



NEWSLETTER



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Abbey Grange Sixth Form as you prepare to join us this September. You are about to begin an exciting and important stage in your education, and we are very much looking forward to supporting you on that journey.

This year has been another highly successful one for our Sixth Form. Our students have shown excellent commitment, resilience and ambition, achieving strong academic outcomes while making the most of opportunities beyond the classroom.

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

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

These experiences are a key part of what makes our Sixth Form such a vibrant and supportive environment. As you join us, we will have high expectations of you 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, apprenticeships or employment.

We are excited to get to know you over the coming months and to support you in achieving your full potential. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to welcoming you in September.

Mr M Delgado
Director of Sixth Form





Lessons from Auschwitz Project: **A Powerful Educational Experience**

Six of our Sixth Form students had the privilege of taking part in the nationally recognised Lessons from Auschwitz Project, delivered by the Holocaust Education Trust.

This impactful programme runs across the year and provides students with a deep and meaningful understanding of the Holocaust through a combination of expert-led seminars, educational workshops and a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Our students – Serea B, Amie C, Klaudia P, Ollie W, Peniel O and Lillie D – demonstrated outstanding maturity, respect and commitment throughout the project. Their participation has enabled them to develop not only their historical understanding but also their sense of social responsibility and moral awareness.

A key part of the programme involves students sharing their learning with others, and our participants have taken on the important role of educating younger students in Key Stage 3 about the lessons learned, **helping to ensure that the experiences and messages of the Holocaust are never forgotten.**

We would like to thank Miss J Anderson and Mrs Bailey for their organisation and support in making this opportunity possible, and we are incredibly proud of the students involved.





Year 12 Chemistry Visit to the University of York

Our Year 12 Chemistry students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of York for a hands-on practical experience within a real university laboratory setting.



During the visit, students took part in a practical session where they synthesised paracetamol, using specialist equipment typically found in higher education laboratories. This provided a valuable insight into the expectations and experiences of studying Chemistry at university level.

The day offered much more than just a practical activity; it allowed students to experience university life first-hand, helping to build their confidence and raise aspirations for progression onto STEM-related courses and careers.

Opportunities such as this are a key part of our Sixth Form enrichment programme, ensuring students can apply their classroom learning in real-world contexts while gaining a clearer understanding of future pathways.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award: Developing Skills for Life

Our Sixth Form students have once again demonstrated commitment, resilience and independence through their participation in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award.

The programme runs throughout the year, with students signing up at the start of the academic year and completing their volunteering, physical and skills sections over time. These activities encourage students to develop new interests, contribute to their communities and build valuable life skills.

Students also **take part in expedition training after school, preparing for a practice expedition** in the summer term and their qualifying expedition at the start of Year 13. **These experiences develop teamwork, resilience and confidence beyond their comfort zones.**

The DofE programme remains a valued part of our enrichment offer, equipping students with skills that support their studies and future ambitions while fostering confidence, independence and personal achievement.



Step Up to Oxbridge Programme: Raising Aspirations

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This prestigious programme is designed to support high-achieving students in exploring the possibility of applying to Oxford or Cambridge. Through their visits, students experienced life at two world-renowned colleges, gaining first-hand insight into studying at these highly selective universities.

During the programme, students took part in academic sessions, explored college facilities and learned about the application process, helping to make higher education more accessible. The experience raised aspirations and built confidence, encouraging students to aim high in their academic ambitions.

Opportunities like this reflect our commitment to ensuring all students, regardless of background, are supported in accessing competitive universities and ambitious future pathways.



Chaplaincy & RS Enrichment: Developing Reflection, Debate and Personal Growth

Our Post-16 students have benefitted from a rich and diverse Chaplaincy and Religious Studies enrichment programme, offering a wide range of opportunities for academic exploration, personal reflection and wider engagement.

Students studying RS attended a thought-provoking talk on the *Theology of C.S. Lewis*, delivered by a Cambridge postgraduate, providing deeper insight into philosophical and theological ideas beyond the classroom.

A number of students also took part in the *Camino de Santiago pilgrimage*, an experience open to all Post-16 students, which encouraged reflection, resilience and personal growth through a shared journey.

Our students engaged in the *Solutions Not Sides programme*, participating in workshops focused on peace education using the Israel-Palestine conflict as a case study. This programme also offers the opportunity for a fully funded residential at Cambridge for successful participants, further extending students' learning and development.

The *Humanities Scholars Programme* has also supported students in aspiring to top universities, with an exceptionally strong track record of success for those who take part. Alongside this, students have developed their debating and critical thinking skills through participation in the Ethics Cup, a competition focused on constructive and respectful discussion.



For students seeking wider enrichment, the *Marrick Priory* residential provided a unique opportunity to combine faith, outdoor pursuits and team-building experiences alongside other year groups.

Finally, the Chaplaincy continues to offer a welcoming and supportive space for all students, with regular opportunities such as Friday break-time gatherings, helping to foster a strong sense of community within the Sixth Form.

Together, **these experiences highlight the breadth of opportunities available within our Sixth Form, supporting students' academic progress** while also nurturing their personal development, wellbeing and sense of belonging.



Geography Enrichment: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our Geography students have benefited from an extensive and engaging programme of fieldwork and enrichment opportunities, designed to bring their classroom learning to life.

Year 12 students began the year with a three-day residential at the Cranedale Fieldwork Centre in the Lake District, where they developed key fieldwork skills. This was complemented by a coastal field trip to Hornsea, where students investigated erosion along the Holderness coastline through first-hand data collection.

For Year 13 students, a range of urban and physical geography experiences were planned. These included a visit to London to explore regeneration around the Olympic Park, alongside a local study of regeneration in Leeds, focusing on the South Bank area. Students also explored river processes through a field trip to the upper reaches of the Leeds river catchment near Malham.

In addition to fieldwork, both Year 12 and Year 13 students took part in tree-planting initiatives with organisations including Trees for Cities, the Woodland Trust and Leeds City Council. These experiences enabled students to contribute positively to their local environment while developing a deeper understanding of sustainability and environmental management.

Together, these opportunities reflect **our commitment to delivering a varied Geography curriculum, supporting students in developing practical skills, environmental awareness and a strong sense of place.**



Biology & Biscuits: Supporting Success in KS5 Biology

Our Sixth Form Biology team has introduced a popular and effective support initiative, Biology and Biscuits, designed to provide students with additional opportunities to consolidate their learning in a relaxed and supportive environment.

These sessions run at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and are open to all **Key Stage 5 Biology students. Led by our experienced KS5 Biology teachers**, the sessions allow students to revisit key concepts, seek clarification on challenging topics and build confidence in their understanding.

As well as providing targeted academic support, the informal setting encourages students to engage more openly, ask questions and develop positive study habits alongside their peers.

Initiatives such as this reflect our commitment to ensuring that all students are well supported throughout their studies, helping them to achieve their full potential while fostering a positive and collaborative learning environment.



Careers & Progression: Preparing Students for the Future

Our Sixth Form continues to provide a comprehensive careers and progression programme, ensuring that all students are well prepared for their next steps beyond school.

A key element of this provision is the Leeds Beckett progression module, which is completed by all Year 12 students. This programme supports students in developing essential skills for higher education and future careers, culminating in a graduation event at the university—an inspiring milestone that celebrates their achievements and raises aspirations.

Students have also benefited from a **wide range of in-school opportunities**, including a mini UCAS fair and a careers fair, giving them direct access to universities, employers and training providers.

Visits from Leading Universities

In addition, we have welcomed representatives from a number of leading universities, including **Newcastle, Manchester, Loughborough,**

Lancaster and **Oxbridge institutions**. These visits have provided students with valuable insight into university life, application processes and subject-specific opportunities. Nicholas from Newcastle University also visited as an ambassador, offering further guidance and support to students considering their options.

Alongside this, external speakers from organisations such as Boeing have delivered talks, helping students to explore career pathways and develop a clearer understanding of the skills required in industry.

Together, this extensive programme ensures that our students are informed, confident and ambitious as they make decisions about their future, whether that be university, apprenticeships or employment.

British Physics Olympiad

Our Year 12 Physics students had the opportunity to take part in the **prestigious British Physics Olympiad**, competing in both the online and written challenges. Taking place in January and March 2026, the Olympiad encouraged students to apply their physics knowledge to complex and unfamiliar problems, developing critical thinking, resilience and advanced problem-solving skills. Participation in nationally recognised competitions such as this provides excellent preparation for university study and strengthens applications for competitive courses and apprenticeships.





Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage

Each year, a group of Year 12 students has the opportunity to take part in the Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage, a unique and enriching experience that combines personal challenge, reflection, cultural exploration and community.

Open to Post-16 students, this annual pilgrimage allows participants to walk sections of the historic route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain while developing resilience, independence and teamwork.

The experience provides students with an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, build lasting friendships and engage with the spiritual and cultural significance of one of Europe's most famous pilgrimage routes. It remains a highlight of the Sixth Form enrichment programme and is an experience that many students describe as life-changing.



Who was involved?

Year 12 students and staff from the Chaplaincy and Religious Studies departments.

STEM Rotary Technology Tournament

Students also represented the Sixth Form in the STEM Rotary Technology Tournament in March 2026, working collaboratively to tackle engineering and design challenges. The event promoted creativity, teamwork and innovation while giving students valuable experience of applying STEM skills to real-world scenarios.



Politics Students Engage with Local MP

Our Sixth Form students recently had the valuable opportunity to hear directly from their local Member of Parliament, Alex Sobel, who visited the academy to deliver an engaging talk followed by a question and answer session.



The session was attended by our Year 12 and Year 13 Politics students, alongside a number of Year 11 students who have shown a keen interest in the subject and are considering studying Politics at Sixth Form.

During the visit, **students gained first-hand insight into the role of an MP**, the workings of Parliament, and the realities of political life. The Q&A element proved particularly valuable, with students asking thoughtful and challenging questions, demonstrating both their enthusiasm for the subject and their awareness of current affairs.

Events such as this are a key part of our Sixth Form enrichment programme, ensuring students can connect their classroom learning to real-world experiences. Opportunities to engage directly with professionals not only deepen subject understanding but also inspire students to consider future pathways in politics, law, and public service.

We are grateful to Alex Sobel for giving his time to support our students, share his valuable expertise, and enhance their learning experience.

Law & Criminology Enrichment Opportunities

Students took part in the BPP Law Experience hosted by BPP Law School in Leeds, where they gained valuable insight into the legal profession and the different routes available after Sixth Form.

This event also provided an excellent opportunity for students to network with professionals from local law firms, helping them build valuable contacts.

In addition, we welcomed a speaker from the University of Law, who delivered an informative session on studying law at university and the wide range of careers it can lead to.

Students also attended a Criminology Discover Day at the University of Manchester, where they participated in engaging taster lectures and research-focused workshops.



This experience gave them a real insight into what it is like to study Criminology at a higher level, as well as providing valuable information about careers in this field, future opportunities, and the chance to meet current and former university students.

These experiences are a key part of our commitment to providing students with meaningful opportunities beyond the classroom, helping them to make informed decisions about their future pathways while developing confidence, curiosity and ambition.



Year 12 Computer Science Students Attend Leeds University Hackathon

In January, our Year 12 Computer Science students had the exciting opportunity to visit Leeds University to take part in a Hackathon organised by Hack for Humanity.

During the event, students were challenged to use artificial intelligence and technology to develop innovative solutions to a real-world problem presented on the day.



The visit included an introduction to AI and software development, a guided tour of the University's computing department, and the opportunity to meet current undergraduate Computer Science students. Students also learned about pioneering research taking place within the University, including the use of artificial intelligence in medicine.

Experiences such as this provide invaluable insight into university study and careers within the rapidly growing technology sector, while helping students develop their problem-solving, teamwork and digital skills. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with cutting-edge developments in computing and gain inspiration for their future studies and career aspirations.

Sports Leaders Supporting Local Primary Schools

Our Sixth Form Sports Leaders have played an active role in supporting the wider community through the organisation and delivery of a multi-skills event for local primary school pupils.

This event provided our students with the opportunity to develop their leadership, communication and organisational skills, as they planned and delivered a range of engaging physical activities tailored to younger pupils.

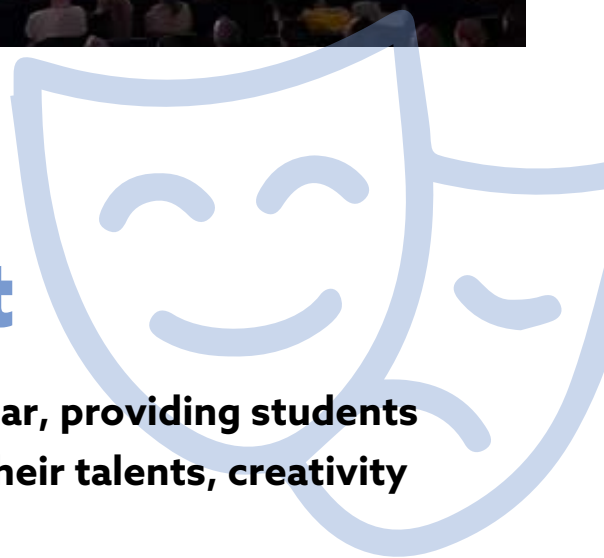
The primary school participants benefitted from

high-quality coaching and a positive introduction to a variety of sports, while our Sports Leaders gained valuable experience in leading sessions, working as a team and taking responsibility—key skills that contribute strongly to their personal development and future pathways.

Events such as this are an important part of our enrichment programme, **enabling students to make a meaningful contribution to the community while enhancing their confidence and leadership abilities.**



Performing Arts & Cultural Enrichment



The Performing Arts continued to thrive this year, providing students with a wide range of opportunities to develop their talents, creativity and confidence.

Students showcased their musical abilities through the annual Christmas, Easter and Summer Concerts, performing to audiences of parents, staff and the wider school community. These events highlighted the exceptional talent within the Sixth Form and celebrated the contribution that music makes to school life.

Students also played a key role in this year's school production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, demonstrating outstanding commitment both on stage and behind the scenes. The production was a tremendous success and reflected the hard work, professionalism and teamwork of all those involved.

Alongside these performances, students benefited from a range of cultural enrichment opportunities, including theatre visits to London, Manchester and Leeds. These trips enabled students to experience high-quality live performances, deepen their understanding of drama, music and the arts, and gain valuable insight into creative industries and careers.

Through performances, productions and cultural visits, our students have continued to demonstrate creativity, dedication and a willingness to embrace new experiences, enriching both their own education and the wider life of the Sixth Form.



Year 12 Work Experience Week

This term, all Year 12 students successfully completed a bespoke week-long work experience placement, providing a valuable opportunity to explore potential career pathways and develop key employability skills.

Students secured placements across a wide range of professions, including healthcare, engineering, law, business, education, science and the creative industries.

The experience enabled students to gain first-hand insight into the workplace, build professional networks, develop confidence and enhance their understanding of the skills and qualities employers value. Work experience also provides an excellent foundation for future university, apprenticeship and employment applications, helping students make informed decisions about their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, maturity and commitment demonstrated by our students throughout the week, and we are grateful to the many employers who generously supported this important part of our Sixth Form enrichment programme.

Joining our Sixth Form

As an Abbey Grange student, you already understand our values, expectations and supportive environment, and we look forward to helping you take the next step in your Post-16 journey.

www.abbeygrangesixthform.co.uk

Speak to Miss Etherington to learn more about joining our sixth form, or visit our website to find out the courses on offer.

Stay connected:



@abgsixthform

