

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025



## Inside the Newsletter

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Key Dates                  | 02    |
| Principal's Welcome        | 02-03 |
| Staffing News              | 04    |
| Chaplaincy News            | 05    |
| End of Term & Exam Results | 06-07 |
| National Theatre           | 08    |
| Global Learning Awards     | 09    |
| Culture Day                | 10    |
| News, Events and Trips     | 11-16 |
| Sport News                 | 17-18 |
| Student News & PTA         | 19    |
| Careers                    | 20-22 |
| Notices                    | 23-24 |

## HIGHLIGHTS

Staff and Student Success

---

Trips and Events

---

National Theatre Connections

---

Global Learning Awards

---

Culture Day

---



In Partnership to  
**Educate, Nurture & Empower**

01

# START OF TERM 2025-26

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September    | Staff Training (School closed)                |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September   | School open for Year 7 only                   |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September | School open for Year 7 and Year 11 only       |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September  | School open for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 only |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September    | Y12 New to Abbey Grange students start        |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September    | All Year 12 students start                    |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September   | Year 13 Students start                        |

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

We call this term the Koinonia Term which I've explained before in this newsletter is a Christian word meaning the participation or shared experience among individuals, often within a Christian community. And that's what this term is about. Coming together and sharing and celebrating experiences together.

We've had Proms for Y11 and Y13, Leaver's Assemblies, nearly the whole of Y7 are on a camping trip as I write this newsletter, our biggest ever Summer Concert was just last week, over 500 students went on a rewards trip a few weeks ago, all of Y7 went on a pilgrimage to Kirkstall Abbey last week, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have taken more students than ever, Culture Day, Theatre Trips, Y12 Mock Interviews, Geography field trips, the largest ever French Trip (with the shared experience of coming back late through the night!), we've had communion services all this week for all year groups, we've welcomed our new Y6s, our new Y12s and given Y10 a taste of our sixth form and the world of work with our Enterprise Day on Thursday - and we've had so much success this term with Dance National Finals, Cricket, Rugby, Football, Total Warrior, Drama National Theatre, Global Justice Awards, Sustainability Awards, Careers Awards, Art Articulation Finals and so many individual students achieving successes outside of the academy in athletics, martial arts, dance, etc., there's just too many for me to list here.

This is what Abbey Grange is about and where our mission to follow Jesus' example to "give life in all its fullness" underpins the education we think students need to live purposeful lives.

*Continued on next page*

This academic year, after 3 years of hard work from staff in the academy, we achieved accreditation as an Oracy Centre of Excellence. For me, this award sums up what we are trying to do in preparing students for later life. The ability to communicate well through talk, to be confident orators, to get involved in discussions, to disagree, to agree, to compromise, to collaborate and to be able to calmly express your own opinions with passion and enthusiasm. This award confirms that this is going on in classrooms across the academy and is the foundation of what we do. I would like to congratulate the staff of Abbey Grange on achieving the award and the students who demonstrate all this oracy whenever we were visited to assess us as a centre. Well done everyone!

So, if we have all these opportunities and experiences to get out of your comfort zone above, to get students off phones and to try lots of different things out - and then we add in opportunities to use oracy skills in lessons - and then we add the amazing attendance of our students which is in the Top 10% of the country and the huge success of our school results - then this shows that we really are preparing the full child. But in this mix also are our students and our families. This is what koinonia is really about. Because you are doing so much of this at home as well, because you get your children to try out new opportunities, or get them involved in dance or theatre or athletics or Thai boxing, because you are talking to them at home and getting them to use those oracy skills - this gives us these incredible students to work with. So, a huge thank you to our families for such a successful year at Abbey. And a huge thank you to the amazing students who get stuck into whatever life throws at them (whether it's arriving back from a French Trip at 6am or coming to school at the start of the year in -11 degrees or sitting over 25 exams in Y11...) and they do so with a smile on their face and an ability to pick themselves up when they fall.

I hope everyone has a fantastic summer. Good luck to our Y11s and Y13s getting their exam results. And we'll see you all in September for another fantastic year.



**Mr Prinsep**



## MR DIXON

Mr Dixon has been a member of our Senior Leadership Team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead since joining us in September 2018. Mr Dixon has decided to step down from this position but, luckily for us, stay on in school as one of our teachers. Mr Dixon has a young family and with his son joining the academy in September, wants to focus on family time and being a teacher. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is probably the most important job in schools at this time and with a school as big as Abbey Grange, the safeguarding of nearly 1,700 students is a huge job. Mr Dixon has been a warm, personable, approachable, kind, positive and caring member of our Senior Leadership Team and I know how much his calm presence has meant to some of our most vulnerable students or our families in need. It is great he is staying in the building and we can still access his wisdom as we transition to a new DSL in September. I would like to publicly acknowledge the huge job he has done over the last 7 years and thank him on behalf of our families, students and staff.

# STAFFING UPDATE - LEAVERS & STARTERS

As always, there are staff who are leaving us this year to go on to next steps in their career or lives, and we've recruited some new staff who will be starting with us in September.

## LEAVERS

**Miss Harman** has been with us for two years as our Subject Leader for DT. We would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last two years and the impact she has had on staff and students at the academy.

**Mrs Solentini** joined us in September 2022 as our Subject Leader for MFL and actually moved to a part time position at another school at the end of that academic year. She stayed on with us as teacher of MFL for two days a week to support our A Level Spanish students and we'd like to thank her for doing this for the last two years. We wish her well in her next endeavours.

**Mr Sancho-Fibla** has been with us since March 2021 and has taught students maths at all levels and abilities for the last 4 years at Abbey. He has also just completed a Masters in Maths and is heading on to a Sixth Form College in the next step in his career. We wish him all the best.

**Mr Balmforth** has been an essential member of our Site Team for the last 8 years and was part of the team that kept the site clean, open and safe throughout the Covid pandemic and through various building projects. Chris is retiring this year but I'd like to thank him for his significant service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

**Mrs Scarlett** has been our Head of Social Sciences since September 2016 and also a parent at Abbey Grange. Her calm, positive presence and above and beyond manner has been essential in some of our most popular subjects with many of our sixth formers. Students, staff and families will be sad to see her go as she embarks on the next steps of her career.

**Mrs Spence** has been part of the Sixth Form Team for over 15 years and has seen 1000s of students come through our Post 16 provision and on to the first steps in their post-school life. We would like to recognise her significant length of service and wish her well in her retirement.

## NEW STARTERS

**Mrs Slater** will be joining us as a Part-Time Teacher of Social Sciences and will replace the teaching hours vacated by Mrs Scarlett. Mrs Winterburn will be taking on the role of Subject Lead for the Social Sciences.

**Mrs Benson** will be joining the academy as a Vice Principal for Safeguarding and Inclusion. This means that we will now have a second Vice Principal (Mrs Morgan is our Vice Principal for Quality of Education) and Mrs Benson will also be taking on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead from Mr Dixon - as well as supporting Mrs Hadley, our SENDCO, with our growing number of students needing SEN Support. It's worth noting that our SEND Cohort has grown by 5 times in the last 2 years as we have become a school of excellence recommended by the local authority. The Vice Principal Inclusion role will also oversee other vulnerable groups which have also grown such as students with English as an Additional Language, Pupil Premium and other students who may need support so they can be just as successful as the rest of our students - and get all the opportunities they get too. Mrs Benson is an ex-student too so totally gets what the school is about and is an exciting addition to our senior team. We warmly welcome her to the Abbey Grange family.



# CHAPLAINCY

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 is brought together in our final week with our end of year communion services. We are excited to have new students involved in our worship group who will be leading our worship in the services and to be welcoming Revd June Cockburn (St Mary The Virgin, Beeston) and Revd Bev Monck (St Paul's, Ireland Wood) who will be leading our services this week.

Last week we welcomed back the Anne Frank Project into school. Twenty-three students from Year 8 learned the story of Anne and her famous diary and then wrote their own scripts to tell the story. They then presented to every class in Year 7, showing confidence and empathy as they explained their learning. As including and valuing everyone has been at the heart of our worship this half term, it was great to hear students articulate the need to end all discrimination. Older ambassadors from Year 9 have been into a local primary school to tell the story of Anne Frank and to encourage students to develop empathy and tolerance for others who may be different to them.



We are also excited that three of our year 12 students have been selected to be part of the Rotary Young Leaders Award, another great achievement to empower our leaders of the future.

As well as connecting community organisations with the school, chaplaincy is a great place for students to connect and it has been great to see so many students involved in chaplaincy this year, connecting at different times during the week. This couldn't happen without the wonderful work of our Peer Leaders, who give their time and creativity to welcome younger students and help them grow in both confidence and faith. Thank you so much to you all!

There is much to be thankful for and much to pray into as we go to holidays and prepare for the new term in September. A note about our Praying Parents group: look out for information in September but we are planning to meet (either in person or join us online) once every half term between 8 and 8.30am so i hope many of you will be able to join us. May you have a restful summer and enjoy time with friends and family. Thank you to you for all your support.

**Mrs Brown, Chaplain**



# END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

**The last day of term for students is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July;** this is a non-uniform day which will end at 12.20pm.

Non-uniform days are an opportunity for students to dress in their own style, whilst maintaining appropriate standards for school, and raise money for good causes. This very much fits with thinking beyond ourselves and giving to those less fortunate. As such we are again asking for donations for the Disasters Emergency Committee, who fund aid to people affected by both conflicts and natural disasters, working across religious and ethnic divides. Please pay £1 on ParentPay to support this initiative.



**The early finish means that students will finish school at 12.20pm and the buses will leave at 12.30pm.**

## YEAR 9 CHANGES

As your child moves into Key Stage 4, Mrs McDonagh will be co-leading the year group with Miss Moore. Mrs McDonagh has significant experience of supporting students through their GCSE years, and we are very excited by the appointment of Miss Moore, who brings a breadth of experience working with SEND students. We are conscious that some of our students may feel anxious about Mr Williams moving away from the year group, but would like to reassure you that he is very much staying with us and will be leading the new Year 7s from September.

We would like to wish Mr Williams a fabulous time with his family, as he embarks upon a period of paternity leave, before starting the Summer holidays.

### **New Contact Details**

Mrs Heather McDonagh (Year Manager): [hmcdonagh@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:hmcdonagh@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

Miss Shona Moore (Year Manager): [smoore@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:smoore@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

Mr Barry Rothera (Achievement Director: Key Stage 4): [brothera@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:brothera@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

# PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR RESULTS DAY

**A Level Results Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August** school will be open for students to collect their results from 8:00 until 11.00 from the Hibret Hall via the Sixth Form Entrance. The Sixth Form Team will be on hand to celebrate and offer help for next steps.

**GCSE Results Day – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August** school will be open for students to collect their results from 9:00 until 11.00 in the Hibret Hall via the Sixth Form Entrance in the lower carpark. Following the collection of results, all students are expected to go to room 70 to enrol into our sixth form or to have a leaver's interview with Mrs Laudau. This is so that we can ensure that every student has a destination in September. The exams team will also be on hand in room 72.

Results Day can be a stressful time for both students and parents. To help navigate this period, parents can;

- stay calm and provide emotional reassurance
- offer practical help with research
- encourage open communication and discuss potential next steps
- be prepared for various outcomes, including the possibility of needing to explore alternative options
- Plan something fun to do after results are collected to help shift the focus from stress to celebration.

## SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Take a look at our Sixth Form Blog to see what's been happening this term

**READ NOW**



If your child is joining our Sixth Form in September - make sure to follow us on social media!



[Abbey Grange Sixth Form on Facebook](#)



[Abbey Grange Sixth Form on Instagram](#)



# NATIONAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Abbey Grange students ranging from Year 10 – Year 13 performed 'Mia and the Fish' by Satinder Chohan on the Dorfman Stage, at the National Theatre in London. This was part of the National Theatre's UK wide Youth Festival called NT Connections. Every year around 270 youth groups and schools take part, and only ten transfer to the National Theatre...and this year, we are one of those lucky ten!

The cast, student director and student technician have been working on this new play commissioned for NT Connections since October, with an exceptional performance at York Theatre Royal in March. Along the way we have had workshops with Directors and Movement Coaches from the National and the students have grasped all these opportunities with both hands. Getting to perform at the National Theatre is such a huge achievement that journalists from ITV Calendar News, The Stage Magazine and BBC Radio Leeds have interviewed those involved to showcase the amazing work happening at Abbey Grange.

Not only has this opportunity developed the cast's performance skills, but it has also given them the experience of working in a theatre from taking part in professional workshops to interacting with industry professionals.

I am so unbelievably proud of the hard work and dedication shown by these students, and the incredible performance they delivered at the National Theatre. As always, they went above and beyond and blew the audience away!





# GLOBAL LEARNING AWARDS

We are thrilled to share that Abbey Grange has been nominated in three categories for the prestigious Leeds Global Learning Awards 2025, recognising our long-standing commitment to global justice, inclusion, and sustainability in education.

## **Global Justice Learning Award - Highly Commended**

Nominated by Horsforth Town of Sanctuary, this award recognises our sustained work around themes of welcome, sanctuary, migration, and challenging global inequalities — including climate justice — particularly through our PSHCE curriculum. We are proud to have embedded these vital issues into students' learning and worldviews over many years.

## **Decolonising the Curriculum Award - Commended**

This nomination acknowledges our efforts to support Schools of Sanctuary in actively challenging colonial narratives and ensuring that our curriculum and library reflect the diverse identities and histories of all our students. Through inclusive resources and conscious curriculum choices, we continue to make space for every voice and story.

## **Climate Learning Award - Commended**

This award celebrates our integrated approach to climate education across subjects, as well as our practical commitment to sustainability, including the restoration of the school allotment. By combining classroom learning with real-world action, we aim to inspire environmental stewardship in our students.

These nominations and commendations are a testament to the hard work and vision of staff and students across the school. They highlight Abbey Grange's dedication to preparing young people to be thoughtful, informed, and compassionate global citizens.



# CELEBRATING CULTURE DAY

Abbey Grange came alive with colour, creativity, and community spirit as we celebrated our annual Culture Day — a much-loved event that brings our school together to recognise and celebrate the rich cultural diversity within our community.

The day was packed with activities designed to promote learning, connection, and fun. Across the school, students took part in a bake sale, form-time quizzes, and a school-wide shared reading of a powerful text that explored our differences — but more importantly, what unites us. In Years 7 and 8, students created vibrant posters showcasing the many cultures represented at Abbey Grange. As they explored these displays, students filled in their very own Abbey Grange Passports with facts and knowledge about countries and traditions from around the world. Each student also had the opportunity to place a pin on a world map to mark their own cultural heritage — a powerful and visual celebration of our global school family.

Throughout the day, every year group attended an assembly full of energy and talent, featuring singing, dancing, quizzes, a fashion show, and a whole lot of joy. These performances reminded us not just of our cultural differences, but of how much we can share and celebrate together.

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 12 students, who planned and ran the day with passion, organisation, and maturity — they were fantastic role models of Abbey Character in action.

And a special shout-out to our Year 10 dancers, who have performed in every Culture Day since it began four years ago. Their commitment, talent and hours of rehearsal always light up the stage — and in two years, they'll be taking on the role of organisers themselves. We can't wait to see what they bring to Culture Day 2027!

Thank you to everyone who took part — a day of pride, learning and unity that reminds us what makes Abbey Grange so special.





# 'LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ' PROJECT

This year, six Abbey Grange Sixth Form students took part in the prestigious Lessons from Auschwitz project, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Their involvement went beyond participation—they became ambassadors for Holocaust education in our school.

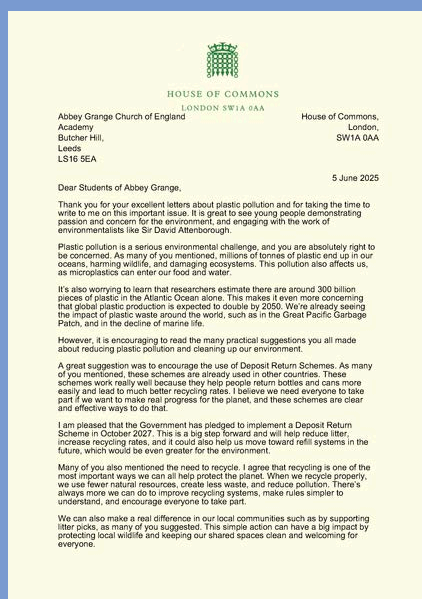
As part of the programme, they attended reflective workshops, visited Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and heard directly from a Holocaust survivor, gaining powerful personal insights. Back at school, they led reflective lessons for Year 9 students, exploring the human impact of the Holocaust and its relevance today. They also organised a witness testimony event, where the son of a survivor shared their family's story—an unforgettable experience for all involved.

The students later represented Abbey Grange at the national Ambassadors Conference in London, sharing ideas with peers on how to promote Holocaust awareness. Their leadership and compassion have had a lasting impact on our school community. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to remembrance and education.



## LETTER FROM OUR MP

Y8s recently wrote letters to our MP, Alex Sobel, with their concerns about the environment, following a scheme of forensic reading that we did looking at David Attenborough's interview on 'Scourge of the oceans'. They expressed their environmental concerns and possible solutions as to what we can be doing here in Leeds, to secure a brighter future. I'm delighted to announce that Alex Sobel replied and was very impressed with our students and their ideas- one of which is due to come into fruition in October 2025: a Deposit Return Scheme!



Read the reply from Alex Sobel MP on our website:

[www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk/news/letter-from-our-mp](http://www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk/news/letter-from-our-mp)



# YEAR 7 PILGRIMAGE TO KIRKSTALL ABBEY

## *A reflective journey to end the year*

This summer term, all Year 7 students took part in a meaningful pilgrimage to Kirkstall Abbey, marking the end of their first year at Abbey Grange with reflection, prayer, and a deeper understanding of faith in action.

The pilgrimage is designed to:

- Encourage understanding of the concept of pilgrimage
- Offer a reflective and prayerful activity at the close of Year 7
- Inspire awe through the natural world and places of worship
- Support the development of character and spiritual awareness



Taking place on Thursday 10th July, students walked in form groups from Abbey Grange, stopping at a number of local places of worship including St Andrew's C of E, the Catholic Church of the Assumption, St Mary's, and West Park URC. Each group visited one church on the way to Kirkstall Abbey and another on the return journey, ensuring that all students experienced both a Church of England church and a church from another denomination.

At each stopping point, students used their Pilgrimage Passport to reflect on their journey – thinking about the act of walking, the significance of sacred spaces, and their own spiritual growth.

The pilgrimage included a picnic lunch in the beautiful surroundings of Kirkstall Abbey, where LFIS led a time of worship for all groups together.

It was a powerful and memorable day, offering students a chance to pause, reflect, and connect with their faith, one another, and the wider world. We are excited to be leading Abbey Grange pilgrimages to Lindisfarne (Holy Island in Northumberland) and Spain in the next academic year.

# YEAR 8 FRENCH TRIP

What do 143 excited Year 8 students, 14 tireless staff, and one beautiful French chateau have in common? A 4 day adventure packed with learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Our French trip was an incredible experience from start to finish. Students explored the delights of local culture, from visiting a snail farm (with some brave taste-testers!) to indulging their sweet tooth at a chocolate factory. A trip to a traditional French market gave them the chance to put their language skills to the test with a €5 challenge: buy the most French lunch you can! Baguettes, cheese, pastries, mussels and more were proudly presented.

We also took time to reflect on history with a moving visit to the Somme battlefields and museum, helping students connect with the past in a powerful way. There was also time for fun in the sun with a beach trip, a little shopping, and evenings filled with campfire gatherings, a lively disco, and our very own Mini Olympics, all set in the stunning grounds of a French château.

Despite a long wait at Calais on the journey home, our students showed how great they are, a true display of their Abbey Character. They supported each other, listened well, and stayed positive throughout, representing the school brilliantly. Staff, as ever, went above and beyond to make the trip safe, meaningful, and memorable.

It was a week full of new experiences, personal growth, and shared memories — a trip none of us will ever forget.





# CHEMISTRY TRIP

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 60 AS level chemistry students travelled to York University to carry out a synthesis of aspirin. They then purified and analysed their product, using equipment we don't have access to in school. Students worked in the undergraduate laboratories and got a real taste of practical science in a university environment. There was an added bonus of completing a required practical all in one day which is almost impossible within a school timetable. The students enjoyed the day- although they were very tired by the time we got back to Leeds- and we were grateful for the opportunity to show them what a real laboratory looks like!

## YEAR 10 SOLAR RESEARCH PROJECT

This term, our Year 10 students took on an exciting research project exploring the viability of solar panels for UK households. Blending scientific inquiry, real-world data analysis, and persuasive communication, the project culminated in professional presentations that highlighted both academic rigour and growing oracy skills.

As a Voice 21 Oracy School, we're proud to embed oracy in our curriculum, and this project was a perfect example. Working in pairs, students assessed whether solar panels would be a worthwhile investment for a chosen property. Using tools like Google Earth and the EU's PVGIS calculator, they analysed energy output, installation costs, and long-term savings.

Each group presented their findings with confidence, combining PowerPoint visuals with clear verbal delivery. From roof angles to return on investment, students showed a strong grasp of the science and economics behind renewable energy.

The project also had a careers focus, introducing students to opportunities in the green economy, engineering, and sustainability. Many discovered new career paths they hadn't considered before.

More than just a science project, this was a powerful example of how oracy, critical thinking, and real-world relevance can inspire future change-makers.

Well done, Year 10—you've truly energised our school community!





# YEAR 7 BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE

This term, 194 intrepid Year 7 students swapped classrooms for campfires on an unforgettable overnight Bushcraft trip to Castle Howard, York.

Set against the stunning backdrop of ancient woodlands and open fields, students immersed themselves in outdoor life — building shelters, lighting fires, cooking meals from scratch, and even learning how to navigate using just a map and compass. Phones were swapped for flint stones, and fast food for foraged feasts!

Evening brought the real magic: stories around the campfire, team challenges, toasted marshmallows, and sleeping under the stars (or at least in tents!). For many, it was their first night away from home in such a setting — and they rose to the challenge brilliantly.

Throughout the trip, students consistently demonstrated Abbey Character: resilience in the face of mud and tiredness, belief and excellence in learning new skills, and above all, benevolence and leadership as they supported one another through every task.

The staff were hugely impressed with the maturity and enthusiasm shown by every student. It was a fantastic opportunity for Year 7 to bond, grow in confidence, and step a little outside their comfort zones — all while making lasting memories in the great outdoors.

We are so proud of Year 7 and all they have achieved this year - and can't wait to see you all continue to grow and develop with us at Abbey Grange.



# FLAMINGO LAND REWARDS TRIP

What better way to celebrate a fantastic year than with a day of thrills, laughter, and sunshine. Over 500 students from Years 7 to 10 were treated to a rewards trip to Flamingo Land, recognising their excellent attitude, effort, and behaviour throughout the year.

This trip wasn't just about fun (though there was plenty of that!) — it was also a celebration of the Abbey Character our students show every day. Their aspiration, benevolence, believe, excellence and youth leadership earned them this opportunity, and their behaviour on the day made us proud. Staff commented on how polite, thoughtful, and supportive students were — not just with each other, but with members of the public too.



Thank you to all the staff who helped make the day run so smoothly, and a huge well done to every student who earned their place. You deserved it!

## YEAR 12 COMMUNITY SERVICE

This term, a group of committed Year 12 students have completed over 20 hours of school community service — an outstanding contribution that reflects the very best of our Abbey Character values.

Their efforts have made a real difference across the school. Whether supporting in lessons, mentoring younger students, helping to organise and run Culture Day, or quietly working behind the scenes, they've demonstrated responsibility, empathy, and leadership. Many have taken initiative, volunteering their time and skills to enrich the school community — and their impact has not gone unnoticed.

This programme doesn't just benefit others — it also provides huge value to the students themselves. By stepping up and getting involved, they develop key qualities such as communication, teamwork, and initiative — all of which greatly strengthen personal statements, CVs, and university or apprenticeship applications. More importantly, it fosters a deep sense of social responsibility and connection with their school community.

We're proud of every student who has embraced this opportunity, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to lead, support, and inspire in the year ahead.



## GIRLS TOUCH RUGBY

This term has been nothing short of incredible for our Year 7/8 Girls Touch Rugby team. From early training sessions to national-level competition, our players have shown outstanding commitment, teamwork, and passion for the sport.

**Regional Champions** - The highlight of the term was undoubtedly winning the Try Touch Rugby Regional Finals. Our team played with confidence, skill, and great sportsmanship – earning their place among the best in the country.

**5th in the Nationals** - Representing the school at the National Finals, our pupils competed against top teams from across the country – including strong sides from London and Newcastle. The standard was incredibly high, but our team held their own and earned a 5th place finish overall. Competing against the best of the best, they made us incredibly proud with their performance, spirit, and determination.

**Rising Stars** - A huge congratulations to three of our players who have now been selected for the Centre of Excellence for Touch Rugby – an amazing opportunity and a well-deserved recognition of their talent!

**A Word from the coach** - *"This group has blown me away with their progress this year. They've set the bar high, and I can't wait to see what we achieve next year."*



## DANCE FINALS

We had a fantastic day at the Great Big Dance Off National finals today in Cheltenham. The students were fantastic and were a real credit, showing lots of Abbey character. They came 6th today out of 20 schools competing in the KS3 finals. Overall there was a total of 320 entries into the competition across the country so a brilliant achievement. A massive well done and thank you to Rebecca for all of her hard work choreographing and supporting students with hours of rehearsals and to Jenny Outhwaite for all of her support with the competitions.





## BOYS RUGBY

Year 8 & Year 9 Boys Making Big Strides on the Rugby Field!

We're incredibly proud of our Year 8 and Year 9 Rugby League teams who recently competed in the Sky 9's Tournament – and what a performance they gave!

Our **Year 8s** showed real grit and determination, battling hard against some tough opposition. Their commitment to training has been outstanding – a true credit to their character and team spirit. More boys than ever are now playing club rugby outside of school, which is a fantastic sign of their growing passion and talent for the sport. The future is bright for this team!

The **Year 9 squad** also did us proud. They were incredibly unlucky not to qualify for the top tier of the competition, but showed their class by reaching the Plate Final, where they narrowly missed out against a strong Garforth side. Their teamwork, skill, and fighting spirit were on full display and speak volumes about their progress and potential.

## ATHLETICS

Having qualified in our athletics pool at Leeds Beckett our Junior Girls, Junior Boys and Inter Boys were successful in securing their place in the Leeds School Athletics finals. The excitement was palpable as athletes from across the city gathered for the highly anticipated Finals held on 1<sup>st</sup> July at John Charles Stadium. The afternoon was filled with outstanding performances, fierce competition, and inspiring sportsmanship, showcasing the very best of our local talent. Multiple personal bests were recorded across disciplines, demonstrating the progress and dedication of all competitors.

We are thrilled to announce that Raf Mirfin, Evie Hodgkinson and Ruth Friend have qualified for the prestigious English Schools Finals after an outstanding performance at the regional qualifiers. Our athletes showcased incredible talent, determination, and teamwork across a range of events, securing their place among the best young competitors in the country. This achievement reflects months of hard work, dedication, congratulations and we wish them the best of luck.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following students who have completed exams in foreign languages

**Polish** - Oliwia J, Diana S, Zuzanna K, Tomasz M, Adach N

**Russian** - Alice N, Melaniia A, Pavel G

**Arabic** - Qais H, Hammam H, Remas Al T,

**Japanese** - Kenji B

**Panjabi** - Gursimran D



## STAFF NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Pennwood on the birth of her baby boy in April

Congratulations to Mr Williams and his partner on the birth of their baby girl in July

Congratulations to Mr Banks and his partner on the birth of their baby boy in July

Congratulations to Mrs Bailey who is now a Local Preacher.

## PTA NEWS



We would just like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed, donated, volunteered at the PTA events held over the school year. **We have raised close to £3000 which is absolutely fantastic!!!** The money we have raised has gone back into school to support students and staff.

We have been able to purchase several visualisers for classrooms, Lego Spike Kits, a Fibre Optic Curtain for the SEND Department, buy supplies for the school production, Scientific calculators, fund some of the Marrick Priory Trip, Badges for the Y7 Pilgrimage, Fund the Post 16 Thackeray Medical Museum trip, buy some hoodies for Mia and the Fish, send some care packages, and buy some prom dresses

Again, thank you all for your kindness and support, we could not run the PTA without you. We look forward to working with you next year.

We hope you all have a lovely summer time!

Abbey Grange PTA

# CAREERS & ENRICHMENT

## UCAS FAIR

In June, our Year 12 students attended the UCAS Discovery Fair at Leeds Beckett University. It's a valuable opportunity to explore their options after sixth form.

The event brought together a wide range of universities, including the University of Leeds, Newcastle University, Manchester Metropolitan, and the University of Sheffield. Apprenticeship providers and gap year organisations were also on hand, giving students a broad view of the different pathways available.

Students were able to ask questions about courses, entry requirements, and student life, helping them gain a clearer understanding of what to expect and how to make informed choices. There were also useful talks on writing personal statements and preparing for university. It was a worthwhile visit, and students came away feeling more confident and inspired about their next steps.

## YEAR 12 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Our Year 12 students certainly impressed during their recent interviews with Leeds Beckett Student Ambassadors. The sessions provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in meaningful dialogue and present themselves in a professional context.

Their oracy skills were particularly outstanding, they spoke with confidence, clarity and purpose, demonstrating the ability to express their ideas thoughtfully and effectively. It was evident that they had prepared well and were keen to make a strong impression.

In addition to their excellent verbal communication, the students also displayed a range of other valuable qualities. They worked collaboratively, showing teamwork and mutual support, and demonstrated resilience and critical thinking when responding to challenging questions and scenarios.

Overall, the interviews were a brilliant showcase of the talent and potential within our Year 12 cohort. We are extremely proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and thrive.



# CAREERS & ENRICHMENT

## ASDA - HIDDEN CAREERS - YOUNG LEADERS COMPETITION

We're delighted to share that a group of our Year 9 students have won the Teamwork Award 2025 in this year's Asda Futures Programme Competition!

As part of the programme, students explored a range of hidden careers within Asda – including product design, marketing, logistics, finance, and sustainability. Working alongside professionals, they followed the full "concept to shelf" journey, developing key employability skills such as teamwork, confidence, and public speaking.



Their challenge was to design a new vegan product for Asda's Exceptional Range. Their innovative idea – a vegan cheesecake – stood out for its creativity and the thoughtful approach behind it, including sustainability, ethical sourcing, and in-store marketing. Thanks to their impressive collaboration and presentation, the team were awarded the Teamwork Award – a fantastic achievement and a proud moment for our school.

Students were able to ask questions about courses, entry requirements, and student life, helping them gain a clearer understanding of what to expect and how to make informed choices. There were also useful talks on writing personal statements and preparing for university. It was a worthwhile visit, and students came away feeling more confident and inspired about their next steps.

## QUEEN MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

We were pleased to welcome representatives from Queen Mary University of London, who delivered an insightful session to our Year 12 aspiring medics.

The talk gave a realistic overview of the competitive application process and offered valuable tips on writing strong personal statements, highlighting key qualities like empathy, resilience, and teamwork.

Students also learned about the importance of work experience, the role of the UCAT, and what it's like to study and live in London—including managing finances in the capital. It was an eye-opening session that helped students make informed decisions and showcased their curiosity, maturity, and ambition.



# CAREERS & ENRICHMENT

## LEEDS BECKETT VISIT

On the 10th and 11th of June, all of our Year 9 students took part in an exciting visit to Leeds Beckett University to gain a first-hand insight into what life at university is really like.



During their visit, students enjoyed a guided tour of the campus, giving them a real sense of the facilities, atmosphere and environment that university life has to offer. They also had the opportunity to learn about the wide range of courses available and speak directly with current university students, who shared their personal experiences and advice.

As part of the visit, students explored how university degrees can open doors to a variety of exciting career paths and life opportunities. They were also introduced to the process of researching and applying for courses at different universities, helping to raise aspirations and build confidence for the future.

We were especially proud of the way our students conducted themselves throughout the visit. They showcased their excellent oracy skills by asking thoughtful, insightful questions and engaging meaningfully in discussions – a true reflection of their curiosity, maturity and enthusiasm for learning.

## KEY CAREERS DATES NEXT YEAR

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                           | Year 11 Mock Interviews              |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February                          | Year 8 - Take your child to work day |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                            | Year 10 and Year 12 Careers Fair     |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May | Year 12 Work Experience Week         |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July | Year 10 Work Experience Week         |

**If you or the company you work for could support any of the events, please email Emma Landau at [elandau@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:elandau@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)**



# !!COMING SOON!!

## YOUTH SUPPORT



- Relatable Connection
- Self empowerment
- Peer support
- Practical Coping methods

**Fridays 4-5pm**

**£10**

@Align healthcare, Horsforth town street

**Places Limited- !! BOOKING REQUIRED!!**

*email; [genacoaching@outlook.com](mailto:genacoaching@outlook.com)*

### ☀️ Our Youth Peer Support Group ☀️

For Youths who are ready to discover their true potential, connect with others, and grow into the best version of themselves?

A safe, empowering space, where they'll not feel less alone, not lost or able to be themselves.

Together, we'll create a community of encouragement, understanding, and growth—where every voice is valued, and every step forward is celebrated.

This is done using various methods of communication, **not just talking!**

### ☀️ Examples of topics that may be incorporated ☀️

*Please note this is not an exhaustive list and sessions are often reactive to the group*

**Managing and handling change**

**Awareness of self and feelings**

**Exam stress**

**Understanding Core beliefs and how they impact us**

**Breaking unhealthy cycles**

**Understanding our Controls**

**Challenging your thinking**



# ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

## REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

By Phone: 0113 2757877

Choose Option 2 for Y7-Y11 students

Choose Option 4 for Post 16 students

Please leave your child's forename and surname, their form group and reason for their absence.

## SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT

Although our School Office is closed during the school holidays, you can find many useful wellbeing and safeguarding links and resources below. In the event of an urgent safeguarding matter please always call 999. If you feel the need to urgently contact a member of the Safeguarding Team during school holidays and closure dates please email:

[AGA-SafeguardingTeam@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:AGA-SafeguardingTeam@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, or need advice, please [contact school](#) and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

There is a wide range of support and advice available to our students and their families - all are linked on our website at:

[www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk/parents-carers/safeguarding](http://www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk/parents-carers/safeguarding)

## Abbey Grange C of E Academy

Butcher Hill

Leeds

LS16 5EA

[info@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

0113 275 7877

### Social media

For real-time updates on school activities, news and events, follow us on social media:

Instagram

Main: @abgacademy

Sixth Form: @abgsixthform

PE: @abbeygrangepe

Drama: @abbeygrangedrama

Facebook

@abbeygrangeacademy