Her Left Hand, 1907'. Professor Abigail Harrison Moore, Professor of Art History and Museum Studies at the University of Leeds, said "Both girls were impressive yesterday, and I loved Lottie's approach. I particularly loved the way she looked across both classical and Egyptian art when exploring the history of representations of beauty and then brought it bang up to date with her references to Jenny Saville and Love Island. Please encourage her to go forward with her feminist approach to art history."

Liverpool Gallery Visits

We are proud that we were the first department to take students on an educational visit post lockdown, visiting The Walker Art Gallery, World Museum and Tate Liverpool. The trip was a huge success and provided students with a fantastic opportunity to see live art and photograph the iconic city as well as getting to know each other.

A few thanks

As Subject Leader I would like to say a few thanks to important people who have contributed massively to the success of the department. Firstly, the students – thank you for your positivity and commitment this year. Secondly, Mr Owen, Mrs Onuorah and Mrs McCulloch for contributing to the teaching of Year 7 with such passion and enthusiasm. Thirdly, our ITT students Miss Price and Miss Tremble. I wish you all the best in your future careers. Next, Miss Horsefield and Miss Renavent for your technical support and willingness to put up with my requests, often very last minute. It is very much appreciated. Finally, and by no means least, Mrs Bose. The drive you have to make our department even better is inspiring. The World Reimagined project has been brilliant and I'm sure will leave a great legacy across the school, not just in art.

Mr McGinty

Geography Trips

Year 9 Rivers trips

All GCSE geography students in year 9 completed a day of fieldwork in North Yorkshire on a tributary of the river Wharfe. They worked in groups to collect data by measuring the width and depth at 3 locations further downstream. With a few soggy feet as water went over wellies they preserved through to collect accurate data. Back in the classroom we then began to present and analyse our data to prepare us for questions on paper 3 of the GCSE. There was even time to enjoy an ice cream or two.



Year 10 Urban regeneration in Manchester

Year 10 embarked on their urban adventure to gather data on how regeneration had improved various sites in Manchester City centre. Students worked on field sketch skills as they critique the impact of various schemes. Mr Holden provided a wealth of knowledge as we wandered through the city. Students made the most of GIS technology too to capture spatially



located data using Arch GIS which we then collected and layered on our return to the classroom. Students (and staff) also made the most of being spoilt for choice with our lunch options.

Year 8 Peak District trip

Over 2 days we took 100 eager year 8 students to explore the impacts of tourism in the Peak District. Students embraced their resilience as we started off with a steep walk to the top of Stanage Edge to admire the power of Glaciation in carving out the U shaped valley in which sits Hope Valley and the settlement of Castleton (which we would visit later in the day). Students developed their field sketch skills and completed environmental quality surveys. We also detoured via Ladybower Reservoir to give students a sense of the imposing scale of dams to bring to life our recent lessons on the mighty Three Gorges Dam.



Year 12 A Level Geography London trip June 2022

This year we took a group of Year 12 A Level Geographers to London for a day to look at regeneration of the city. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students as they were able to experience a day out in London going to a range of places that you would not normally go see on a day trip to the Capital.

The day started with a 9:15am train from Leeds train station to King Cross (thankfully we missed the rail strikes of the week before), the students then took the lead (with some help from staff) at planning our trip around London to visit a range of sights.

The first stop was the Olympic Park, we took them on the first of our underground trips for the day to see how the area has changed considering what the site was and how it has changed since the Olympics finished. A quick trip on the DLR took us to our next stop via Canary Wharfe, before another underground change to the O2 Arena, here students had another chance to look at the regeneration of the site and also a quick bite to eat.



Back on the underground and back to Canary Wharfe, this gave students a bit more time to take in the sights whilst considering the regeneration of the Docklands site and be able to experience one of the case studies we teach in year 13 Geography. At this point the staff took over a little bit with directions because we were keen to try out the new Crossrail Elizabeth line, I have to admit that compared to the old underground trains the new ones are an air-conditioned marvel.

The next stop was the old Battersea Power Station, a building that pretty much all of our Year 12 students thought was pretty ugly, the standout comment being "It looks like they have just stuck a greenhouse on top of an old power station". I'm not sure that the developers will be using that quote to sell the £18million penthouses. The students however loved the feel of the outdoor space and how social it was, I think by this

point in the day the students were really starting to see the contrast of different regeneration projects across London and how different spaces have their own function and attract people for different reasons. The final stop was back to Kings Cross, but this time we had the students exploring the area around the station, this gave them the opportunity to see how this site has become a social hub of bars, restaurants, offices and even gave them to chance to sit and watch some of the classic 80s film *The Goonies* at an open- air cinema.

The train to Leeds arrived at 21:45, a long day for our Geographers but a day that gave them time to look at the human Geography units of the A Level course, Changing Places, Global Systems and Global Governance, and Contemporary Urban Environments whilst developing further fieldwork skills. I think that the pandemic has shown that whilst a lot of Geography is theory based, there is no substitute to getting out of the classroom and seeing the world around us and taking in the Geography first hand, something that all of can do no matter the c0ity, town, village, river, coasts, mountain or lake that we visit.

NOT FEELING RIGHT?

YOU ARE NOT
A L O N E

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?

Talk to an adult in school you feel
comfortable & **confident** speaking to.
Speak to someone at home
you trust.

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