

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



Inside the Newsletter

Key Dates	02
Principal's Welcome	03
Chaplaincy	04-05
Sixth Form	06
School Events	07
Careers & Enrichment	08-09
Extra Curricular	10
Northern Saints Pilgrimage	11
Oracy	12
PTA	13-14
Notices	15-17

HIGHLIGHTS

Northern Saints Pilgrimage

Careers Events

PTA News

Sixth Form Open Evening

Extra Curricular & Trips



In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower

KEY DATES: AUTUMN TERM 2

Saturday 8 th November	PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale 10am - 11.30am
w/c Monday 10 th November	Y11 Mock Speaking Exams
Wednesday 12 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 13 th November	Enrichment Morning
Monday 17 th November	Y11 Mocks Start
Tuesday 18 th November	Praying Parents 8am - 8.30am
Friday 21 st November	Children in Need Events at break & lunch
w/c Monday 24 th November	Y13 Reports sent home
Thursday 27 th November	<i>Y11 Mocks finish</i>
Tuesday 2 nd December	Y11 Mock Interviews
Wednesday 3 rd December	Y7 Advent Communion
Thursday 4 th December	Y10 Positive Choices Day / Y13 Parents Evening
Saturday 6 th December	PTA Winter Fayre 12noon - 2pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Concert at Leeds Minster, 6.30pm
w/c Monday 15 th December	Contemporary Carols / Y11 Reports sent home
Thursday 18 th December	GCSE & A-Level presentation evening School Closes

School re-opens Monday 5th January 2026

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

We returned from the summer break to celebrate another excellent set of academic results, cementing us as one of the highest achieving schools in Leeds and the wider region. Our students have settled quickly into their learning this half term and we are looking forward to celebrating again with them in the summer.

Outside of the classroom, students have taken part in an incredible range of clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities – from sports fixtures and music rehearsals to debating, drama, coding, and creative writing. Our lunchtime and after-school clubs have been buzzing with energy, providing students with the chance to discover new interests, develop their skills, and build friendships across year groups.

A huge thank you to all staff who give their time so generously to make these experiences possible, and to our students for their enthusiasm and commitment. It's been wonderful to see so many of them getting involved and making the most of everything Abbey Grange has to offer.

We recently shared the news that Mr Prinsep will be stepping down from his role as Principal of Abbey Grange Church of England Academy at the end of this half term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Prinsep for his dedicated service to Abbey Grange and Abbey Multi-Academy Trust over the past four years. His leadership has had a significant and lasting impact on the school community, and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Following the half-term break, we are delighted to welcome Ms Lacey-Cole as Interim Principal. Ms Cole is currently the Principal at Bishop Young CE Academy and brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to Abbey Grange, where she previously worked for fifteen years.



Ms R Lacey-Cole

"I'm delighted to be returning to Abbey Grange as the Interim Principal. I first joined Abbey Grange in 2001 as a teacher of PE and, over the years, held several roles including Assistant Head of Year, Head of PE, Associate Assistant Principal, and Director of Post-16. One of my proudest achievements during that time was receiving a national award from Learning Plus UK (LPUK) for the significant improvements made to Sixth Form outcomes.

In 2017, I joined Bishop Young as Vice Principal. I currently serve as Principal, having been promoted from Head of School in 2024. During my time at BYA, I have been proud to lead the school to a 'Good' Ofsted judgement and an 'Excellent' outcome in our SIAMS inspection. It's a privilege to return to Abbey Grange in this interim role, and I look forward to working with staff, students, and families once again."

We look forward to the next chapter in Abbey Grange's journey and again extend our gratitude to Mr Prinsep for all he has achieved, as well as a warm welcome back to Mrs Lacey-Cole as she takes up her new role.

I hope that you have a lovely half term.

Mr Paul Cooper



INTRODUCTION TO MRS BETH BENSON



Ms Beth Benson
Vice Principal for
Safeguarding &
Inclusion

We would like to welcome Mrs Benson who joined us in September as Vice Principal for Safeguarding & Inclusion.

Mrs Benson has worked in a range of different education settings over the last decade, having had the privilege of taking on a range of leadership roles in that time. She is committed to high quality pastoral care, feeling that this is the cornerstone of success for students and she appreciates the importance of strong community partnerships to help all students to flourish both academically and personally. Mrs Benson has worked in challenging contexts, driving school improvement rooted in a firm belief that every student can achieve their full potential. As Vice Principal for Inclusion and Safeguarding she brings experience from outside the education sector, using this to shape strategy and empower staff to deliver high-quality education to all. At the heart of her work is a passion for safeguarding young people, supporting their personal growth, and helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in the wider world. She believes in a culture of vigilance which comes from a fervent commitment to educate, nurture and empower.

CHAPLAINCY

Our theme for this half term has been 'Welcome' and it has been great to welcome returning students and new students alike.

We have continued to explore our shared Christian vision for our school through collective worship in forms and assemblies. It has been lovely to be able to hold Eucharistic services for years 8-11, with Revd Stephen Kaye (our local Parish Priest) leading our worship over the two days. Live music from our worship group, greatly enhanced the service and experience for all.

Our Black History Month assemblies have been written and delivered by a great team of year 11 students. This year's theme 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride' celebrates the stories of those who have experienced success, often against the odds, as well as those who have spoken up and acted against injustice. Students shared personal stories as well as lesser-known accounts to inform and challenge in equal measure.

Some of our Post 16 students attended the Tackling Racism event hosted by Leeds Church Institute. Students heard from leading academics and church leaders, including our local Bishop Arun and also the founder of the Sanctuary movement, Rev'd Dr. Inderjit Bhogal. They were inspired by world record holding Beat boxer, Testament, who devised a piece about Abbey Grange students on the night!

Continued on next page

CHAPLAINCY

Daily activities in chaplaincy have started up again and it has been wonderful to welcome a great new team of 19 peer leaders to support and encourage many other students in their journey to explore their faith and friendships. The welcome and encouragement they provide is a fantastic example of youth leadership in action.

As well as regular activities, chaplaincy is able to offer extra enrichment opportunities. Year 7 students took time exploring what it means to be part of Abbey Grange through different creative ways to pray. We are grateful to have the support of Leeds Faith in Schools and church youth workers to make days like this happen and it has been wonderful to see students get fully involved in the activities and enjoy learning in such a different way.

We have also taken part in the Lord's Prayer collective moment, a Faith in the North initiative which enabled staff and students to engage in reflective activities around the Lord's Prayer, praying alongside schools, churches and organisations across the north of England.

Harvest collections are being generously donated to support local charity St George's Crypt (supporting the homeless in the city centre), with chaplaincy reps playing a key role in making this happen. Food collections and fundraising have run alongside each other as students have planned their form's response.

Praying Parents have met for the first time this term in the new slot at 8am one Tuesday each half term. Despite a few practical challenges, it was good to be able to meet again, and we learnt a lot about hybrid meetings!

We have a new email address, prayingparents@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk, so please do drop us an email if you would like to be involved, have any prayer requests or would like to receive our prayer updates. Thank you to all who pray for the school, we know it makes such a difference.

Every blessing,

Kay Brown and Fran Bailey

Praying Parents

All meetings are from 8am - 8.30am. You are welcome to join us in person in the Chaplaincy, or online. Please email prayingparents@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk to get involved

- Tuesday 18th November 2025
- Tuesday 13th January 2026
- Tuesday 10th March 2026
- Tuesday 28th April 2026
- Tuesday 9th June 2026



SIXTH FORM

UCAS Applications

The UCAS process is well underway, with over 20 applications already submitted. Notably, more than 10 students have applied to Oxbridge, demonstrating the ambition and academic calibre of our cohort. Students have been supported through personal statement workshops, mock interviews, and tailored guidance from subject mentors and the careers team.

Community Service Programme

Our Community Service initiative has officially launched, with Sixth Formers volunteering in a range of local projects—from mentoring younger students and supporting literacy programmes in primary schools, to helping at food banks and care homes. This programme not only builds character and empathy but also strengthens our ties with the wider community.

Prefect Appointments

We are proud to announce the appointment of 16 new Prefects. These students have been selected for their leadership potential, reliability, and commitment to the school ethos. They will take on responsibilities including mentoring Year 7 students, supporting school events, and representing the Sixth Form in student council meetings.

New College Step Up Programme

The Step Up Programme has been launched in partnership with New College, offering targeted academic support and enrichment opportunities for students aiming for competitive university courses. The programme includes subject masterclasses, university visits, and skills workshops designed to stretch and challenge participants.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING AND APPLICA

We are excited to welcome prospective students and families to our **Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 12th November**. The event will showcase our academic offer, enrichment programmes, and student leadership opportunities. Visitors will have the chance to tour facilities, meet staff and current students, and learn more about life in our thriving Sixth Form community.

[Book your place](#)

Applications to Abbey Grange Sixth Form are made online via Applica. The system will open on Friday 24th October.

SCHOOL EVENTS

POETRY DAY

On Thursday 2nd October we celebrated Poetry Day in the Galeena, the theme this year was 'play.' Students used the building blocks which had different words written on to build their own poem



Library Lessons

Our new year 7s have had their first ever library lesson. They were given a demonstration of how to use the Galeena web app and participated in a book hunt task, to help familiarise themselves with the set out of the Galeena. It was lovely to chat with them about reading and their favourite books! Link to Galeena Web App - <https://uk.accessit.online/abb02/>

SPORTS FOCUS

Basketball

The under 16s team have had their first fixtures against Leeds West Academy which we won 29 – 18 and then against Cardinal Heenan which we won 24 – 16.

The under 14s are also playing soon and then the under 12s after half term.

We're hoping for another very successful season!



STEM @ Zenith

40 of our year 11 girls attended a morning dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The event was designed to give students a real insight into the world of work, while providing them with further understanding into how practical skills within STEM subjects connect to future careers.

The day's programme included group-based STEM activities and workshops – all of which related to the automotive sector – and concluded with a Q&A panel discussion with leaders from across the Zenith Group. It was a great opportunity for students to see how successful women can be in a traditionally male industry.

Comments from students who attended:

"I think the workshop has gone really well."

"I used to try and avoid STEM, but I didn't realise the variety of jobs that it covers."

"It was good to go around and learn different skills and job roles at Zenith, and I learned more about how to face challenges, which I can use when it comes to my schoolwork."

Restart a Heart Day - Thursday 16th October

On Thursday 16th October, all Year 7 students took part in Restart a Heart Day, a national initiative aimed at teaching young people vital CPR skills. The sessions were delivered by trained volunteers and supported by the Lord-Lieutenant's Office, whose representative visited the school to observe and encourage the students. It was a powerful and practical experience, helping pupils understand how they could save a life in an emergency.

A-Level Art Visit to ImageCo Leeds – 9th October

Our A-Level Art students recently visited ImageCo, a leading Leeds-based print and signage company known for its innovative work in sustainable large-format printing. During the visit, students met one of our alumni, now working at ImageCo, who shared their journey into the creative industry and gave insight into the technical and artistic aspects of professional print production. The visit offered a real-world perspective on careers in art and design.

Maths in Action: JN Bentley & Mott MacDonald Visit – 14th October

Year 8 students took part in an exciting maths lesson led by professionals from JN Bentley, a civil engineering contractor, and Mott MacDonald, a global engineering, management, and development consultancy. The session focused on how maths is used in construction and engineering, including calculating the volume of concrete for real-world projects. Students even used VR headsets to visualise construction environments, making the learning experience both immersive and inspiring.

UCAS Fair Success at School

We were delighted to host our first in-school UCAS Fair, welcoming representatives from 15 universities, including prestigious institutions such as Loughborough and Lancaster, both ranked in the UK's top 10. The event also featured a wide range of other universities, including several from the Russell Group, offering students a broad spectrum of options to explore.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to university staff, gather course information, and receive valuable feedback on their personal statements. The fair was a fantastic chance for students to begin shaping their post-18 pathways and gain confidence in their next steps.

Upcoming Careers Events - Can You Help?

We have several exciting careers events coming up across different year groups, designed to give students valuable insight into the world of work and future pathways:

Year 11 Mock Interviews – Wednesday 4th December: Students will take part in one-to-one mock interviews with volunteers from various industries to help them build confidence and develop key employability skills.

Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day – Monday 10th February: A fantastic opportunity for students to experience a real working environment by spending the day with a parent or guardian at their workplace.

Year 12 Work Experience Week – Beginning Monday 27th April: Students will spend the week in a placement of their choice, gaining hands-on experience and exploring potential career interests.

NEW: Year 10 Work Experience Week – Beginning Monday 6th July: We're excited to introduce work experience for Year 10 this year, giving students an earlier opportunity to explore the world of work and develop practical skills.

These events are incredibly valuable in helping students connect classroom learning with real-life applications. If you or your organisation can support in any way, whether by offering a placement, conducting interviews, or speaking to students, please do get in touch. You can contact me directly at elandau@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & PLEDGES: EXPECTATIONS AND PURPOSE

At the heart of our school community is a commitment to personal growth beyond the classroom. This year, we continue to champion extra-curricular involvement and student pledges as vital parts of our ethos. These opportunities help students develop confidence, leadership, and resilience—skills that are essential for success in life.

We expect all of our students to complete all of the Abbey Pledges.

With over 90 clubs available across school, we expect every student to engage in at least one extra-curricular activity on a regular basis. Whether it's joining a sports team, participating in drama, or volunteering, these experiences enrich learning and build character.

[!\[\]\(8b57f0e15e7dda24cf9977561475f640_img.jpg\) Explore our extra-curricular activities and Abbey Pledges here \[Abbey Character – Personal Development & Enrichment\]\(#\)](#)

TRIPS

Educational trips are a powerful way to bring learning to life. This year, we're excited to offer a range of experiences—from local cultural visits to international adventures. Highlights include the Year 10 & 11 trips to Berlin (History) and Iceland (Geography), the Year 7 Bushcraft Trip, the Year 8 France Trip or the variety of subject specific trips.

These trips not only support curriculum learning but also foster independence, curiosity, and teamwork.

[!\[\]\(ceb7cef9f9d693d102dfe501130037c6_img.jpg\) View our trips calendar and details here \[Abbey Grange trips 2024-25\]\(#\)](#)

NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

Students from year 10 travelled to Durham Cathedral and then onto the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints St Aidan and St Cuthbert. This is the second of three pilgrimage opportunities in student's life at Abbey Grange.

In Durham Cathedral, students were welcomed as pilgrims by Rev'd Kathryn Tiernan, who gave students a pilgrims token and prayed for them. We were given a tour of the cathedral, learning about the history of Cuthbert, seeing treasures related to his life as well as hearing about the various films that had been filmed on this site! This visit concluded with lunch in the pilgrims' garden and taking part in a communion service with other visitors to the cathedral. It felt really significant to take part in worship in a building which had been a site of Christian worship for over 900 years. We were given shell bracelets, made from the wax of the Cathedral candles and then we then travelled onto Beal, where students led worship and fellowship and we stayed overnight.

Saturday felt a real highlight of the trip, making the pilgrimage across the causeway barefoot to the holy island of Lindisfarne. Our guide shared historical information, taught us about the natural world of the causeway and even led us past a group of over 300 seals huddled together. At this point, we really felt we were walking in the footsteps of the northern saints. Once on Lindisfarne, we enjoyed walking around the island and finished by praying together on St Cuthberts Island.

Alistair Harris and Fran Bailey



ORACY: SPEAKING UP WITH CONFIDENCE

We're proud to continue our focus on oracy—the ability to express oneself clearly and confidently. Oracy empowers students to articulate ideas, debate respectfully, and thrive in interviews and presentations.

This October, we celebrate Oracy October, with workshops, assemblies, and classroom activities designed to boost speaking skills. Our school was successful in achieving the Voice 21 accreditation, recognising our commitment to embedding oracy across the curriculum.

Why oracy?

Academic: Using too much slang or informal language — even in writing — can make our work seem less thoughtful. By thinking about how we speak, students can make up to 8 months extra progress! Building vocabulary helps improve both speaking and reading. Talking helps learning — it lets us plan, reflect, and explain our ideas clearly.

Speaking Well Supports Wellbeing: Speaking clearly and confidently can help students aim higher and manage stress. It can help with staying focused, engaged, and on task in lessons. Talking about how you feel can really support positive mental well-being.

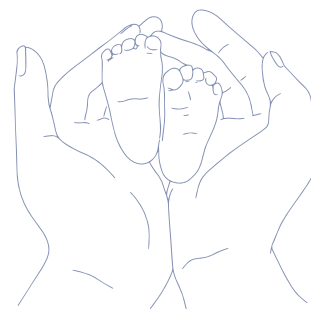
Economic: Employers say that communication skills are the most important employability skill and could add over £100 billion to the UK economy! Confident speakers are 25% more likely to have high-paying jobs. That's why oracy matters — it gives everyone a fair shot at success.

Oracy matters!

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to the below staff who have welcomed new additions to their families!

Mr Banks
Mr Lane
Mr Williams



We're excited to share two fantastic fundraising opportunities from the Abbey Grange PTA this autumn term – and we'd love for you to get involved!

Autumn Term Hamper Raffle

Help us celebrate the season by entering our Autumn Hamper Raffle! Tickets are just £1 each, and every ticket purchased gives you a chance to win a beautifully autumn-themed hamper. Tickets can be purchased on ParentPay.

We would appreciate and gladly accept donations to be included in the hampers. To give you an idea the items for the hampers could include autumnal themed goodies and treats, such as scented candles, hot chocolate, bubble bath, cosy blanket, woolly hat and gloves, sweets, bottles of wine and other seasonal goodies and treats.

If you can contribute, please have your child drop items off at main reception or Miss Wood's office by Friday 7 November.

Raffle Draw: Monday 10 November 2025

🏆 Winners will be notified directly by the Academy.

Join the Abbey Dip!

Introducing the Abbey Dip – a fun and simple way to support Abbey Grange and win cash prizes throughout the year.

How it works:

- Pay £10 via ParentPay
- Get entered into monthly £50 prize draws (from September to June)
- Enjoy bonus draws at Christmas and Easter
- That's 12 chances to win £50!
- Entries close: Friday 5th December
- First draws: At the PTA Winter Fayre on Saturday 6th December

🏆 Winners will be contacted directly by the Academy.

All money raised from both events will go directly to the PTA to support students, staff, and school initiatives at Abbey Grange.

Thank you for your continued support – and good luck in the Hamper Raffle and the Abbey Dip!

PTA WINTER FAYRE

The PTA are busy putting together plans for our annual Winter Fayre, and we're excited to make it another fantastic event for our community!

If you – or someone you know – would be interested in booking a stall, please leave your contact details at the main office, and a member of the PTA will be in touch.

Date: Saturday 6 December 2025

Stall fee: £20 (Payment can be made by cash or contactless on the day)

As part of our PTA Winter Fayre, we will be holding a Silent Auction to raise funds for our school – and we need your help!

Please ask at your place of work to see if they would be willing to donate a prize for the auction. In the past, we've been lucky to receive donations such as:

- Spa or gym memberships
- Hairdresser and barber gift vouchers
- Restaurant, cinema, or theatre tickets
- Takeaway vouchers
- Trampolining or go-karting experiences

All donations, big or small, are hugely appreciated!

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

ATTENDANCE

We now have a new automated attendance system which listens to your voice mail and adds the attendance to our systems. Please ensure that you choose the correct option via our telephone system to report your child's absence from school

Phone: 0113 275 7877

Choose Option 2 for Y7-Y11 students

Choose Option 4 for Sixth Form 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

If you have any safeguarding concerns, or need advice during term time 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

Thinking of training to be a teacher?

GORSE SCITT RECRUITMENT EVENTS

Training primary and secondary teachers

Drop into our city centre training base or join us online to find out more about our training programme and the application process.



PLACES
AVAILABLE
FOR
**SEPTEMBER
2026**

WEDNESDAY 01 OCTOBER INFORMATION EVENING

Online | 5.30pm to 6.30pm

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER ONE-TO-ONE APPLICATION SUPPORT

Online | 10.00am to 2.00pm

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER INFORMATION EVENING

City Centre Training Base
5.30pm to 6.30pm

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER INFORMATION EVENING

Online | 5.30pm to 6.30pm

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER TASTER DAY SECONDARY

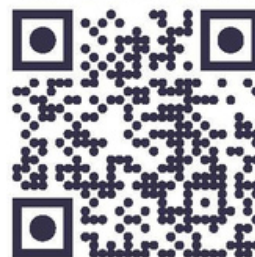
The Ruth Gorse Academy
10.00pm to 2.00pm

MONDAY 01 DECEMBER INFORMATION EVENING

City Centre Training Base
5.30pm to 6.30pm

To attend one of our information evenings, please register at www.gorsescitt.org.uk or contact us directly by emailing info@gorsescitt.org.uk

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Abbey Grange C of E Academy

Butcher Hill

Leeds

LS16 5EA

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

@abgacademy

@abgsixthform

Facebook

/abbeygrangeacademy

/abgsixthform