

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



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In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower

KEY DATES:AUTUMN TERM

The Welcome Term: 1st Sep to 19th Dec 2026 #1 ASPIRATION TERM

WEEK A	Tuesday 1st Sept	Staff Training Day – No Pupils in School
	Weds 2nd Sept	Y7 only in school
	Thurs 3rd Sept	Y7, 12 & 13 Individual School Photographs Y12 and Y13 In school morning. Y12 New To Abbey Sessions
	Fri 4th Sept	Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11 in school 12 and 13 in school from 9.50am
WEEK B	Thurs 10th Sept	Y8, 9, 10 & 11 Individual Photos Y12 Induction Evening Communion Services
WEEK B	Mon 14th Sept	PTA Meeting
WEEK B	Weds 23rd Sept	City of Leeds event
WEEK A	Tues 29th Sept	Y10 GCSE PE Practical Mocks
	Weds 30th Sept	Y10 GCSE PE Practical Mocks
	Thurs 1st Oct	Y10 GCSE PE Practical Mocks Y11 English Spoken Language Day

KEY DATES: AUTUMN TERM

WEEK B	Thurs 8th Oct	Open Evening 5 – 8pm (TBC)
WEEK A	Mon 12th Oct	PTA Meeting Y7 Discovering the Space within Event Y13 In Class Assessments
	Tues 13th Oct	Y7 Form Tutors Parents Evening
	Thurs 15th Oct	KS4 & KS5 Drama Theatre Trip
	Fri 16th Oct	Y7 Restart a Heart Event
WEEK B	Weds 21st Oct	Y13 UCAS Fair

Half Term Holiday:

Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November

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.



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[@abgsixthform](#)



www.facebook.com/abbeygrangeacademy

www.facebook.com/abgsixthform

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

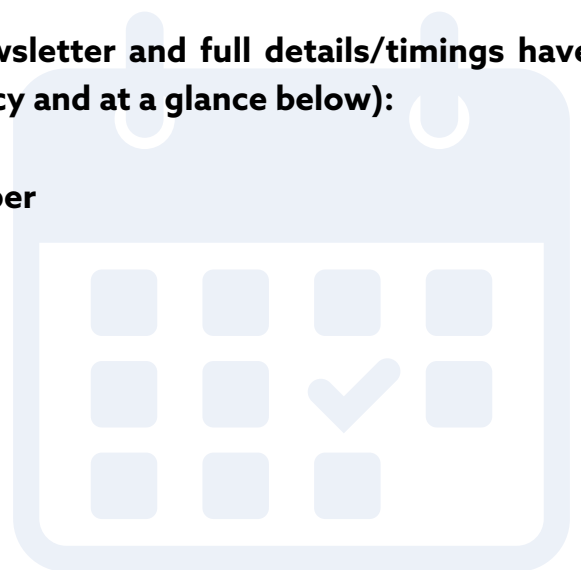
As the academic year draws to a close, we are of course looking ahead to the next! In the last two weeks we have inducted new students, families and colleagues to the Abbey Family and delivered a vast array of enrichment, careers and character-building opportunities, more of which you can read about later in this newsletter.

On the 2nd July we welcomed our future Year 7 students and their families. Mr Swarbrooke led an action-packed transition day and parental evening ensuring that students left excited for their new school and parents had the opportunity to ask questions and hear about expectations and our commitment to their children. Staff and the incredible Year 10 student leaders were impressed by the positivity and enthusiasm the Year 6s demonstrated on the day and they in turn took every opportunity to showcase our Abbey Character (Aspiration, Belief, Benevolence, Excellence and Youth Leadership). We look forward to seeing our newest students on Wednesday 2nd September when they and only Year 7 will have their first day in school as a Year group to get used to the building and routines.

Alongside students, we also welcome new staff and inevitably say farewell to others. This year we say goodbye to three staff who have made significant impact to the life, ethos and outcomes for young people at Abbey Grange. Chris Gibson, Achievement Director for Maths, is moving to a new post with Leeds MNTS and both Vince McLaughlin and Kay Brown are retiring. Kay has been with Abbey a remarkable 34 years. She has written her final Chaplaincy briefing elsewhere in this newsletter but I would like to formally thank her for everything that she has contributed to students, Chaplaincy and our Christian mission over those 34 years and wish her every happiness for her retirement.

Our start of term arrangements are also in this newsletter and full details/timings have been or will be for yr 11 on results day. (for expediency and at a glance below):

- **Year 7** are back in on the **Wednesday 2nd September**
- **Year 7, 12 and 13** on the **Thursday 3rd September**
- And all other students the **Friday 4th September**



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL



We have again opted for a phased return to both support Year 7 and 12 Transition but also to facilitate the planned Abbey Trust move away from classcharts and parent pay to one single system ARBOR. Please look out for communication from us around the 19th August and instructions for the parent arbor roll out.

Inevitably with any new system there will be challenges, but we ask that you bear with us and contact us if you need help.

Parents of Post 16 please also note the National Meningitis Vaccination roll out that current Yr 13 (and alumni) are eligible for - details later in this newsletter.

A reminder again please that the Academy closes on **Friday 17th July and buses leave early at 12.30.**

Results Days: A Level - 13th August; GCSE - 20th August

We will of course be in school in just a few weeks' time to celebrate A Level Results on the 13th August and GCSE results on the 20th.

The A Level Day will, we know, deliver exciting future opportunities as students move to University, Gap Years and Employment and on GCSE day we will be delighted to be signing students up for our 6th Form. We have had a very high number of applications this year, our wonderful OFSTED report and the strong outcomes that were achieved (expected being the National high standard and **strong** demonstrating significantly above expected) no doubt contributing to our profile across Leeds.

Finally can I take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support and commitment over this last year. Abbey Grange is in a very good place and I look forward to building, in partnership, with all stakeholders on our successes and Christian Vision as we move into the new academic year 26-27 from September.

For now though, have a lovely summer, I sincerely hope that you get the opportunity to rest, spend time together and reflect.

With very best wishes,

Mrs D Morgan
Principal



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 Sonia Kasibante (St Martin's Potternewton plus All Souls'), Revd Alison Battye (St John's, Adel) and Revd Jo Jones (curate St Margaret's, Horsforth) who will be leading our services this week.

Chaplaincy allows us to connect to different organisations and churches. It has been wonderful to welcome Bishop Arun to Culture Day and on our Year 7 pilgrimage events. We work with Leeds Faith in Schools every week, who offer valuable support to many students as well as running lunch clubs such as Rock Solid and Horizon. Praying Parents has grown to over 30 parents involved, praying in school or online or in their own time. Do email prayingparents@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk if you want to be involved.

As well as connecting community organisations with the school, chaplaincy is a great place for students to connect and it has been lovely 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!**



PRAYING PARENTS

A group of parents meets in the school chapel once a month to pray for all aspects of life at Abbey Grange Academy. They pray for our students, their activities and exams, our staff and the challenges they face, as well as for families and the continued success of the school community. To find out more or get involved, please email prayingparents@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk

All are welcome.

CHAPLAINCY

A some of you will be aware, this is my final message that I shall write to you as **I am retiring this Summer**. I have been working at Abbey Grange for 34 years in a variety of roles. Starting as a Science teacher, I have been assistant SENCo, Head of Year and finally since 2013 in the role of Chaplain. It has been wonderful to see how faith is at the heart of our community and the role the Christian vision has in shaping culture and policy.

My colleague Mrs Bailey will be taking sole responsibility for Chaplaincy at Abbey Grange so I know you are in safe hands! Thank you for your support and prayers over the years and I will continue to hold the children, staff and families of Abbey Grange in my prayers. I look forward to what God has in store for all of us and I am sure I will see many of you again.

With every blessing,

Chaplain

Mrs K Brown



PASTORAL TEAM UPDATE

A Look Ahead: Find Out Who's Leading Each Year Group from September



Year 7

Mrs Z Hinchliffe



Year 8

Mr N Williams



Year 9

Mrs A Albentosa



Year 10

Miss S Moore



Year 11

Ms H McDonagh



Head of

Pastoral Care
Mrs F Sugden

JOIN OUR SIXTH FORM

Visit our website to find out the courses on offer.

www.abbeygrangesixthform.co.uk

Stay connected:



@abgsixthform

This year has been another highly successful one for our Sixth Form. Our students have demonstrated excellent **commitment**, **resilience** and **ambition**, achieving strong academic outcomes while also fully embracing the wide range of opportunities available beyond the classroom.

From **university visits** and **subject-specific experiences** to **leadership roles** and **enrichment programmes**, our students have continued to develop the skills, confidence and independence needed for their next steps.

We are particularly proud of the breadth of experiences on offer. Students have engaged with external speakers, taken part in university discovery days, competed in leadership events and contributed to wider school life, all of which enhance their personal statements and future pathways.

These experiences are a key part of what makes our Sixth Form such a vibrant and supportive environment.

As such, we are excited to welcome our new Year 12 students in September as you begin an exciting and important stage in your education.

Abbey Grange are committed to supporting you throughout your journey and helping you make the most of every opportunity available. As you join us, we will have high expectations in terms of attendance, commitment and academic effort. In return, you can expect excellent teaching, strong pastoral support and a wide range of opportunities to help you succeed, whether your goal is university, an apprenticeship or employment.

Over the coming months, we will get to know you and support you in achieving your full potential. **Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.**



**Click to
read the
Sixth Form
Newsletter**

SCHOOL EVENTS

POETRY SLAM

On 26th June, we travelled to Bishop Young Academy to take part in the inaugural Abbey Trust Poetry Slam. Oracy is a vital part of life at Abbey and our students performed brilliantly, showcasing their confidence, creativity and outstanding speaking skills throughout the event.



Mehrate, Nola, Eleanor and Ariam pictured with poet & beatboxer Testament.

SPORTS FOCUS

BASKETBALL



All 3 age groups qualified for the Leeds Schools Basketball Finals. **The U12s, U14s both finished 3rd in Leeds. The U16s finished on a high winning the competition.**

The **Y7/8 Team** also **qualified for the Yorkshire Junior NBA Finals** which took place at Leeds Beckett and finished as the 3rd best team in Yorkshire.



SPORTS FOCUS

BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 8 boys football team **won their regional league** with some excellent performances, whilst all other year groups finished in respectable positions with year 10 and 11 narrowly missing out on the top 2.

All year groups had lots of fixtures and represented the school excellently.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

We have had a successful year for girls football with our **U14's coming third in the Leeds league and our U12's winning the Ilkley Grammar plate.**

We had over 70 girls at training throughout the year with some special visitors from Leeds United.



BOYS CRICKET

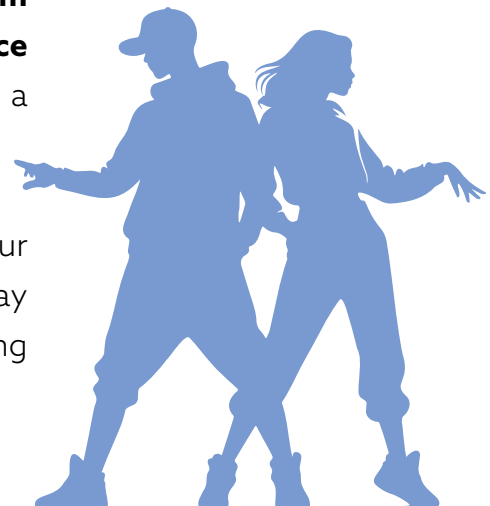
Year 7 boys' cricket have had an excellent start to their abbey grange cricket lives and **represented the school in 5 fixtures.** We have had some mixed results but have been competitive in all games which has been brilliant.



DANCE

Also, another successful year for dance where **the key stage 3 team came 3rd within Yorkshire and also won the Leeds School Dance competition. The key stage 4 team came 6th in Yorkshire** with a brilliant performance based on hypnosis.

We have had Phoenix Dance theatre come and work with our students for the annual Windrush event a long side the Interplay event. It has been great working with them again this year providing lots of opportunities for our dancers.



A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR SCHOOL YEARS: **PILGRIMAGE AT ABBEY GRANGE**

At Abbey Grange, pilgrimage is not a single event but a thread that runs through a student's entire journey with us. From their first steps in Year 7 to their final years in post-16, students are invited to walk, reflect, and grow — physically, spiritually and personally — through a series of pilgrimages that deepen their connection to our Christian ethos and to one another.

YEAR 7: KIRKSTALL ABBEY — FIRST STEPS ON THE PATH

For our youngest students, pilgrimage begins close to home with a visit to Kirkstall Abbey.

This journey is carefully designed as a gentle introduction to what it means to be a pilgrim: students stop at different places of Christian worship along the way, learning to see prayer and reflection as part of a wider landscape rather than something confined to a single building.

This year's pilgrimage was made even more special by Bishop Arun joining the students, offering his own wisdom and presence to the group. For many Year 7 students, this was their first opportunity to pause and reflect meaningfully on their first year at Abbey Grange — the friendships made, the challenges overcome, and the sense of belonging they have begun to build. It is a fitting first step: small in distance, but rich in meaning.



YEAR 9: THE NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE — WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

As students move into Year 9, the pilgrimage grows in scale and depth. The Northern Saints Pilgrimage takes students to Durham Cathedral, Finchale Priory and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, tracing the footsteps of three remarkable figures of the region's Christian heritage: Cuthbert, Aidan and Godric.

Here, the physical challenge of pilgrimage becomes more real — students walk across the exposed sands to reach Lindisfarne, timing their crossing carefully and experiencing first-hand the vulnerability and trust that pilgrims throughout history have relied upon. In reflecting on the lives of Cuthbert, Aidan and Godric — men who chose simplicity, service and solitude in pursuit of a deeper faith — students are invited to consider what it means to live with purpose and conviction. This pilgrimage marks a significant step in character development, asking older students to push themselves further, both physically and spiritually.



POST-16: THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – THE ULTIMATE PILGRIMAGE



The pilgrimage journey reaches its culmination in post-16, with students undertaking a genuinely extraordinary challenge: 122 kilometres along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

This year's group faced the added test of walking through a heat wave, a reminder that pilgrimage has always demanded resilience, endurance and trust — qualities as relevant to walking pilgrims today as they were centuries ago.

Along the way, students reflect on the life and legacy of St James, whose journey inspired this very route, while also looking back on their own journey through Abbey Grange. For many, this pilgrimage became a powerful moment of transition — a chance to reflect on who they have become during their time with us, and to carry forward the character, faith and resilience they have built.

A JOURNEY OF GROWTH

Taken together, these three pilgrimages tell a story of growth. What begins as a short walk to Kirkstall Abbey becomes, by post-16, a demanding international pilgrimage undertaken largely through their own determination. At every stage, the emphasis remains the same: pilgrimage at Abbey Grange is about far more than walking from one place to another.

It is about developing character, engaging deeply with our Christian ethos, and creating space for genuine spirituality and reflection.

From Kirkstall to Lindisfarne to Santiago de Compostela, our students don't just learn about pilgrimage — **they live it, one step at a time.**

YEAR 11 STEM EQUIPMENT REUSE INITIATIVE

Following the completion of their GCSE examinations, Year 11 students were invited to donate unwanted scientific calculators, revision guides, flashcards, knowledge organisers and other educational resources for reuse by younger pupils.

The initiative was designed to reduce waste, support families with the cost of education and ensure that valuable learning resources continue to benefit students long after their original owners have finished using them.

Thanks to the generosity of our Year 11 students, the project has so far collected over 170 educational resources, representing an estimated replacement value of more than £1,000.

Many of these items will be redistributed to younger pupils, helping to ensure that all students have access to the equipment and revision materials they need to succeed.

The initiative was supported by local organisations and community partners who donated prizes for participating students. We are particularly grateful to Leeds Trinity University, the PTA and other organisations who helped make the project possible.

170 educational resources were collected, representing an estimated replacement value of more than £1,000.



This has been a fantastic example of our students demonstrating generosity, sustainability and Koinonia. By donating resources, they no longer need, our Year 11 students have left a lasting legacy that will benefit future cohorts for years to come.

Thank you to everyone who donated resources, promoted the initiative and helped with the collection process.

The donation drive is still open so if you are a departing student of Abbey Grange please consider donating unwanted educational equipment so we can help even more students

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.

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!**



Water Safety

the hidden dangers
of open water



1. Deep cold water



2. Sudden drops of up to 50m



3. Unpredictable undercurrents



4. Hidden machinery



5. Steep, slippery banks

TENDER AWARD



Abbey Grange is delighted to have been recognised nationally for the work we do promoting healthy relationships and educating to end domestic violence.

Each year since 2018 we have trained 25 students as healthy relationships ambassadors who then present their learning to the whole of year 8. We travelled to the Unicorn Theatre in London with some of our ambassadors to receive our award from West Yorkshire's own **Jody Whitaker**, receiving the Ripple Effect Award. This award recognised the hundreds of students trained as ambassadors and the thousands of young people who have heard this important message.

Jody said of Abbey Grange:

"This secondary school in Leeds, was one of the first in West Yorkshire to host a Tender Project back in 2018. It is a diverse inner-city school with students speaking over 70 different home languages.

The school is committed to **inclusivity** and **celebrating diversity**, ensuring the young people have the best possible access to expert, inclusive and fun relationships education, no matter their gender, faith or culture. The Chaplain of this school has an unwavering belief in the power of art for social change and healthy relationships for all.

Long term relationships are important to Tender and never more so than those they have with schools. This relationship has lasted 8 years! Each year a group of students are trained as healthy relationship ambassadors and they deliver a presentation to their peers at the school. This year's healthy relationship ambassadors devised an excellent presentation. Many of them were nervous to present in front of 240 thirteen-year-olds (who wouldn't be!) but they were courageous and presented the important messages with confidence and clarity.

And so now many young people from this school have attended a Tender peer presentation about healthy relationships, spotting early warning signs, where to go for support and how to be a good friend. The ripple effect is extraordinary.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT AWARD GOES TO... Chaplain Kay Brown and all the staff and students at Abbey Grange Church of England Academy in West Yorkshire."

MOBILE PHONES UPDATE

From September 2026, schools will be operating under new government guidance regarding the use of mobile phones. As a result, schools will be required to maintain a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day.

Whilst our current policy already supports this approach, we will be working next year to develop a student-led programme focused on phone awareness and positive mental health. This will eventually lead to the introduction of lockable phone pouches in school.

We will also be working with our Sixth Form students to ensure mobile phones are not used around the main school site and to encourage all students to use appropriate learning devices, such as laptops, rather than relying on mobile phones for learning.



INTRODUCING ARBOR



We're delighted to announce that, from September, Abbey Grange Academy will be moving to the **Arbor Parent Portal** and **Parent App**.

Arbor will make it easier to keep in touch with families by bringing key information and school communications together in one place. Through the Parent Portal and App, parents and carers will be able to receive updates, access important information about their child and make payments for trips, activities and other school-related items.

As part of this transition, **ParentPay** and **ClassCharts** will no longer be used from **September**, with all payments moving to Arbor.

To help ensure a smooth changeover, **we ask families to clear any outstanding ParentPay balances before the end of term.** Any remaining credit or debit balances will be transferred to Arbor during the summer holidays.

We appreciate your patience while balances are transferred and will share further information in the coming weeks. We look forward to the benefits Arbor will bring for our school community.

FREE

SCHOOL MEALS



IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

From September 2026, the government is expanding Free School Meals so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible. This means many more families will now qualify.

What this means for your child

- A free, nutritious meal every day at school
- Support with the cost of living
- Helps children stay focused and ready to learn

Need help?

If you are unsure whether you qualify or need help applying, please contact the school office.

Why applying matters

Registering helps:

- Ensure your child receives their entitlement
- Help the school access additional funding and support where eligible
- Make sure records are accurate for future support

What you need to do

We are asking all parents to provide us with their details so that we can check your eligibility.

**CLICK to Submit
your details**



MENINGITIS B VACCINE ACTION



Who can get the MenB vaccine?

The meningitis outbreak that happened in Kent in March has been described as unprecedented, since then a campaign has been launched to help those who maybe at risk.

The vaccine, given as two doses and at least 28 days apart, is being offered to 17 and 18-year-olds in sixth form and students under the age of 25 who are heading to a residential college or university this autumn for the first time. Both doses are needed for the fullest protection.

A million young people are expected to be eligible for the vaccine in England, including:

- people born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008
- people born on or after 21 July 2001 and starting university for the first time this autumn
- people born on or after 21 July 2001 who are starting at residential further education colleges for the first time this autumn

Bookings can be made at high street pharmacies across England from Monday 13 July, with the first appointments available from Monday 20 July.

Seventeen and 18-year-olds can book via the NHS National Booking Service, external if they are already registered with a GP, external.

Other students under the age of 25 who are heading to a residential college or university this autumn for the first time can also contact a participating pharmacy.

You can get a walk-in MenB vaccine at a pharmacy if you were born on or after 21 July 2001, and for the first time this autumn you are:

- starting university
- starting at a further education college as a residential student

You do not need to be registered with a GP surgery to use the walk-in service.

Find a participating pharmacy here



ANNE FRANK TRUST

Abbey Grange Academy is proud to announce that four Year 8 students have been selected as Anne Frank Ambassadors, following their outstanding involvement in the school's Anne Frank exhibition project.



The students earned their places through submitting creative reflections inspired by their engagement with the exhibition. **Their work explored the themes at the heart of Anne Frank's story** — tolerance, prejudice, identity and the importance of standing up against discrimination — and **demonstrated a depth of thought and empathy** that impressed staff and organisers alike.

As Ambassadors, the students will take on a leading role in promoting these values across the school community. This may include supporting future exhibitions, leading discussions or assemblies, and helping younger pupils engage meaningfully with Anne Frank's diary and its lessons for the present day.

Staff at Abbey Grange Academy and from the Anne Frank Trust have praised the students' commitment and maturity, noting that their reflections went beyond the classroom task to show real personal engagement with difficult and important history. The Ambassador programme, run by the Anne Frank Trust, aims to empower young people to become advocates for equality and respect in their schools and wider communities.



POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS CHARTER

At Abbey Grange, we value open, positive communication with parents, carers, and our wider community. Working together helps us support the young people in our care.

Our Principles for Communication:

1) Respectful Dialogue

We ask that all conversations—written or spoken—are considerate and respectful. We understand that concerns can be emotional, and we will always respond with support and compassion. However, we will end any interaction that becomes abusive or threatening.

2) Timely Acknowledgement

We will acknowledge your complaint or concern within 48 hours (during term time and excluding weekends). This means we will confirm we have received your message, let you know who is handling it, and, if possible, outline the next steps. Please avoid raising complaints via social media, as this can make it harder for us to help you effectively.

3) Appropriate Staff Response

Your concern will be handled by the most suitable available member of staff. This may not always be the person you initially contacted.

4) Meetings by Appointment

To ensure staff can give you their full attention, meetings must be scheduled in advance. Staff are not available for unscheduled meetings during the academy day.

4) Decisions in the Best Interests of Students

Some decisions are made for the benefit of all students and may not require detailed discussion. These are in line with what all schools are allowed to do by law.

6) Complaints Process

We follow our Trust Complaints Policy, which is available on our website. Once a complaint has been fully addressed through this process, we consider the matter closed and ask for your understanding.

If you have any questions or need support, please contact us:

info@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk or visit our website for more information.

YEAR 8 FRANCE TRIP



In June, 154 Year 8 students embarked on an exciting four-day residential visit to France, enjoying a rich programme of cultural, historical and outdoor learning experiences.

From exploring the vibrant market in Rue and the seaside town of Le Touquet, to visiting a goat farm, a snail farm and the impressive Nausicaá National Sea Centre, students embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and maturity. The visit also included time at the Somme Battlefields, where students reflected on the courage and sacrifice of those who served during the First World War.

Throughout the trip, our students demonstrated the values at the heart of Abbey Character. They showed **Aspiration** by stepping outside their comfort zones, engaging with new cultures and making the most of every learning opportunity. They embodied **Belief** by approaching unfamiliar experiences with confidence and a positive attitude, supporting one another throughout the journey.

Students displayed **Benevolence** through kindness, respect and consideration for others, whether supporting friends, interacting with local people or representing the school with pride. They pursued **Excellence** in everything they did, demonstrating exemplary behaviour and a commitment to learning beyond the classroom. Activities such as Château Olympics and tracking and camouflage challenges developed teamwork, resilience and determination.

The trip also provided many opportunities for **Youth Leadership**. Students showed initiative, took responsibility for themselves and others, and acted as outstanding ambassadors for Abbey Grange. We are incredibly proud of all 154 students for the way they embraced every challenge and opportunity. The residential was not only a memorable adventure but also a powerful example of how experiences beyond the classroom help develop the character, confidence and leadership qualities that will benefit our young people throughout their lives.



In July, 170 Year 8 students took part in an exciting overnight residential at Castle Howard, immersing themselves in a range of bushcraft and outdoor learning activities designed to build confidence, resilience and teamwork. Over two days, students tackled challenges including shelter building, fire lighting, trap making, camouflage and concealment, and a Bushcraft Challenge, while also enjoying an evening of games with their peers.

The residential provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop the values at the heart of **Abbey Character**. Students demonstrated **Aspiration** by embracing unfamiliar challenges and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Whether learning to light a fire, build a shelter or work effectively in the outdoors, they approached each activity with determination and a willingness to learn.

Throughout the trip, students showed **Belief** in themselves and in one another. Many activities required perseverance, problem-solving and adaptability, and it was wonderful to see students grow in confidence as they developed new skills and overcame challenges together.

Benevolence was evident across the residential, with students supporting one another, sharing responsibilities and encouraging their peers to succeed. Living and learning together in an outdoor environment helped strengthen friendships and foster a real sense of community.



Students also pursued **Excellence** in every aspect of the experience. They listened carefully to instructions, approached activities with enthusiasm and represented Abbey Grange exceptionally well through their behaviour and attitude. Staff were particularly impressed by the maturity and commitment shown by so many students throughout the residential.

The trip provided countless opportunities for **Youth Leadership**. Students took initiative, worked collaboratively to solve problems and led by example when supporting others during activities and camp routines. These experiences encouraged them to take responsibility, make decisions and develop valuable leadership skills that will benefit them both in school and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of all 170 students who took part. The Castle Howard bushcraft residential was more than just an outdoor adventure; it was a valuable opportunity to develop the character, confidence and leadership qualities that define the Abbey Grange community.

CULTURE DAY

Celebrating What Makes Us Unique
and What Brings Us Together

One of the highlights of the Abbey Grange calendar returned in June as we celebrated another fantastic Culture Day, led with energy, creativity and pride by a selection of our incredible Year 12 students.

The day provided an opportunity for our school community to celebrate the rich diversity that makes Abbey Grange such a special place, while recognising the shared values and sense of Britishness that unite us all. Through assemblies, students shared stories of their heritage, traditions and experiences, highlighting the many cultures and identities represented across our school.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of activities linked to our Culture Day World Cup theme. Year 7 and Year 8 tutor groups transformed their noticeboards into colourful displays inspired by different World Cup nations, showcasing creativity and teamwork. The competitive spirit continued with a mini football World Cup competition, while students proudly celebrated their identities through traditional clothing, music, dance, language and cultural customs. It was wonderful to see so many young people confidently sharing their heritage while showing curiosity, respect and appreciation for the backgrounds of others.



The event was a powerful reflection of our **Abbey Character values**. Students demonstrated **Belief** in who they are, **Benevolence** in the respect they showed one another, **Aspiration** through their willingness to learn about different cultures, **Excellence** in the **enthusiasm** they brought to the day, and **Youth Leadership** through the outstanding contribution of our Year 12 students, whose planning and leadership helped make the event such a success.

A particular highlight was the incredible range of homemade food from around the world. Students and families generously shared dishes representing different countries and cultures, allowing everyone to experience new flavours and celebrate the traditions that enrich our diverse community.

Culture Day remains one of the most uplifting events of the year, reminding us that our differences make us stronger and that by celebrating both our individual identities and our shared community, we create a school where everyone belongs. A huge thank you to our Year 12 leaders, staff, students and families for making this year's celebration such a success.



CAREERS

VISIT TO LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

During the year, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Leeds Beckett University, gaining a valuable insight into higher education and future career pathways.

The visits enabled students to explore university facilities, learn about different courses and subjects, and take part in engaging activities designed to develop their aspirations. Many students enjoyed experiencing life on a university campus and hearing from current students about their journeys into higher education. The experience encouraged them to think about their future goals, the importance of achieving their best at school, and the wide range of opportunities available to them beyond secondary education.



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

This summer, our Year 10 students completed a week of work experience across a wide variety of workplaces, giving them an invaluable opportunity to develop their employability skills and gain first-hand experience of the world of work. Placements took place across Leeds and beyond, reflecting the diverse interests and ambitions of our students.

Students were hosted by organisations ranging from local employers such as North Church, to national retailers including Specsavers. Others worked within cafés, restaurants, primary schools, marketing agencies, engineering companies, healthcare settings, sports organisations, construction firms and local businesses.

Throughout the week, students developed essential workplace skills including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, time management and professionalism. Many received excellent feedback from employers, who praised their **enthusiasm, willingness to learn** and **positive attitudes**.

Work experience provides far more than an insight into a particular job role. It helps students build confidence, understand employer expectations and make informed decisions about their future education and career pathways. We are grateful to all the employers who generously supported our students and helped make their placements such a success. Their commitment to inspiring the next generation plays a vital role in preparing our young people for their future careers.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD **MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

We currently have vacancies for governors who **don't** have children attending Abbey Grange.

If you know someone with time and a passion for education and community, encourage them to get involved.

This is a chance to:

- Support local education
- Share professional expertise
- Develop leadership and governance skills
- Help us strengthen our school's future.



Find out more about our Local Governing Board

<https://www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk/about-us/governance>

STAFF NOTICES

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to **Mrs K Brown** and **Mr V McLaughlin** on their retirements. Thank you both for your dedication, hard work, and valued contribution over the years. We wish you a long and happy retirement.



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

Congratulations to Mr B Rothera, who welcomed a **baby girl** in May.

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

Congratulations to Mrs C Dodds, who welcomed a **baby boy** on 2 June.

Warmest wishes to Mrs Dodds and her family as they celebrate this joyful new addition.

Congratulations to Miss Kate Simpson, who welcomed **baby Isabelle**.

Heartfelt congratulations to Miss Simpson and her family on this joyful occasion.

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

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