

# News from Abbey Park School

Term 1 October 2020

*'Potential into Performance'*



The Park  
Academies Trust



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

On reflection, the first term of working under quite different circumstances has gone very well and I would like to thank you for your support and kind words of encouragement for the school community. It has been challenging for all but I am pleased to say that students have settled well and regained their learning focus. I am also very grateful to our staff, who are having to move around the school to teach in different rooms, which has been a challenge in itself.

It is pleasing to report that Year 11 have settled back into their GCSE courses and are attending the intervention, catch-up and revision sessions on offer. This is having such a positive effect for individuals, helping them prepare for their mock exams in late November. It has been confirmed by Ofqual that exams are still due to take place in the 2021 summer series, but the start date has been pushed back three weeks to provide a little more time for preparation.

As you are aware there have been a couple of occasions where students have been required to isolate at home. Those isolating have been provided with remote learning during this time which has worked well for the vast majority. We are trying to offer as much support as possible to enable them to sustain their engagement and learning with lessons. Any work set on Show My Homework with COVID-19 in the title, is solely for those students isolating.

I was pleased to have my photograph taken with 4 students who have worked in the community for several months, following the Swindon Lions, Leaders in Service programme. They are the first secondary students in Swindon to earn the award and were rewarded with a certificate, badge and £50 voucher for their commitment and resilience. These students have displayed many aspects of 'Abbey Park Proud' so were also awarded an R4 tie pin. There are many students keen to show their support of the community – members of the school council have recently been busy helping collect for the food bank and students supported the collection earning points for their house.

Earlier in the term we requested that you encourage your child to go straight home from school at the end of the day. We still have a significant number of students congregating on the park at the end of the day and sometimes in the morning. They are in groups of more than six which is a concern, particularly with increased cases of the virus in Swindon. We ask again that you speak to your child and explain the reasons for the need to return straight home.

Our pastoral team continues to support students in their learning. As you are aware we have a behaviour for learning policy which provides a very clear expectation of behaviour so that learning isn't disrupted. The rewards and consequences system is effective and I encourage staff to use this to support the ethos for learning. We have provided a reminder for you in this newsletter and ask you support us with this, rather than question the consequences your child may receive. You are able to monitor your child's rewards and consequences on the Arbor parent portal, where full details and reasons for the consequences can be found. You can also visit our website where you will find the full Behaviour for Learning Policy. There is a centralised detention system and we ensure students sit detentions so they begin to take responsibility for their actions.

This term we successfully carried out the Yr7 Consultation evening virtually. Next term we intend to run a 'virtual' Consultation Day, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We encourage all parents/carers to engage with this, to take the opportunity to meet with your child's tutor and receive a breakdown of their progress across the subjects. An invite will be sent to you well in advance so you can make your appointment.

Finally, we hope students are able to have a good rest over the holiday to return refreshed for Term 2 and as always we look forward to working with you over the next term.

Best wishes

Mr Young  
Operational Principal

## Achievements

The Swindon Lions Club takes an active interest in the students' work and their community activities at Abbey Park School. After explaining the Lions Club Leaders in Service programme to the student body, the local chair Maurice Watson has helped guide four of our Year 10 students through the process. After one year of voluntary work four of the students have been awarded Gold level and have won vouchers, a pin badge and a certificate. This is the first time the award has been made in a local secondary school.

The volunteering work undertaken by the students took place across a year and included a wide range of activities. Internally at school they have picked litter, designed competition posters, made and sent cards to people in care homes and in hospital as well as assisting with fundraisers and at sports day. Outside of school they have been dog sitting, babysitting, attending and completing worthwhile and beneficial activities such as Scouts.

Huge congratulations go to Oliver L (10JWO), Issy M (10PA), Kaja G (10RB), and Grace R (10JWO).



## Behaviour for Learning

### Behaviour for Learning

The Behaviour for Learning system has been devised to support positive behaviour within the School by ensuring that good and outstanding performance is rewarded and celebrated and that any behaviour that detracts from the learning process has a consequence. The rewards and consequence system is outlined below:

#### Rewards

<b>R1</b>	Good work or effort on class or homework; participating in a School event or helping a member of staff or fellow pupil. Pupils will be awarded 1 point.
<b>R2</b>	Very good work or sustained effort; assisting staff to run a School event. Pupils will be awarded 2 points.
<b>R3</b>	Consistently high effort or outstanding work; being an excellent role model for other pupils. Pupils will be awarded 3 points and receive a recommendation for 'Student of the Week/Character Champion'.
<b>R4</b>	Exceptional work or progress. Excellent academic report. Being an outstanding role model. Student of the week/Character Champion. Students will be awarded 4 points and receive a tie pin from the Principal.

#### Consequences

<b>C1</b>	Verbal warning. This is intended to encourage a pupil to work without further disrupting the lesson.
<b>C2</b>	Second warning. Pupil moved within the classroom if appropriate. The pupil will receive 2 negative points and this will be logged on their record.
<b>C3</b>	Persistent disruption after a C2. Timeout called and the pupil may be removed from the lesson.
<b>C4</b>	Second failure to attend a detention; truancy from lessons; aggressive behaviour; serial disruption of lessons or lack of School uniform without a valid reason. Pupils will be placed in isolation. Pupils will also receive 4 negative points.

## Behaviour for Learning

### An automatic C3 may also be issued for:

being late to the School or a lesson without a valid reason

failing to hand in homework on time

using a mobile phone in school without permission – this includes before school, breaks, lunchtime and after school. If students need to contact home for any reason during the day they can ask a member of the pastoral team or student services.

Inadequate work

inappropriate behaviour outside of lessons

walking away from a member of staff

lack of correct equipment without a valid reason

abuse of the School ICT system.

### Equipment check

Over the holiday please can you help check your child's equipment to ensure they return to school with essential equipment. Organisation is an aspect of 'Abbey Park Proud' we promote. It is important your child comes to school fully equipped, ready to learn. Due to the circumstances we are unable to share equipment with students, therefore a lack of equipment can hinder learning. Students should be equipped with the following:

Pen Black or Blue x 2	Coloured pencils	Pair of compasses
Pencil x 2 Pencil Sharpener	Green pen (for noting feedback)	Protractor
Ruler	Highlighter pens	Dictionary
Rubber	Glue stick	Pair of headphones
Pair of safety scissors	Calculator	Reading book (from home)

## Governor News



*'To create centres of educational excellence that inspire all pupils to turn their Potential into Performance'*

### Local Governors Required – Abbey Park School

The Local Advisory Board of Abbey Park School are currently looking to recruit Community Governors.

The aim of this is to increase the capacity and level of expertise on the Local Advisory Board (LAB) and are particularly interested in hearing from those with skills and experience in any of the following areas:

- A passion for voluntary work and improving school standards
- Accounting and Finance
- Education
- Human Resources
- Legal expertise
- Project Management
- Team Leading/Managerial
- Previous Governance experience

#### **What does a Local Governor do?**

Trustees delegate various Governance functions to the LABs which are based within each school within the Trust. The Local Governors within the LABs focus on improving standards at that individual school.

#### **What's the commitment involved and what's in it for me?**

Currently, Local Governors meet around 6 times a year for committee meetings. You will need to allow time to prepare for these meetings, ensuring papers are read and suitable challenging questions are formulated. You will need to make a commitment to attend training to expand your knowledge of governance. There are times when additional support is required and you may be called to support the school with sitting on various panels relating to behaviour or complaints.

Although the position of a Local Governor is purely a voluntary position, it is rewarding and allows you to make a difference to the lives of young people in the local community. You will gain new skills and experience and get the chance to meet and work with other Local Governors and Trustees who are as passionate about improving educational outcomes as you are.

#### **How do I register an interest in becoming a Local Governor?**

We would love to meet you to discuss how your skills and expertise could benefit the Trust. Please email Mrs S Connolly, Clerk to the LAB, on [clerk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk) along with details regarding what you could bring to the role of a Local Governor. We look forward to hearing from you

**Chris Shepherd**

**Chair to the Local Advisory Board – Abbey Park School**

## House News

### Term One—House Points

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Attendance	Ennis	Austen	Churchill	Newton
Rewards	Newton	Churchill	Ennis	Austen
Overall	Ennis	Newton	Churchill	Austen

**WHEN.....**  
SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

## Remember Together House Event



**HOW.....**

All you need you to do is write the name of the person you are remembering or thanking on a piece of card, take a photo of yourself with it and upload it. You could write the name of a relative from years gone by, a friend who is currently serving or maybe visit your local war memorial and research a person who served from your town or village.

**WHAT.....**

To mark this year's Armistice Day local BBC radio are making a giant poppy mosaic.

**WHERE.....**

**BBC REMEMBER TOGETHER WEBSITE**

**WHY....**

BBC will work their magic to transform all of your pictures into a giant poppy that will go on display at the [REME Museum](#) at MOD Lyneham in Wiltshire. The piece will also be exhibited in Coventry as part of an exhibition in the build up to its year as [UK City of Culture 2021](#) and 80 years to the month since more than 500 German bombers destroyed much of the city in the overnight air raid.

## Humanities

Will O (11HBR) has entered a nationwide photography competition with The Geographical Association. The theme of the competition is 'Finding Physical Geography'. It was part of a summer project for APS GCSE Geography students to take a photograph of a natural or human landscape/phenomenon and link to the theme. Along with the photograph was a 250 word explanation. There is still time to enter. Submission closes on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, if your child is in year 10 or 11 and is interested in entering please view the online VLE platform or email Mrs Coles for more detail. [colese@abbeyparcschool.org.uk](mailto:colese@abbeyparcschool.org.uk)

Fingers crossed for the win. First prize is an Ostro Windproof Jacket and to feature in the spring issue of The GA magazine.





# Maths

Autumn is upon us, students have settled back into their mathematical learning with many of them studying prime numbers this term.

## Mathematical history

September marked the birth of Marin Mersenne, a French Minim friar, who also studied prime numbers in the early 17th century. He discovered special prime numbers of the form  $2^n - 1$  (a prime number that is one less than a power of two), which were named after him.

Over 400 years later, mathematicians are still trying to find answers to some fundamental questions about Mersenne primes. We do not even know yet whether the set of Mersenne primes is finite or infinite! So for those interested mathematicians among you, there may be a PhD linked to this.

## Student news

During lockdown, the maths department ran an online PIXL Times table competition for last year's year 7 and 8. Many students took part, but there can only be one winner and one runner-up from each year group. They were:

Year 7 Year 8

1st G Scorer 1st M Long

2nd E Webber 2nd A Connolly

Congratulations to all four of you – an excellent performance. If you missed out this time, you have lots of time to hone your times tables skills before we repeat this competition later in this academic year.

## Puzzle of the term: The stupid gardener

A gardener planted a row of 100 strawberry plants in his garden, setting them exactly 1m apart. Each plant produced just one strawberry. When picking time came, the stupid gardener placed a basket 1m from the end of the row, and then proceeded to pick and carry each strawberry to the basket one by one. Starting and ending at the basket, how far had the gardener walked when he finished picking all 100 strawberries?

Answers by email to Mrs Lloyd at [lloydh@abbeyparcschoolacademy.org.uk](mailto:lloydh@abbeyparcschoolacademy.org.uk).

First correct answer to reach Mrs Lloyd by email will be awarded an R2, while the next five correct answers will be awarded an R1 each.

## Website

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. We wanted to make the new website easier to navigate and user friendly.

We have a Quick Links tab at the top of the page which will take you to areas we feel would be most useful such as Term Dates, School Diary, ParentPay and more....

We are still in the process of building some areas of website. These will be completed over the coming weeks.

Lydiard Park Academy and TPAT Sixth Form site will also be launching their new site shortly. The finishing touches are being made to ensure that they both become the source of information for parents, pupils and the community.



# School Calendar

## November 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## December 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Monday 2nd November - Term 2 starts**

**Thursday 19th—Friday 20th—Inset Days**

**Wednesday 18th November—Consultation Day**

**Friday 18th December—last day of Term 2**

**(Christmas Break 19th December to January 3rd)**

**Monday January 4th 2021— first day of Term 3**

A full calendar and more information can be found at  
[www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk](http://www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk)