

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



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

# KEY DATES: SUMMER TERM

WEEK B	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Y11 Leavers Communion GCSE & A level Art Moderation
	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSE & A level Art Moderation
	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Leeds Recycling Centre Trip
	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSEs Begin
WEEK A	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Y7 Exams start (finish Fri 22nd May) • A Levels Begin
	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr 7 x60 Girls STEM trip Bletchley Park
	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	YR 12 Parents Evening
	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition
WEEK B	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Y13 Study Leave Starts
	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Y8 HPV Vaccinations • Y12 Mock Interviews
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y12 Mock Interviews
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Yr 11 Leaver's Assembly PM Y13 Leavers Assembly & BBQ Study Leave starts Y11 Year 7 exams end

**Spring Bank Half Term Holiday:**  
Saturday 24th May to Sunday 1st June 2026

# KEY DATES: SUMMER TERM

#6: The Koinonia Half Term: 1st June to 21st July KOINONIA & CELEBRATION TERM		
WEEK A	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	BPP Law Experience Day Y9 Trust Exams Start Y12 Mocks start
	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Y9 Lindisfarne Pilgrimage Y9 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> June
WEEK A	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y10 Reports sent home
	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Praying Parents 08.00 -08.30am
	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y10 Parents Evening
	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Extra Y6 transition day France Trip Leaves
	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 mocks end Y9 Trust Exams End
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	France Trip Returns

## OUR NEWS

You can also keep up to date with all the amazing things that go on by viewing our website.

[Click to view more news items on our website](#)

You can also keep up to date by following us on social media.



[@abgacademy](#)

[@abgsixthform](#)



[www.facebook.com/abbeygrangeacademy](http://www.facebook.com/abbeygrangeacademy)

[www.facebook.com/abgsixthform](http://www.facebook.com/abgsixthform)

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

## Introducing Mrs Dawn Morgan

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing to you as the Principal Designate for Abbey Grange.

During my time as Vice Principal, I have had the privilege of working closely with our students, staff, families, and wider community, and I look forward to continuing to build upon these foundations as I formally take up my post in the second half of the summer term.

Abbey Grange is a very special place. I have seen first-hand the dedication of our staff, the curiosity and resilience of our students, and the strong partnership we share with parents and carers. These strengths will remain at the heart of everything we do as we move forward together.

### **As Principal, my priority will be to build on the excellent work already in place. This means:**

- Maintaining high expectations for behaviour, learning, and achievement
- Ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and supported
- Continuing to develop a curriculum that is ambitious, inclusive, and engaging
- Working closely with families as valued partners in their child's education
- Continue to anchor all aspects of our work in our Christian vision

As such please be assured that there will be continuity, stability, and a clear focus on what matters most – the success and wellbeing of our children.

I would like to thank Rachael Lacey-Cole, Interim Principal for her strong leadership and service to our school. I will be building upon her strategy and working alongside her as she returns to lead Bishop Young Academy.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7's as we begin our transition programme and supporting our GCSE and A level students as they commence their terminal examinations. There are many summer events in Abbey's calendar so I hope that I may also get to meet see some of you too.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

**Mrs D Morgan**  
Principal Designate



# CHAPLAINCY

During this half term our focus has been *'Finding identity, purpose and value in God'*. We began by focusing on Lent and Ramadan, thinking about the purpose of giving things up or fasting as well as how to be the person God made us to be and bring that into focus in the way we treat each other. Chaplaincy council chose *'Humility'* to be our Christian value, which was well chosen as we reflected on how to be the person God made us to be.



Lent started with an Ash Wednesday service for year 11, which included a time to reflect on their journey through Abbey Grange and the ritual of burning of their 'regrets' in a fire pit. This is the first part of preparing to leave the five years of secondary education behind, before moving on to further study or training, and will be turned into celebration in Leavers' Communion in May. Our Year 11 musicians brought something quite special to this service as they played and sang for their colleagues.

Year 7 had a visit from *'Good News for Everyone'* and were offered the opportunity to take a New Testament and Psalms which they are encouraged to read as a daily act in preparation for Easter.

We are so pleased to be able to offer these to students free of charge, and that over 200 students took them and are enjoying reading them.

We finished the half term by celebrating Easter with a Eucharist led by a team from St George's church, with services for years 7-10 (with Post 16 students able to join when they were free). As it was close to Palm Sunday, students were able to receive palm crosses. The relaxed style and high standard of music made it a service that many enjoyed and forms part of our pattern of worship over the year.

## Chaplains

Mrs F Bailey &  
Mrs K Brown



## 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](mailto:prayingparents@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk) to get involved.

• **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 08.00 -08.30am**



# CHAPLAINCY

## MARRICK PRIORY TRIP

On the weekend 27th -29th March 43 students from year 7 to year 13 travelled to Marrick Priory in Swaledale, alongside teachers and Kim and Beccy from Leeds Faith in Schools. It was a packed weekend of activities, from problem solving challenges and night-line to high ropes and zip-wire, climbing and archery. Alongside activities we spent time discussing our faith and worshipping together as well as relaxing and meeting new people. Our focus built on our worship over the Lent term, using the Church of England's focus on 'Draw near'. This was an exploration of how Christians draw close to God, through prayer, worship, the Bible, testimony, fellowship and service. Students were invited to go deeper with their understanding and apply this to their own lives. Worship was led by young people, ably assisted by Mr Birch and Mr Johnston. The annual Marrick talent show was a wonderful eclectic mix, from dance to comedy to singing and the students excelled in their performances and their support of one another. Marrick continues to be significant in the lives of many young people and we are grateful to the Academy and the PTA for support for students who might not otherwise have the chance to go.



## PASTORAL UPDATE

**Update on our current year managers for the remainder of the year.**



**Y6 transition**  
Mrs Z Hinchliffe



**Y7**  
Mr N Williams



**Y8**  
Mrs A Albentosa



**Y9**  
Miss S Moore



**Y10**  
Ms H McDonagh



**Head of Pastoral Care & Y11 Manager**  
Mrs F Sugden

# SIXTH FORM

Visit our website to find out the courses on offer.

[www.abbeygrangesixthform.co.uk](http://www.abbeygrangesixthform.co.uk)



Stay connected:



@abgsixthform

We are delighted to celebrate another outstanding year of success for our Sixth Form students as the UCAS application cycle draws to a close. Our students have once again demonstrated **ambition, resilience** and **academic excellence**, securing a wide range of highly competitive university offers. Most notably, this year has seen **nine offers from Oxbridge**, reflecting the exceptional calibre of our applicants and the strength of support provided throughout the application process.

Alongside our Oxbridge successes, we are incredibly proud of the strong number of medical offers received by students pursuing careers in medicine and related fields. In addition, many students have secured places at Russell Group universities across the country, highlighting the breadth of opportunity and academic ambition across the year group.

April also saw our Year 12 students undertake their work experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing key employability skills. Students embraced a wide range of placements across different sectors, and the experience has proven to be an important and enriching part of their personal and professional development as they begin to think more seriously about future career pathways.

As we move into the summer term, we would like to wish our Year 13 students the very best of luck with their formal examinations. Their commitment and hard work throughout their time in Sixth Form have been evident, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. At the same time, we extend our best wishes to Year 12 students as they prepare for their mock examinations, an important opportunity to consolidate learning and prepare for the year ahead.

We are also pleased to report strong interest in joining our Sixth Form this September. Over **350 applications** have already been received, reflecting the confidence families place in our Sixth Form provision. We are very much looking forward to welcoming prospective students to our Sixth Form Taster Day at the end of June, where they will experience lessons, meet staff and students, and gain a real insight into Sixth Form life.

[Click here to read more in The YEP](#)



# SCHOOL EVENTS

## LEEDS DEC CLIMATE CONFERENCE

On the 13th of March 6 students from years 7 to 10 attended the Leeds DEC climate conference for schools in Leeds town hall. The students had opportunities to meet the mayor, the climate minister for parliament and representatives from Leeds university. In times between the meetings, our students were articulate and confident, and presented information about how we plan to transform our school landscape to promote biodiversity.

**If you'd like to know more about our plans - watch this space!**

## SPORTS FOCUS

### GIRLS' INDOOR TOUCH RUGBY SUCCESS



Our Year 7 girls entered two teams into the Leeds Rhinos Indoor Touch Rugby tournament and performed exceptionally well throughout. Both teams faced strong opposition, including Carr Manor, Lawnswood, and Roundhay, and showed great determination and teamwork in every match.

One team remained unbeaten in the group stages, progressing to the Champions of Champions tournament. There, they continued their excellent form against Bishop Young and Bruntcliffe, winning every game to be crowned overall champions—an outstanding achievement. A special mention goes to Imogen Lee, who was named Player of the Tournament for her superb performances. Mr Ridgway adds that they are a special group and looks forward to seeing how they develop.



### BOYS FOOTBALL

All Year 7-11 boys' football teams competed in the North West Leeds League this year, representing the school with pride and determination. A special congratulations goes to the Year 8 boys' team, who were crowned league champions. This is a fantastic achievement and a true reflection of their hard work, skill, and dedication throughout the season—an exceptional accomplishment that the whole school community can celebrate.

## SPORTS FOCUS

### YEAR 10 BOYS – NORTH EAST RUGBY LEAGUE

The Year 10 boys' rugby league season came to a close this month, with Abbey competing against strong teams such as Carr Manor, Allerton High, and Benton Park. It has been fantastic to see such a high level of commitment, with many students eager to represent the school.

The standard of play has been consistently impressive, and the team performed brilliantly to finish top of the league on points. They will now go on to face Allerton High in the final after Easter, and we wish them the very best of luck. Mr Ridgway adds that it has been great to see so many students keen to represent the school against local rivals.



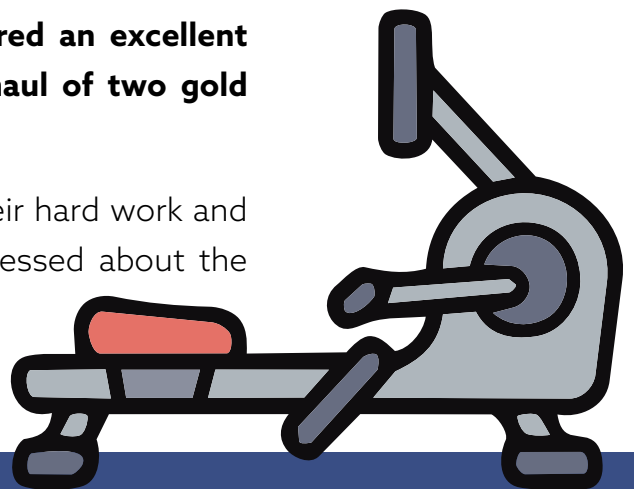
### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

It has also been a very successful period for individual achievements. Arlo B has been selected for the Bradford Bulls player pathway, while Rhiannon H-P, Isla S, and Evie H have all been invited onto the UR7s Pathway. In addition, one of our students has been invited to trial for the Yorkshire Rugby Academy. These are fantastic accomplishments, and we are incredibly proud of all students involved.

## ROWING

Abbey Grange also attended the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (North), a highly competitive event with over 750 entries from across the region. **Our students delivered an excellent performance, bringing home an impressive medal haul of two gold medals, four silver medals, and one bronze medal.**

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and dedication. Mr Riley and Mr Ridgway were very impressed about the commitment students showed to this event.



## SPORTS FOCUS

### ROSSLYN PARK TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud of the girls who represented the school at the Rosslyn Park tournament. In what was our first ever appearance at this prestigious event, the team achieved an outstanding result by reaching the Plate Quarter Final.

The competition was of a very high standard, featuring teams from across the country as well as international sides from Dubai and Belgium. Throughout the tournament, the girls demonstrated exceptional determination, teamwork, and resilience, competing brilliantly against strong opposition.

Back at school, students followed the team's progress by watching the live stream during break and again at lunchtime, creating a real sense of excitement and support across the school community.

Students at lunch, cheering on our year 9 girls team via live stream



All players were recognised for their effort and commitment with Golden Tickets.

A special congratulations goes to our individual award winners:

- **Attacking Player of the Day: Evie**
- **Defensive Player of the Day: Rhiannon**

Moment of the Day: Isla, for a superb try-saving tackle on the final play of the game against Samuel Whitbread Academy, showing outstanding determination under pressure.

This was a fantastic achievement for the team and a memorable milestone for the school.


**Well done to all involved!**

## SPORTS LEADERS

Our Year 12 Sports Leaders have been making a positive impact beyond our school. They recently organised and delivered a multi-skills sports festival for Year 4 and 5 pupils at St Chad's Primary School. The event was a tremendous success, with younger pupils thoroughly enjoying the activities on offer. Our Sports Leaders demonstrated excellent organisation, leadership, and enthusiasm, truly embodying the standards of the ABBEY Character in all aspects of the festival.

**Well done to everyone involved!**

# MORE ARTICULATION SUCCESS



**On Tuesday 3rd March, Leeds Art Gallery hosted the Yorkshire and Humber heat of the national Articulation Prize 2026.**

Representing our school was Year 12 student Eshema B, who earned her place after winning our competitive internal round.

Eshema delivered a fantastic presentation and was awarded runner-up in the regional final. The judges, led by art historian Dr Alice Correia, praised her confident delivery, strong scholarship and insightful analysis of female representation in art.

Huge congratulations to Eshema for an outstanding achievement. You did yourself and Abbey Grange proud!

## POETRY LIVE

On 26th February, a group of Year 11 students travelled to York with Mrs Towers and Mrs Albentosa to attend the AQA Poetry Live event. Students enjoyed performances from the poets we study as well as listening to others talk about their love for poetry, read their own work and discuss how we all offer different interpretations. One highlight was hearing Liz Berry recite a love poem after sharing a story about receiving a saucepan as a birthday present from her boyfriend now husband. The day gave students valuable insight into examiner tips for the unseen section, supporting their understanding of how to approach the trickiest part of the Literature GCSE. It was a great day out and a treat to be immersed in the world of poetry.



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR AT ABBEY GRANGE

**Extra-curricular life at Abbey Grange continues to go from strength to strength, with over 90% of students taking part in at least one activity so far this year.**

We expect every student to get involved in one of our clubs, and with more than 80 options on offer, there truly is something for everyone.

**Full details of all clubs can be found on the school website.**

With the Football World Cup just around the corner, we're also excited to be marking the occasion with some in-school football competitions – **watch this space!**

**Click here to view all clubs on offer!**

## ABBHEY CHARACTER AWARDS

We are launching our new ABBHEY Character Awards, recognising students who show positive progress through ClassCharts and their booklet. A full breakdown of the tasks required for each award is available here:

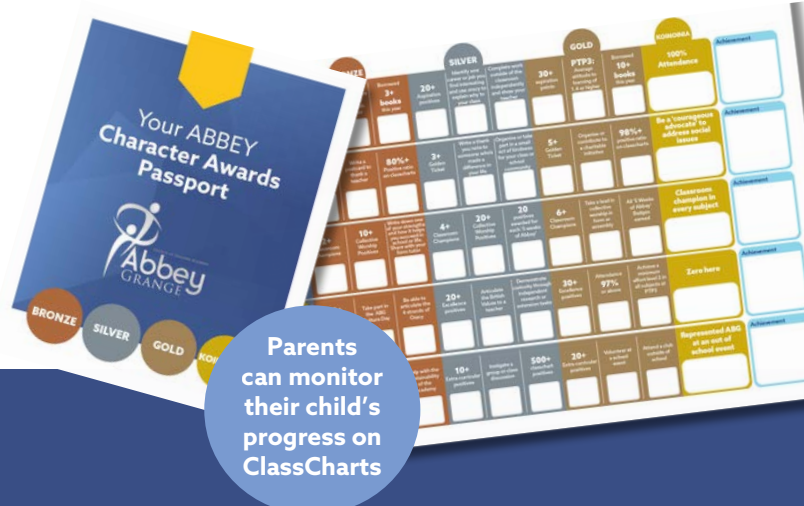
### **Abbey Character - Personal Development & Enrichment**

In addition, students can be recognised through our weekly Golden Ticket system—awarded for exceptional kindness or helpfulness. Each staff member has three Golden Tickets per week, and students should hand theirs to their Year Manager or a member of SLT so it can be logged on ClassCharts.

Students can also earn Classroom Champion recognition: in every lesson, one student demonstrating outstanding effort or contribution is awarded the Classroom Champion point—students are encouraged to remind teachers to award it!

We look forward to celebrating our students' achievements throughout the year.

**Behaviour, effort, and our core Abbey values. Students can work towards four tiers: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Koinonia, taking responsibility for tracking their own**



# EARTH DAY COMPETITION

As part of our celebration of Earth Day on Wednesday 22nd April, we launched a competition for our students.

The challenge was to take a photograph that shows the natural beauty of our planet and include a short caption explaining why our planet needs to be protected, and how the photograph shows the beauty of earth.



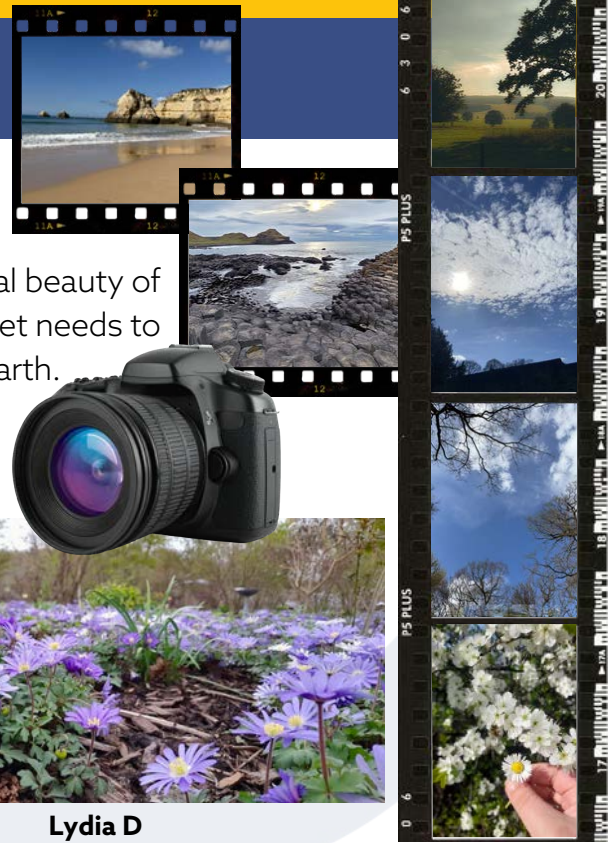
**Toby H**



**Gorgorios B**



**Lydia D**



Special recognition - Gorgorios, he wrote a lovely caption about the earth and mental health to go with his photograph: The swans make our planet beautiful as they swim around and glide in the water which is amazing, satisfying and relaxes your mind. The trees in the park help us to breathe oxygen, fresh air and enjoy the hills and the greenery that planet produces. Also, scientifically it is proven that trees take in carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen into the air which helps us to stop climate change and live in a world suitable for nature. All wonders of the earth satisfies you when you wake up or if you are tired it can really help your mental health and makes you more careful and gentle to nature.

## YEAR 7 RAISED MONEY FOR LEPRA

Leptra is a UK-based international charity that is working to beat leprosy, a disease that still affects millions of vulnerable people across the world. They work overseas in India and Bangladesh to improve the lives of those affected by leprosy.



**£1,346**  
Raised

They have been fighting disease since 1924 and are one of the world's leading authorities on leprosy, a curable disease. With continued support, they can help more people rebuild their lives. Year 7 students took part in a virtual assembly with Leptra and completed a creative fundraising challenge, raising an impressive £1,346.02. They were presented with a certificate from Leptra. Abi Wells, Head of Public Fundraising at Leptra, said, "It has been a pleasure to work with Abbey Grange. We are grateful for their continued support and dedicated fundraising efforts, which make a huge difference to people affected by leprosy."

# PERFORMING ARTS

Spring half term 2 is always a very busy one for the Drama & Music department, both in and out of the classroom.

## DRAMA EXAMS

Both Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A-level students have completed their Component 2 Performance exams where they perform and are assessed by a visiting examiner. It is always a nerve-wracking day but also one of celebration as for many of them it their last performance of the course. They all did extremely well and were fantastic in their performances!



## NT CONNECTIONS - 'CLOUD BUSTING'

For the second year Abbey Grange Drama students have taken part in the National Theatre's Youth Festival, NT Connections. This year we staged a play of Helen Blakeman's adaptation of 'Cloud Busting'. Sixteen Year 10 GCSE Drama students performed, supported by student directors and technicians at York Theatre Royal on Thursday 19th March. They had a full day at the theatre which including technical rehearsals, and a professional movement workshop followed by performing to a sold-out audience. **They did an amazing job!**

## PRAYER SPACES



Year 7 students took part in a Prayer Spaces activity with Leeds Faith in Schools, exploring prayer and reflection in a hands-on and creative way. The sessions moved away from traditional approaches, giving students the chance to engage with a range of different prayer styles across thoughtfully designed spaces. Candles, fairy lights, a gazebo and even a paddling pool created distinct environments, each prompting a different kind of reflection. Students were encouraged to think about what prayer and stillness mean to them, whether they come from a faith background or not. The experience challenged them to slow down, engage thoughtfully and consider big questions about life and meaning, something that is not always easy to do in the busyness of the school day.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION - 'JOSEPH'

Once again, the Music, Drama & Art department have collaborated to bring you another show stopping school musical, and this year it was 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat'. The school show is a fantastic example of our Abbey Character where students from all year groups across the school join to create something special for our wider school community. It is a real team effort with students supporting backstage, on lighting and sound.



We even had Year 6 students from St. Chad's come to watch the matinee dress rehearsal before opening for three sell out shows from Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th March. It is a huge undertaking and as always, was an incredible example of how talented our students and staff are!

## ANNE FRANK TRUST

Year 8 students recently partnered with the Anne Frank Trust to explore the life and legacy of Anne Frank. Through powerful workshops, they developed their oracy skills – learning to articulate difficult histories with confidence, empathy, and clarity. But the learning didn't stop there. Demonstrating their Abbey character and youth leadership qualities, these students took on the responsibility of sharing Anne's story with every Year 7 student in the school. We were really pleased to see how they were able to take their learning and speak with conviction and compassion to year 7 students, ensuring Anne's message of hope and resistance to hatred lives on. Their courage to speak up reflects exactly the values Anne herself embodied.



We have a number of Anne Frank Ambassadors in school who continue to work with the Trust to deliver workshops in local primary schools, helped lead our Holocaust Memorial Day activities and also are involved in a number of other projects locally and nationally.



## THEATRE TRIP - 'SMALL ISLAND'

Our second theatre trip of the year took us to the Leeds Playhouse to see Helen Edmundson's adaptation of Andrea Levy's 'Small Island'. This is one of the new A-level set texts and incredible story to see on the stage. Year 11 GCSE and A-level Drama students had a great time!

## BOEING AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

We were thrilled to welcome Cora from Boeing, who delivered an engaging and inspiring presentation to our Year 8 assembly. She introduced students to the world of engineering, explaining how creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork come together to shape the aircraft and technologies of the future. Her talk opened students' eyes to the exciting possibilities within STEM and encouraged them to think ambitiously about the pathways available to them.

Following the assembly, Cora led a more detailed and insightful session with our Year 12 and 13 students, focusing on her own educational background and career journey into aerospace engineering. She shared the steps that led her to Boeing, the challenges she overcame, and the experiences that shaped her interest in the field. Students were fascinated to learn about the range of opportunities available within the company, from apprenticeships to graduate roles, as well as the cutting-edge projects she is currently involved in. Her openness, expertise, and enthusiasm provided our older students with valuable guidance as they consider their next steps into higher education and future careers.



## CAREERS FAIR

Our annual Careers Fair proved to be a vibrant and inspiring event, bringing together students from Years 10, 11 and 12 for a morning filled with ambition, curiosity and purposeful conversation. Students impressed our visitors with their confidence, enthusiasm and excellent oracy skills – engaging employers and education providers with thoughtful questions and a genuine interest in their future pathways. Many of our guests commented on how articulate and well-prepared our young people were throughout the event.



We were delighted to welcome a wide range of organisations, including a mix of universities such as members of the Russell Group and institutions ranked in the UK's top ten. Alongside them were local colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers from a variety of sectors. This broad representation meant students could explore everything from academic routes to vocational training, apprenticeships and future career opportunities.

The hall buzzed with energy as students moved between stands, gathering insight, building confidence and discovering possibilities they may not have previously considered.

## EQUANS

This month, our students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a set of inspiring careers sessions delivered by Courtney from Equans, a leading organisation in the energy, services and regeneration sector. Courtney delivered engaging and highly informative talks that introduced students to the wide range of career pathways available within Equans, with a particular focus on apprenticeships.

She explained the different roles across construction, engineering, project management, digital services and facilities management, helping students understand how their individual strengths and interests could translate into real career routes. Students were especially interested in hearing about the apprenticeship journey-what employers look for, the importance of resilience and teamwork, and the strong progression routes available once training is complete. Courtney also shared her own experiences of working in a large organisation, offering valuable insight into workplace expectations, professional skills and the importance of seizing opportunities.

The sessions were incredibly well received, with many students commenting that they had not previously realised the breadth of roles within the sector. We are grateful to Equans for their continued partnership and for helping our students build confidence, raise aspirations and gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them beyond school.



## PHILOSOPHY AT UNIVERSITY

**Sixth form RS students spent a day at Leeds University with IDEA:**

The Ethics Centre, taking part in a series of workshops under the title I Didn't Know Philosophers Did That. The day tackled surprisingly relevant questions – from the ethics of dating apps and whether AI is making us smarter, to bigger debates about technology, human behaviour and moral responsibility. Engaging directly with university-level ideas and facilitators, students left with a broader understanding of how philosophy applies to everyday life and where their subject can take them.



## MANCHESTER MET UNIVERSITY

Our students recently benefited from two informative and engaging sessions delivered by Manchester Metropolitan University, tailored to support different stages of their educational journey. Our Year 8 students took part in an inspiring workshop exploring "What is University?" and the wider world of Higher Education.



The session helped demystify university life by introducing students to the variety of courses available, the difference between school and university learning, and the exciting opportunities that come with student life such as societies, accommodation, and future career pathways. Students were encouraged to think about their own interests and how these could one day shape their choices, helping raise early aspirations and broaden their understanding of future possibilities.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students received a highly practical and reassuring talk focused on student finance, supporting them as they prepare for university applications. The session covered tuition fees, maintenance loans, budgeting, repayment structures, and common misconceptions, giving students and their families much-needed clarity at a crucial decision-making stage.

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

We are currently preparing our Year 10 students for their upcoming Work Experience Week, taking place from **6th July**. This is an important opportunity for students to gain real insight into the workplace, develop essential skills, and build confidence for their future pathways. We are reaching out to our wider school community to ask whether any employers, businesses, or organisations would be willing to support our students by offering a placement during this week. Even a short placement or a single-student opportunity can make a huge difference. If you or your workplace is able to help or would like to find out more about what's involved, please contact Mrs E. Landau directly-I would be delighted to hear from you.

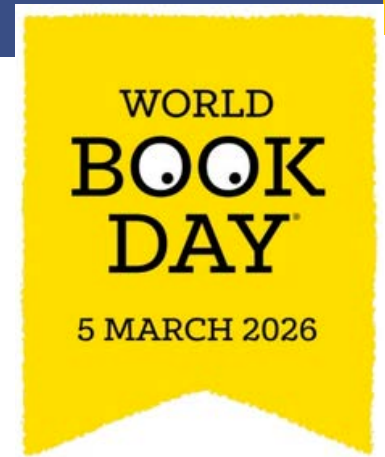
[elandau@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:elandau@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk)

# WORLD BOOK DAY

**Students of Abbey Grange had a great time on Thursday 5th March celebrating World Book Day.**

All year groups in all of their lessons that day were tasked with rescuing teachers from the books they were trapped in by a mysterious, malevolent force. Students had to listen to recordings and guess the teacher and guess the book they were reading in order to free them from their literary prison.

You will be pleased to know that all teachers were rescued from the books and that pupils also enjoyed break and lunch time activities such as Higher or Lower: Book Edition (number of pages and number of copies), Blackout Poetry, Guess the Book Emojis Quiz as well as a Golden Bookmark Treasure Hunt.



## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING SPRING TERM AWARD



Abbey Grange has successfully been awarded the National Literacy Trust's Certificate of Completion for the Spring Term - In the Room. This included engaging with the National Storytelling Week Competition as well as delivering Jeffrey Boakye's Storytelling workshop for a number of Year 7 pupils.

The certificate awards school that show an engagement with The National Year of Reading: Go All In which Abbey Grange exemplified through the participation in the Trust-wide Poetry Slam (semi-finals taking place on Wednesday 29th April), the Shakespeare Out Loud seminars on Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth as well as members of staff undergoing CPD on how to engage teenage readers, auditing current volitional reading provision and inspiring life-long readers.

# YOUR SCHOOL FOOD UPDATE



We are excited to introduce an updated secondary school menu designed to better reflect how students enjoy eating today, while also supporting healthier choices and reducing food waste across our kitchens.

## FRESH FLAVOURS, NEW TWISTS

Students may notice some familiar dishes are getting a fresh update. For example, we're saying "No More Kung Pao – Hello Bang Bang!", bringing bold new flavours inspired by street food trends while still delivering balanced meals.

## BANGING IN THE BEANS

One of the key themes of the new menu is "Banging in the Beans", supported by the Boosting Beans initiative from Veg Power. As a country, we need to increase bean consumption by seven times to meet healthy and sustainable eating goals aligned with the EAT-Lancet recommendations. Beans are nutritious and better for the planet, so you will see more delicious bean-based dishes appearing across our menu.



## STREETVIBES REFRESH

We are also delighted to launch two new concepts within our popular StreetVibes range: **Peri Good and Ramen Club**. These concepts reflect how students like to eat today – with customisation at the centre.



Each concept offers two base options, three proteins and a wide selection of toppings, allowing students to build meals that suit their tastes. These vibrant, street-food inspired options are already proving that having it your way is key to getting students excited by the food offer in our restaurants. These concepts may not be in your restaurant just yet, but if they sound like a great fit for your school, let your chef know and they could be brought in at the next menu change.

NEW  
NEW  
NEW

## NEW DISHES TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Crunchy French onion and leek mac and cheese
- Cajun chicken, tomato and sweetcorn pasta bake with house salad
- Nut-less Bakewell sponge

## REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Reducing waste is another important focus. "Crust to Crumb Apple" is a dish that transforms surplus bread from baguettes and bagels, combined with fresh apples, into something delicious while helping to minimise waste.

We are also introducing house gravy made from kitchen trimmings, ensuring that ingredients are used fully and flavour is never lost to the bin.

Our refreshed menu is all about serving great tasting food that students are excited to eat, while supporting health, sustainability and reduced waste. We hope you enjoy it!



## AT A GLANCE

- More choice
- More bean-based dishes
- Less food waste
- New street vibes options

## A Heartfelt Thank You

**We would like to say a massive thank you from the PTA for all the support received so far, this academic year.**

Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, our fundraising efforts—from the **Winter Fayre** and **Hamper Raffles** to the **Abbey Dip! Pre-loved Uniform Sales** and serving **refreshments** at various after-school activities, have been a great success. These events not only bring our community together but also allow us to give back to the school in meaningful ways.

Through the funds raised, we have been able to support both students and staff, helping to enhance the school experience for everyone. None of this would be possible without your continued support, donations and willingness to get involved.

We are incredibly grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring school community. The PTA simply could not run without you, and your contributions—big or small—make a real difference.

**Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school. We look forward to working alongside you in the future.**

## STAFF NOTICES

**We are delighted to share the wonderful news of two new arrivals in our school community:**

**Congratulations to Mr R Aguirre Bernal**, MFL Teacher, who welcomed a **baby boy on 9 March.**

We wish Mr Aguirre Bernal and his family every happiness during this special time.

**Congratulations to Mr C Virtue**, Maths Teacher, who welcomed a **baby boy on 20 March.**

Warmest wishes to Mr Virtue and his family as they celebrate this joyful new addition.

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

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### Social media

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

#### Instagram

@abgacademy

@abgsixthform

#### Facebook

/abbeygrangeacademy

/abgsixthform