

News from Abbey Park School

Term 4 - March 2026

'Potential into Performance'



**The Park
Academies
Trust**



Message from the Principal

It has been another exciting and busy term at Abbey Park. Our pupils and staff have embraced a wide range of opportunities, demonstrating commitment, creativity, and community spirit throughout.

This term saw fantastic fundraising efforts across our House teams, from the Easter Market and Comic Relief activities to the Tub2Pub initiative. A huge thank you goes to our Heads of House, support staff and the dedicated tutor teams for organising these events and giving pupils the chance to work together, have fun and raise money for charitable causes. It was wonderful to see year groups mixing and engaging so positively at the various Easter Market stalls last week.

Our pupils have also represented the school with pride in a number of competitions, including the Maths Challenge, Mock Trials, First Lego League, and FameLab. Enrichment opportunities have continued to thrive, with exciting trips such as the GCSE Media Studies visit to the Harry Potter Studios, along with inspiring workshops delivered by visiting artists for our Art pupils. Well done to all pupils involved!

We were delighted to host a series of successful careers events this term. All year groups benefited from a motivational talk delivered by Junior Saunders, whose insights and encouragement inspired pupils to reflect and think ambitiously about their futures. In addition, Year 10 took part in a dedicated Careers Day, giving them the chance to explore pathways, develop key employability skills, and consider the next steps in their educational journey.

Looking beyond the school, a particular highlight was the opportunity for our School Council to meet with Haydon Wick Parish councillors earlier this term. This experience enabled the pupils to share their perspectives on the community and take an active role in contributing to positive local change.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the work of Mrs Tubb and team who have recently been awarded a Best Practice Award by the Gloucestershire Virtual School in recognition of the support they offer to vulnerable learners. A fantastic acknowledgement of their work and thoroughly well-deserved.

It has also been an especially important term for Year 11. They completed their final round of mock exams at the start of term and now enter the crucial weeks leading up to the summer exam season. Many have signed up for Easter revision sessions run by Abbey Park staff, who are generously giving their time over the break to provide additional subject support. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 pupils the very best as they prepare for their upcoming examinations.

We concluded the term with Tutor Consultation Day, giving pupils and parents/carers the chance to meet with tutors, either in-person or virtually, to review academic progress and set meaningful goals for the remainder of the year. The hybrid approach provided families with flexibility. We will be seeking feedback from everyone involved to review whether we will continue with this approach next year.

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break. Thank you for your continued support of our school community and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful and inspiring term ahead.

Regards,

**Mr Ward
Principal**

Maths

UKMT Challenge

On Thursday 12th March I took 2 boys and 2 girls (keeping it all balanced) to participate in the UKMT team challenge. We were hosted by the Deanery, and we had 17 teams in all from various schools in the area as well as from outside of Swindon. One school travelled about 85km to get to the Deanery.

After 4 rounds of 'Mathsing' we were placed 7th. The pupils were an absolute pleasure to work with, and they really did us proud. I would be happy to take them out again.

Feel free to give them a shout out when you see them.

They are Oliver W (9EB), Olivia R (8EC), Nika M (9CH) and George D (8AH).



Mrs McDonald
Maths teacher

Science

Fame Lab Academy Swindon Finals

Two of our Year 9 pupils - Isabelle B and Isabel A, competed in the Swindon final of Fame Lab Academy. This is a competition whereby pupils have to deliver a 3-minute speech on anything they want within the realms of science. They are not allowed to use notes or any presentation - it has to be just them (and a prop - if relevant). Isabelle delivered hers on "fear" and Isabel spoke about dreams and déjà vu.

Both girls did extremely well, and I am pleased to note that Isabel A won the competition.



First LEGO League Challenge

On Wednesday 18th March, 6 of our pupils competed at the First LEGO League Challenge at Safran Landing Systems, in Gloucester.

They have been working multiple days a week since September to build and code their robot, Rocky, to come up with an innovative solution to a problem faced in archaeology, and to prepare a presentation. In addition, they had to answer multiple Q&As, think on their feet, and justify every decision they had made.

Their team, The Rocky Roaders, got to the quarter finals, and received a trophy for "embodying LEGO" and being all what the competition is about.

As well as the trophy, a highlight was being the fastest school to disassemble and reassemble a landing gear of a plane, and being able to name every part!

We would like to congratulate the pupils who took part - Matthew A-P, Hayden N-B, Jacob H, Megan E, Nikodem M and Jack F. We'd also like to say a special thanks to Mrs Wheeler who drove us and helped throughout the day despite it being her day off.

Miss Keogh
Science Teacher



Modern Foreign Languages

The MFL team continues to celebrate individual pupils as the Language Stars of the term for outstanding effort, resilience and improvement in French/Spanish. Their confidence in speaking and use of complex sentences has really impressed the team.

The highlight was having a previous pupil from last year join the team to gain some teaching experience herself. Evie, who is highly knowledgeable in French, was a great asset to both teachers and pupils alike. She delivered Year 9 assembly to discuss her own experience with regards to options, languages and how to be resilient. Evie truly impacted our Year 9 pupils who responded really well to her advice and coaching. This was clearly acclaimed by both pupils and staff.

Feedback from pupils included: 'she was very helpful' and 'she was very good and inclusive'. Finley in Year 9 remarked 'Elle est très intelligente.'

Below are a few language tools and apps that Evie recommended to help pupils in their language journey:

- Falou, Duolingo: Helps with the speaking
- TV5MONDE EDU: Helps with the listening
- Gizmo: Flashcards & Quizzes
- StudyFetch: To generating flashcards, quizzes, games and detailed notes
- ChatGPT: Helps to generate exam questions on any topic
- Study Bunny: a study timer & focus tracker that helps track study sessions. It allows you to pause the timer to minimize distractions.

Competition

As part of the International Women's Day celebration on the 8th of March, a day to honour achievements, strength, and inspiration from women around the world, the MFL team led by Mrs Legatelois organised a competition for pupils to join the celebration by creating their own poster about a famous multilingual woman.

All entries will receive an R1 and the winner an R4.

Poster Competition: Famous Polyglot Women!

Throughout history, women have advanced science, arts, politics, and human rights across every culture. Many influential women spoke multiple languages, allowing them to share ideas, build bridges between cultures, and inspire global change. Learning languages opens doors, strengthens communities, and helps us understand the world.

We celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th of March — a day to honour achievements, strength, and inspiration from women around the world. Join the celebration by creating your own poster about a famous multilingual woman!"

All entries will receive an R1 and the winner will receive an R4.

◆ **Deadline: 25th March** ◆
Contact: Ms Legatelois (GF34)
LegateloisV@abbeyparcschool.org.uk

Phrase of the Month:

Spanish: "¡Vamos!" - Let's go!

French: "On y va!" - Let's go!

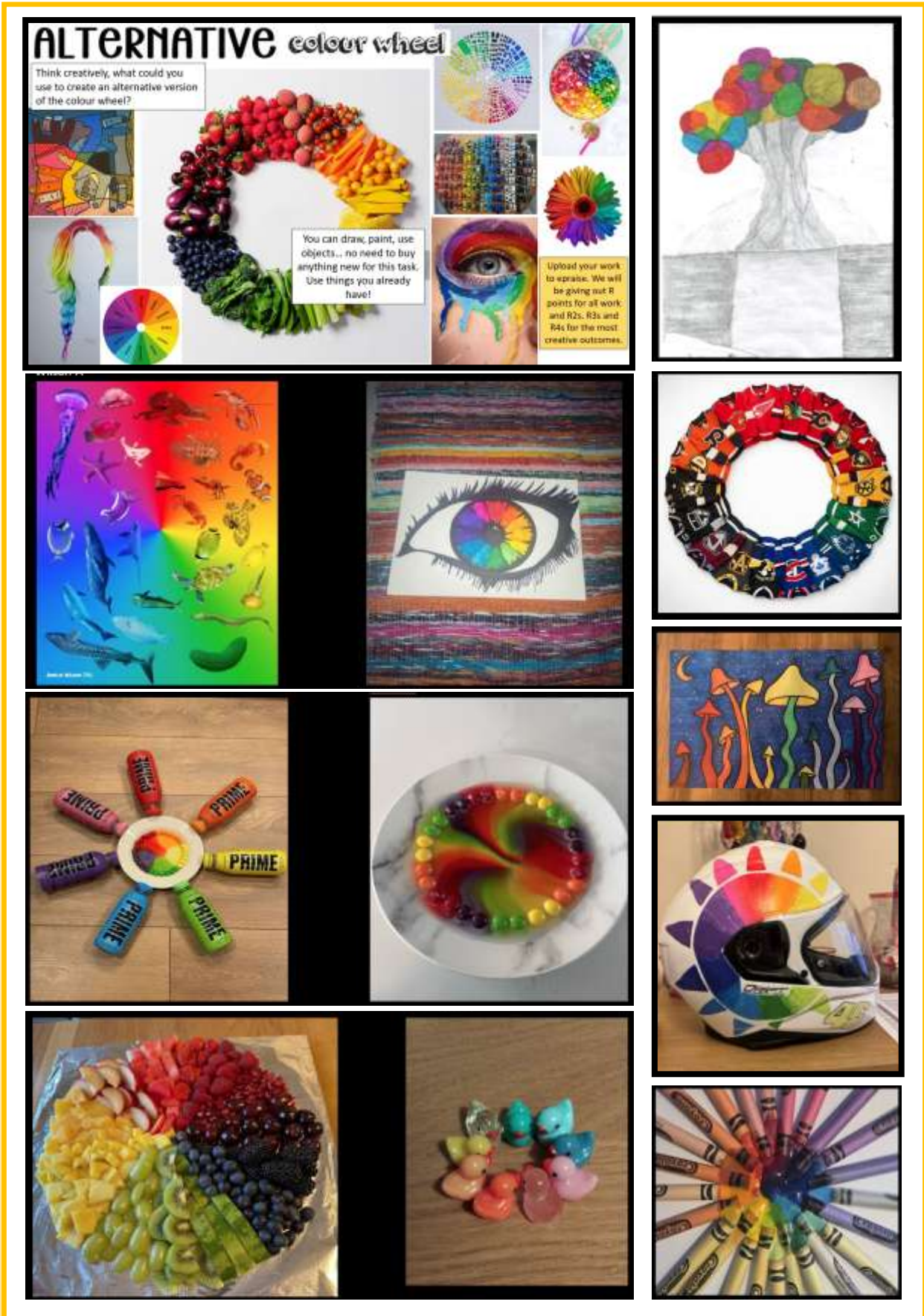
Encourage your child to use this at home!

Mrs Sam

MFL Teacher

Alternative Colour Wheel

We would like to say well done to Y7 for their fantastic homework. The original task and some contributions can be seen below. Breno M was awarded with an R4 for his effort and others have achieved R3s & R2s.



Whilst term 4 is a short term there have been some notable successes with the PE department.

Individual successes

We are celebrating the continued success of Emily and Douglas, both in Year 9.



Emily W competes for Great Britain at Judo and is part of our Elite Sports Academy.

She recently competed at the English open on 22nd February. After winning 2 fights, she then just missed out to fight in the bronze medal fight, so she ended the day with a 7th and 20 points towards her black belt.

She went on to represent APS at the National schools. She won two fights to get to the final and then eventually lost to one of her friends, receiving a silver medal. What an amazing result!

Douglas is a long distance runner. Having been successful in the earlier rounds of cross country, Douglas represented Wiltshire in the National cross country event in Liverpool. He came 76th overall in his age category and 1st for Wiltshire - this was his best result of the season, so he was chuffed, and it made the long trip up to Liverpool worth it!



Fixtures

Our sports teams have had weekly fixtures against other Swindon schools. The girls have played some great basketball with our Y8 team unbeaten so far with 2 games to play against Kingsdown & Highworth.

The boys football season has started with a series of tournaments and league matches underway. The Y8 boys team have also continued their success in the county cup beating Sarum 4-0 to progress to the semi final against Bradon Forest.

Term 5 will continue to be busy with athletics training starting and rounders & cricket fixtures commencing (weather permitting!).

Mrs Wall
PE Teacher

Careers

A Dynamic Careers Day for Year 10

Year 10 pupils enjoyed a packed and purposeful Careers Day designed to help them explore life beyond Year 11. Representatives from **GWA, New College**, and **Cirencester College** visited the school to present their **post-16 pathways**, giving pupils a clearer picture of the academic and vocational options available to them.

The day also included:

- **Virtual work experience**, allowing pupils to explore real world industries from the classroom
- **CV writing workshops**, helping pupils learn how to present their strengths effectively
- A **finance presentation** from a chartered financial adviser
- A hands on **finance challenge**, encouraging pupils to apply budgeting and money management skills

These sessions gave pupils a valuable head start as they begin thinking seriously about their next steps.

Motivational Speaker Inspires Years 7–11

On **10th March**, pupils from **Years 7 to 11** had the opportunity to hear from motivational speaker **Junior Saunders**, whose energetic and engaging talk focused on the importance of **employability skills**.

Junior explored:

- How to develop confidence and communication
- The skills employers look for
- How to apply these skills in interviews and future workplaces
- Apprenticeships and post-16 options for older year groups

His message encouraged pupils to recognise their potential and take ownership of their future pathways.

Careers Education in PSHE

Both **Year 7** and **Year 10** have recently completed a series of **5 careers lessons** as part of their PSHE curriculum. These lessons follow the **Career Development Institute (CDI) framework**, ensuring pupils receive structured, high quality guidance.

Using the **Unifrog platform**, pupils explored:

- Careers linked to their personal interests
- Pathways that match their strengths
- Skills they may want to develop as they move through school

This early exposure helps pupils build confidence and curiosity about the world of work.

Looking Ahead

From hands-on workshops to motivational talks and structured careers education, pupils across the school have taken meaningful steps toward understanding their future opportunities. The week highlighted not only the range of pathways available but also the importance of developing the skills and mindset needed to thrive.

Mr Maddern
Assistant Principal

Haydon Wick Parish Council Meets Abbey Park School Council

Councillors from Haydon Wick Parish Council recently visited Abbey Park School to meet with our School Council, made up of pupils from Years 7–11.

The session created a valuable platform for young people to share their views on the local community and discuss how future funding could be used to improve the area.

Pupils spoke confidently about their priorities, raising ideas around community spaces, safety, youth facilities, and environmental improvements. The councillors were keen to understand the teenage perspective, recognising how important it is for young people to have a voice in shaping the place they live.



To build on the discussion, pupils then completed a survey, giving councillors a clearer picture of their concerns and suggestions. The survey results will help inform the council's next steps and ensure that young people's views are represented in future planning.

This collaborative meeting marks a positive step in strengthening the relationship between Abbey Park School and the local parish council, empowering our pupils to influence real change in their community.

Mr Maddern
Assistant Principal

Achievements outside of School



We would like to congratulate Harry S (Y10) who has been awarded the Young Achiever of the Year award by Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Harry received the award for his work in the community and was nominated by local councillors.

Well done Harry!

Mrs Redondo
Head of Y9 & 10

Fundraising

'Potential into Performance'

Tub2Pub

A huge thank you to everyone who donated tubs as part of the Greene King's Tub2Pub 2026 campaign.

Our donated tubs filled Mrs Parkinson's boot and front passenger seat! It took 4 return journeys between car and drop off point to deliver them all safely.

Pupils from across the school swapped their tubs for R points with Y7 donating the most tubs; well done Y7!

In 2025, Greene King collected over 240,000 tubs that weighed in as 27,990kg of plastic; raising over £10,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and it is predicted our tubs will help to break these totals from last year.

We hope to support this event again in January 2027...can we fill more than one car next time?!

Mrs Parkinson
MFL Teacher



Competitions

Mock Trials

On Saturday 7th March, Mrs Verlander-Simmonds and Mrs Dyer took 14 Year 9 pupils to the Magistrates Court for this year's Mock Trials competition.

The team competed against 3 other schools in court defending and prosecuting their case. Once again, our amazing pupils did a fantastic job and surpassed all our expectations. Both rounds were very closely matched with only points in it.

The stars of the day were our witnesses, Scarlett M and Zoe T, who both won the trophies for their roles. We were unsuccessful in winning overall, but this did not diminish our achievements and the pupils went on to celebrate in style with desserts in Kaspas.

It is not only wonderful to see the pupils gain confidence throughout this process but also shows people what confident, polite and committed young adults they are becoming. Everyone who worked with us at the courts complemented us on how amazing our pupils were.

Congratulations Amelia B, Ella K, Freya E, Erin G, Aoife K, Abigail L, Zoe T, Isabel A, Rosie T, Thomas M, Marianna P, Scarlett M, Nika M and Kira M.

Ms Bowie
Librarian and Accelerated Reader Supervisor



Events

HEADS OF HOUSE

Term 4 updates

Termly Highlights



We were delighted to celebrate the success of our Easter Market, which brought the whole school community together in such a vibrant and positive way. Pupils collectively had a fantastic time, and it was wonderful to see the energy, enjoyment, and array of creative ideas filling the School!

From stalls and activities to performances and games, there was a real sense of enthusiasm and collaboration throughout. Both pupils and staff fully embraced the event, making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved. From this, our community raised a huge £1720 for Comic Relief!

What's coming up Term 4

Our Year 9's are fiercely undergoing an Interhouse Netball Tournament... Results to come!

Term 5

We are excited to announce the return of Abbey Park's Got Talent in Term 5 with auditions to be announced!

Term 6

After last year's successful colour run, we can't wait to host another!



Thoughts of our term

As we move towards the Easter break, this time of year also offers an opportunity to reflect on new beginnings. It is a chance for pupils to reset, refocus, and return next term with renewed motivation and a positive mindset. We are excited for the fresh opportunity this brings not only for personal growth in attendance, rewards, and achievement, but also for a new wave of house competitions! We look forward to welcoming pupils back ready to engage in more community events, with fierce but friendly competition across the arts and sports. We wish all members of the APS community a restful and enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to an exciting and successful term ahead.



Mr Stroud



Mrs Parkinson



Mr Lyons



Miss Johnson



Miss Fullerton

Y11 – Session 6 GCSE support

TERM 5/6: Year 11 – Session 6 – GCSE support

- Sessions will run from 3.15pm for a maximum of one hour
- Although Curriculum Leaders may advise attendance, sessions are open to all pupils
- **Attendance is on a voluntary, 'drop in', basis. Pupils do not need to sign up to a whole term**
- Registers will be taken
- The LRC is open for private study after school
- Pupils in detention in the Assembly Hall are not permitted to attend Session 6 in place of a detention. They are able to undertake private revision. Resources are available.

	Subject	Room	Staff
TUESDAY	Photography (Also open to Year 10)	BG71	CP
	Further Maths Qualification	RF20	LB
	Science	YG97	JSh
	DT	TBC	SO
	Drama practical	DS	DB
	Business Studies	RG30	MR
WEDNESDAY	MATHS PAST PAPER CLUB	ALL	Maths classrooms
THURSDAY	History	GF48	CPI
	Geography	GF43	SB/CT
	French	GF34	VL
	Spanish	TBC	Staff on rotation
	Art (Also open to Year 10)	BF61	AS/JWh
	DT	BG80	BQ/AN
	Computer Science	RG30	CH
FRIDAY	Media Studies	BG71	NE/KVS
	Drama theory	DS	DB
	Music	MU	MH/AF

After-School Enrichment & Lunch Time Clubs

Signing-up to after-school enrichment clubs:

- **Free clubs** - sign-up for free after-school clubs has now been added to **ePraise**. Parents and pupils are both able to **sign-up via the ePraise app**.
- **Paid for clubs** will continue to be added or remain on Arbor.

Full details of the activities can be found listed below.

**sign-up to these clubs opens at 6pm on Friday 27th March.*

Club	Day	Room	Year Group
KS3 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y7, 8 & 9
KS4 Homework Club	Daily	RG21	Y10 & 11
PAID CLUB: Dance Academy	Monday	Dance Studio	Information emailed separately
KS3 Rounders	Monday	Field	Y7, 8 & 9
All Girls Rounders	Tuesday	Field	All
Y7 & 8 Code Breaking	Tuesday	LRC	Y7 & 8 (max 10) – Pupils to sign-up through Mr Simpson
Y9, 10 & 11 Sparx support	Tuesday	BG71	Y9, 10 & 11 (max 30)
*Musical Theatre Group	Tuesday	TV Studio	All
Y8 & 9 Swindon Town Football Club training	Tuesday	Football Pitch	Y8 & 9 (max 30)
*All Cricket	Wednesday	Astro/Field	All
*All Athletics	Wednesday	Field	All
Rock School	Wednesday	Music Rooms	All
Mock Trials	Wednesday	LRC	Pupils have already signed up through Mrs Verlander-Simmonds
*Crochet & Cross-Stitch Club	Wednesday	GF45	Come along with your own crochet hook and wool to practice or have an opportunity to continue your pieces of crochet
*All Y9, 10 & 11 Outdoor Softball	Thursday	Sports Hall	Y9, 10 & 11
*All Volleyball	Thursday	Gym	All
*All Girls Netball	Thursday	MUGA	All
Composition Club	Thursday	MU1	Y9, 10 & 11
Duke of Edinburgh	Thursday		Pupils have signed-up through Mr Bates
Bronze/Silver Arts Award	Thursday	MU1	Information emailed separately
Anime & Manga club	Thursday	LRC	All
*KS3 Coding club	Thursday	RG30	Y7, 8 & 9 (max 30)
Y11 Dungeons & Dragons	Friday	GG45	Y11 - sign-up through Miss Peele
Choir	Friday	Music Rooms	All

In addition to our after-school enrichment clubs, we also offer lunchtime clubs. No sign-up is required, please just turn up if you wish to take part. Below is a selection of the lunchtime clubs on offer:

Day	Club
Monday	KS3 Girls Dodgeball - Gym
	ALL Table Tennis – Dance Studio
	Y7 Art Club
	Y11 lunchtime quiet workspace – Art department
Tuesday	ALL Girls Basketball - Gym
	Table Tennis - Outside
	Y7-10 Art Club
	Y11 lunchtime quiet workspace – Art department
Wednesday	Girls Benchball - Gym
	Table Tennis - Outside
	Y7-10 Art Club
	Y11 lunchtime quiet workspace – Art department
Thursday	KS4 Boys Basketball - Gym
	Y7 Football (Interhouse) - Astro
	Table Tennis - Outside
	Y7-10 Art Club
Friday	Y11 lunchtime quiet workspace – Art department
	Y8 Boys Basketball - Gym
	Y11 lunchtime quiet workspace – Art department

Useful Information

Buying books

In the library we try to keep a wide variety of books and authors, however it is impossible to stock everything. If your child enjoys reading it can be difficult to keep up with buying them books, especially in the current economic climate.

So here are a few tips to keep costs down:

- Join your local library, it is free to join and you can borrow up to 16 books at a time.
- While at the library, many have a withdrawn section where you can take as many books as you can carry for £1.
- Charity shops often have a book section, the bonus is you can return them when you have finished and support a good cause.
- Discount book shops such as The Works offer a wide range of books at discount prices.
- Online WoB (World of Books) is a secondhand book shop which offers books at a reasonable price and offers free delivery in the UK.

Local libraries

North Swindon Library

Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

01793 707120

northswindon.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 2.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday - closed
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday - closed
- Friday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Sunday - 11.00am - 3.00pm

Central Library

Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

01793 463238

central.library@swindon.gov.uk

Current opening hours

- Monday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Thursday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Friday - 10.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday - 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Sunday – closed

Local Bookshops

Bert's Books

54 Godwin Court, Swindon, SN1 4BB

07949 190977

bert@bertsbooks.co.uk

Opening hours

- Monday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Saturday - 8.30am – 5.30pm
- Sunday - 10.30am – 4.00pm

Waterstones

3 Canal Walk, Swindon SN1 1LD

01793 436465

www.waterstones.com

Opening Hours

- Monday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Wednesday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Thursday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Friday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am – 5.30pm
- Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

School uniform donations

We'd be grateful for any outgrown items pupils no longer need.

If they have any of the following in good condition, please consider donating them rather than letting them sit unused.

- Revision guides or set texts
- Maths equipment (e.g. protractors, geometry sets)
- School uniform (blazers, ties, PE kits)
- Bags



Please drop donations off at reception. These resources will directly support our younger pupils.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping our school community thrive.

Warm regards,

Mr Stubbs

Assistant Principal

Pupil Laptops

When pupils are given a school laptop to use at home, please ensure the software and antivirus are updated by turning the laptop on weekly.

Please return the laptop to the school reception or IT office if it is no longer in use at home so that it can be distributed to pupils who now need a device.

If you're experiencing any problems with the laptop at home, please let us know.



IT Support



Safeguarding information

At Abbey Park we are committed to ensuring a culture of safeguarding in our school and it is paramount in all we do. We hope that our termly safeguarding update will give you an overview of our approach, offer some useful guidance and information and inform you of what your child is learning in school about how to keep themselves safe. For more information about safeguarding, please look at our website:

What does Safeguarding look like at Abbey Park?

At Abbey Park School we follow the Government policy document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This is statutory guidance for all schools in England to follow and comply with. It has recently been updated and therefore our safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect this. You can find this on our safeguarding section on the school website. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in making sure that children grow up having the best life chances. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all adults should make sure their approach puts the child at the centre of the decision making and that the best interests of the child are always considered. We believe that it is in the best interest of our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school. Our safeguarding themes are woven into lessons across the curriculum, into assemblies and throughout daily life in school. Here are just a few examples of how we teach safeguarding at Abbey Park:

- Dedicated safeguarding team in school every day
- Pastoral support for each year group.
- Pastoral Support Assistants who have specialist training in supporting a child in their social and emotional needs
- Members of staff who have completed basic mental health training
- Mental health pupil ambassadors
- Mental health staff ambassadors
- A dedicated mental health lead – Mrs Stevens
- Wellbeing Wednesday each Wednesday Tutor time looking at how to look after mental health
- Assemblies and lessons taught throughout the year, including but not extensively, anti-bullying, equality, diversity, fire, sun, children's safety, exploitation, sexual harassment and violence and online safety.
- PHSE curriculum covering how to be healthy, having healthy relationships and developing emotional literacy
- Online safety curriculum
- RSE (Relationships and sex education) curriculum
- Weekly tutor time reminders about staying safe in school and our expectations

If you need any support with your child, please contact a member of the safeguarding Team.

Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Kara Stevens



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs Lorraine Hatcliffe



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Ms Vanessa Redondo



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead:
Miss Stacey Prince



Food bank and Boxes of Hope

We understand that times are incredibly challenging for many families right now, and making choices between essentials like food and electricity is a reality no one should have to face. Please know you're not alone, and there is support available. If you're finding things difficult, our Pastoral team is here to help—whether it's referring you to the local food bank or accessing a Box of Hope to ease the pressure. You only need to ask, and we'll do everything we can to support you with care and confidentiality.

Contact details and circumstances – please keep us up to date!

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact details for every parent/carer. If you change your phone number, e-mail or move house, please let the admin team know or update it on Arbor. We also need at least two emergency contacts for your child. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. We also ask that you keep us up to date with any changes in your personal circumstances that may impact your child. Please see below the contact details of the safeguarding team.

Mrs Stevens: stevensk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Mrs Hatcliffe: hatcliffel@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Redondo: redondov@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Miss Prince: princes@abbeyparkschool.org.uk

Contact details:

Please can we ask that you ensure the school has at least two contact details in case of an emergency. Unless there is a court order saying differently both parents should be listed on the contacts. This can be done on Arbor.



Useful contacts:

'Contact Swindon' has changed its name and is now known as Children and Families Contact Swindon. If you have concerns about a child and want to speak to a social worker, family services worker without going through school please call - 01793 464646

If you have concerns that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999

School Nursing team – for support to help children with their physical, mental and emotional well-being and referring to other specialist agencies.

Tel – 01793 465050 or email snn@swindon.gov.uk

Online safety guidance for parents - <https://>



Assembly and PSHE this term

At Abbey Park School all pupils attend Assemblies and PSHE sessions each week.

During term 4 pupils have had the following assemblies: APS Proud to Learn, World Book Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Safeguarding - CSE, Heads of House.

During PSHE this term pupils have been learning about the following topics:

Year 7	Living in the Wider World: CEIAG
Year 8	Drugs & Alcohol education
Year 9	Rights & Responsibilities
Year 10	CEIAG: Living in the Wider World – Employability Skills
Year 11	Health & Wellbeing: Mental Health

Social care or external agency involvement

A polite request to keep the Pastoral team updated if your child is receiving support from social services or any external agencies. This will enable us to ensure the right support is given at the right time.

Special guardianship orders or unofficial care givers

Just a reminder to keep the school updated if a child is under a Special guardianship order or unofficial care placement to ensure they receive any support needed.

Attendance matters:

Research shows that there is a direct link between good attendance to school and better outcomes for young adults.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance please contact your Child's Head of Key stage, PSA or Miss Anstee for support.

First aid

Just a reminder that we can only offer first aid in school. We are not able to treat pre-existing conditions as we are only first aiders.

Paracetamol – we will not issue any paracetamol to pupils during P5 to ensure pupils do not take another dose at home.



Abbey Park School Attendance Ladder



Safeguarding information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportharmfulcontent.com.

TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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hutchingsc@abbeyparkschool.org.uk if
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Term 5 Curriculum Map

'Potential into Performance'

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	Play: Shakespeare Introduction	Non-fiction: Travel and Culture	Play: Romeo and Juliet	Literature and Context: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Revision for Mocks/ Retrieval and Consolidation
Maths	Conceptualising and comparing fractions Manipulating and calculating fractions	Bearings, Angles in polygons & Circles	Percentages, Surds & Indices	Higher: Data & Further algebra and graphs Foundation: Multiplicative reasoning and Plans, elevations & 3D shapes
Science	Reproduction & Inheritance Ecology	Bioenergetics	B2 Organisation	P5 Forces B7 Ecology
MFL	Spanish: Mi Ciudad French: En ville	Spanish: Operación Verano French: Le sport en direct	Spanish: Una Aventura en Madrid French: Le monde Francophone	Spanish: ¡A clase! French: Numéro vacances
Humanities	History unit: History of India (History and RE Buddhism focus)	History unit: World War One Philosophical Thinking: War and Peace	Geography: Hydrology History: Making of Modern Britain Philosophical Thinking: Denominations	Geography: Physical Landscape of UK History: Nazi control and dictatorship & Life in Nazi Germany Philosophical Thinking: Religion and life Sociology: The Sociology of Education
Business & Computing	Scratch Block Programming	Minecraft Education	Python Programming Business Project	Business: 1.5 Understanding external influences on business (partly) & Mock paper preparation Computing: 3.4 Computer Systems and 3.2 Programming
Design Technology (DT)	PD - Farm to Fork & reading task	PD - Abbey Park of 2050 branding & reading task	PD - Key Designers & reading task	D&T: Theory: Specialist technical principles. Design strategies and modelling. Communication of ideas. FPN: 3.4 food safety
Visual Arts	Portraits	Niki de Saint Phalle Nana Sculptures	Clay Monsters	VA: Identity Photography: Circles
Performing Arts	Drama: Evacuees Music: Gamelan	Drama: "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾" Music: Remix	Drama: Horror Music: Film Music	Drama: Devising Music: Practicing previous topics through listening activities
PE	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket	Athletics, Rounders, Cricket	Rounders, Dodgeball, Basketball, Cricket, Table Tennis, Rounders CNAT: R185 Topic 4- Review of Planning & Leading/ R186-Media in Sport GCSE: Paper 1- Applying the principles of training/Preventing injury in physical activity
PSHE	Health & Wellbeing: Relationships (RSE)	CEIAG: Community and careers	Drugs Education – Global Impact	Debate SoW - Citizenship

Contact details and consents

Having up-to-date contact information enables us to communicate with you promptly in the unlikely event of an emergency school closure during the day. This ensures that we can communicate effectively and keep you informed of any urgent developments. Please also take a moment to review the contact details and consents we have recorded for you on the Arbor Parent Portal are correct.

If your circumstances have changed and your child can no longer go home by themselves in event of an emergency school closure, you can update the consent accordingly on Arbor.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Y11 exams

All Y11 pupils need to be available for exams on Inset Days

Easter Holidays - Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

Monday 13th April	All years return to school
Monday 20th April	Y11 Year Group Photo (period 1)
Tuesday 21st April	TRIP: Gloucestershire University - Y10 x 11
Wednesday 29th April	EVENT: UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) (year 7 & 8 x 70) TRIP: Y10 TPAT Masterclass EVENING EVENT: Battlefields parent info evening - 5pm
Friday 1st May	TRIP: We the Curious, Bristol - Y8 x 60
Friday 8th May	EVENT: Y9 Careers Day
Monday 11th - Friday 15th May	EVENT: Wellbeing Week
Friday 15th - Sunday 17th May	EVENT: Duke of Edinburgh (Silver) practice
Tuesday 19th May	EVENT: Character Champion Pizza Party
Wednesday 20th May	EVENT: Young Carer May Party TPAT LC 1.05-3.10pm
Thursday 21st May	EVENING EVENT: APS has got Talent - 6pm start

Spring Break - Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June - Inset Day

Tuesday 2nd June - All years return to school

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Y11 exams

All Y11 pupils need to be available for exams on Inset Days



Abbey Park School
Terms and Holidays 2025 - 2026



August 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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29	30					

July 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

INSET Days 1st and 2nd September, 20th and 21st November, 23rd February, 1st June, 20th July

Lunchtime Finish 19th December and 17th July

Bank Holidays 2025/26 UK

25 August '25	August Bank Holiday	1 January '26	New Year's Day	4 May '26	Early May Bank Holiday
25 December '25	Christmas Day	3 April '26	Good Friday	25 May '26	Spring Bank Holiday
26 December '25	Boxing Day	6 April '26	Easter Monday		

Our full calendar and more information can be found at www.abbeyparkschool.org.uk