

Abbeyfield News



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

A huge congratulations to the following pupils for their outstanding achievements.

Elise Sankey: National finalist for UK Pupil Library Assistant of the Year

Zachary Green: Winner of the Best Young Actor (Under 18) of the Year at the Somerset Fellowship of Drama

Year 12 pupils: Completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition, spending 4 days on Exmoor, being fully self-sufficient

Year 10 Boys Football Team: Winners of the North Wiltshire League and the Mid Wilts Finals, beating Kingdown

Year 12 Rocket Club: reaching the National Finals.

Headteacher News

Welcome to our new Newsletter! I hope you find the format appealing and enjoy reading the many highlights from Abbeyfield over the past academic year. Future newsletters will be published on a termly basis. We are always keen to hear from parents, so please do share your feedback on this new format. Additionally, please continue to follow our school's social media platforms to stay up-to-date with all the exciting things happening at Abbeyfield.

We encourage you to share any achievements your child has outside of school with their tutor so we can celebrate them too!

On another note, the process of academisation is continuing to progress smoothly. We remain on track for conversion on 1st September and are working closely with the Trust, King's Lodge, and Charter to ensure a seamless transition.

As many of you may be aware, there is growing concern nationally about student absence rates. Research highlights the serious long-term effects poor attendance can have on young people's futures. Students with an attendance rate of 95% or higher are twice as likely to achieve success at GCSE. As a school, we will continue to monitor attendance and reach out to parents if concerns arise. Engaging with us will help us provide the additional support needed through the Educational Welfare Service. Evidence shows that, if unaddressed, attendance tends to decline as students progress through the school, and we are committed to ensuring this does not happen. If contacted, please take the opportunity to work with us to improve your child's attendance - it's all for their benefit.

Kind regards,
Mr. Norgrove, Headteacher



Raising Standards Leader



Year 7 have now been at Abbeyfield for 4 terms. They are clearly settling into secondary school life and the new routines.



This term I will be looking for some Year 7 students to step up as mentors when we have the Year 5 taster days and the new year 7's for September coming to visit Abbeyfield. I am looking for students who may also wish to help with Summer School for the new Year 7's 11-15th August.

Students and their tutors participated well when we went to Go Ape as part of their team building activity in September. Clearly some felt out of their comfort zone but still had a go completing the various routes up in the trees. Students also engaged well with the team games with their feet firmly on the ground! With some demonstrating an extremely competitive element.

Some students participated in a Science trip 'We the Curious' and others went on the Maths trip to Wincanton with all reporting to having an enjoyable time.

They have engaged well with their lessons, and I was particularly impressed with the lamps they created in Design Technology.

I have also been pleased to see students engaging with after school clubs such as gardening club that started this term, chess club and the fitness suite is still immensely popular.

More recently we had a workshop on keeping safe when using social media. This is workshop we run each year to ensure students are more aware when using any devices and well informed to make the right choices.



Last term we presented awards to students who have achieved the various milestones:

150 house points for their bronze certificate / 300 house points for silver / 500 house points for gold / 750 house points for platinum / 1000 house points for diamond certificate and one student has reached this milestone with several others who are not far off. The following tutor groups have amassed many house points between them:
7CAS 15800 | 7MXP 15178 | 7GVC 14962
7WLC 14152 | 7LSH 12043

The Year 7 team took great delight in presenting these awards.

Raising Standards Leader



A group of Year 8 students have been lucky enough to work with Mighty girls who are working in Wiltshire secondary schools to promote positive, respectful relationships and help young people – particularly girls and young women – feel heard and safer.

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Based on feedback from the year group and direction from our volunteers both male and female, they came up with an initiative of positive pockets.

The main aim was for students to find positive affirmations hidden around the school, once found they collected a crossword on positive relationships which they could complete in order to be entered into a prize draw to win one of our vouchers provided by mighty girls. We saw a positive take up from 6th form to Year 7.

It has brought joy across our community and something our young people would like to continue to raise awareness of.



Year 9 River Dart Residential Trip 2025

We have also launched our Year 9 River Dart residential trip 2025. We will depart Monday 13th October and return 17th October 2025. This week-long residential trip offers students a wide range of outdoor activities whilst developing their team building skills.

They will also build upon their resilience and independence in a new and adventurous environment. The programme is yet to be confirmed but will include activities such as kayaking, canoeing, climbing, abseiling, orienteering, high ropes course, zip wires, raft building and many more.

This provides an exciting opportunity for our students to grow as a year group, outside of the classroom.

Raising Standards Leader

To date we have seen significant achievement and progress for our year group. Several key milestones have been reached, marking both academic and personal growth for our students.



YR 9 River Dart Residential Trip

Although The River Dart Residential trip was attended towards the end of term one, this is an opportunity to share what a huge success it was. It provided our students with a valuable opportunity for hands-on learning, teamwork, and personal development. The trip was a highlight for many, with students showing great enthusiasm and resilience while participating in outdoor activities that challenged both their physical and mental limits. The experience fostered a strong sense of camaraderie among the students, and feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive.

GCSE Options Selection

Students have now made their GCSE subject choices, which will be finalised in the coming term. This is an important step in their academic journey, and it's been encouraging to see students approach the process with maturity and thoughtfulness. Teachers have supported students through this decision-making process, ensuring they are well-informed about the subjects on offer and their potential future pathways.

Set For Success Programme

A number of our YR 9 students have also been lucky enough to be taking part in the inspirational Set for Success programme this term and next, lead by Mrs Pierce. The Set for Success Programme aims to empower students to take control of their learning, develop practical skills for success, and build a growth mindset. The programme also promotes emotional well-being, helping students manage challenges effectively, while inspiring them to set and achieve both short- and long-term goals. Students have been working closely with Amelia Coltman who was 3rd in the European championship for Skeleton in March of this year!



Amelia Coltman: Brit confident of 'mixing it with skeleton's best' – BBC Sport. As part of this programme they have the opportunity to attend a trip to the University of Bath, using the Team Bath Push Track and working with Skeleton athlete Amelia Coltman and the GB coach. Additional to this, they can attend an Empowerment Day at Swindon Town Football Club. Both will be a fantastic experience for the students involved.

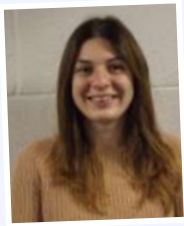
Rewards Assembly

In the final week of term 4, our assembly was focused on rewarding positive behaviours at school, including attendance and house points achieved. As part of the assembly, tutors nominated and shared a student of the term each;

- 9RCM – Henry Wright for always doing the right thing. He is punctual, polite and follows the Abbeyfield way. He is one of the top pings scorers in the group and hasn't had a pong all year.
- 9ASH – Tabitha Caygill – for quietly getting on and doing her best in every lesson and situation. Working hard to be successful in all lessons.
- 9TJS – Harry Dylla – For always being the best he can be in all lessons and for consistently working hard to achieve his goals.
- 9NXH – Amberly Pryce. For always having a mature approach to all aspects of her education. One of our highest house points achievers in 9NXH.
- 9NCR – Katherine Lyons. Always on time, always helpful, always a pleasure. One of the top pingers.
- 9JME – Jayden Nguyen Tran. An all-round brilliant student and young person, who works consistently hard.

Overall, this year so far has seen significant progress, with students thriving in a variety of experiences.

Raising Standards Leader



As we reflect on a successful year so far, it would only be right to highlight some of our Year 10's amazing achievements!

Our Year 10 Boys Football Team have triumphed in the North Wilts Football Cup and also League finals! Please turn to the Sports Report on **P25** to find out just how well they did. Our Sports Ambassadors have, as always, been outstanding in what will be some of their last contributions before the realities of GCSEs begin.

We have also seen successes amongst our Year 10s beyond the school gates with Zach Green awarded Best Young Actor 18 and Under by the Somerset Fellowship of Drama and Emily Freeth winning the Ladies Championship for her role in the Devizes and District Motor Club, whilst other students have taken part and won competitions in everything from synchronised swimming to rally car racing.

Please keep sending in these lovely achievements as it is always wonderful to hear what the students are getting up to outside of school – they are a talented bunch!



As we look ahead, it's important to remember that work experience is fast approaching. All Year 10 students are required to take part in what should be a really exciting opportunity and complete the forms required by Friday 23rd May 2025. Thank you to those who have completed this already, if not, please use the QR code or ask your child to grab a paper copy from the pastoral office. If you are struggling to find a placement, please email your child's tutor and we will help.



Looking Ahead

In the past few weeks, students have also been preparing for their mock exams, which have been taking place from April 24th to May 7th. As always, exam timetables and subject exam boards are available on EduLink, and all relevant revision resources can be found on ClassCharts. I

It's essential that students take the time to revise thoroughly and approach these exams with confidence.

Congratulations to all Year 10 students for their hard work this year so far!

Raising Standards Leader

It is frankly unbelievable how quickly this year has zipped by! From the first major milestone of the November mocks to the final March 'mini' mock, we've packed in a lot. We also saw students take part in the Maximize Your Potential workshop, getting insights and practical revision tips from Jeremy Dry.



The Year Book team have been working tirelessly to get individual and group photos taken and get the final design completed – thanks to everyone who voted on the cover design, we hope you'll love the final product.

The recent bake sale, organised and run by an amazing team of volunteers, raised over £200 to go towards Prom/Yearbook costs, with the pot being split down the middle.

Summer Exams

We're gearing up for the final run-in to the summer exams, which are now mere weeks away. In assemblies I've talked to Year 11 students about two key concepts that can help in the next few weeks; obligation v's opportunity and marginal gains.

Marginal gains is about making small changes and tweaks to optimise performance; perhaps changing up your routine to build better habits or taking on board and acting on teacher feedback to get those extra couple of marks to push you on to the next level.

Obligation v's opportunity is the idea that there are some things we just have to do sometimes, no matter how mundane or even unpleasant they may be, but we can change our mindset and choose to turn these into opportunities; e.g. household chores might mean we can listen to music or a podcast as we go, or walking the dog is a great way to say look after your wellbeing and physical health.

Exams are the same; we have to do them, so view them as an opportunity to show off what you've learnt. You've got this!



Fitness Suite Member Of The Term

Recently, we presented four students with their Fitness Suite Member of the Term Awards! 🏆

These students have been attending our after-school fitness clubs regularly since they launched last September. The award recognises, and celebrates, students' commitment, effort, teamwork, positive attitude, and resilience, in their fitness journeys. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching the progress that these students have made so far – their confidence, progress, technique, and enthusiasm, have all improved, and their efforts have had a positive effect on those around them. 💪

We have fitness clubs running from 3.15–4.15pm, every day of the week:

Monday – Year 7

Tuesday – Year 10/11/12

Wednesday – Year 8/9

Thursday – Year 10/11/12

Friday – Girls only – All Year groups.

We look forward to presenting more of these awards over the remaining terms, so why not come along and see if you can be the next Member of the Term?!



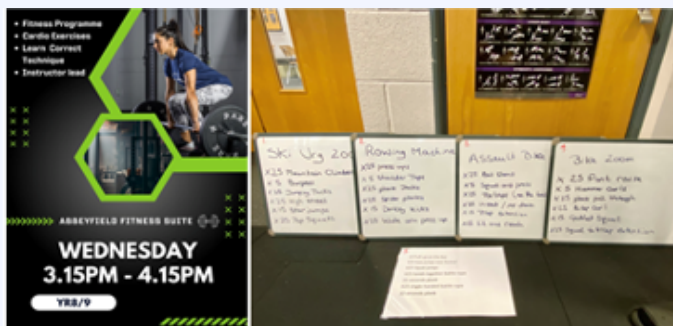
Year 7 Fitness Club Cash Out Week

Year 7's are working themselves to their limits on Monday evenings! Most recently, it was all about pushing yourself and giving it your best. In one session, students worked flat out for 3 minutes per station, before they had just one minute to recover and rotate.

With a mix of cardio, and strength based activities, everyone was sure of a full-body workout. The TRX Suspension Trainer, allowed students to use their own bodyweight and gravity to get really low into a squat, building strength, balance, and endurance.



Year 8 & 9 Fitness Club Accumulator Week



We've had more fantastic fitness sessions with Year 8 and 9! Recently, students had the freedom to choose from a selection of activities, completing one task from each board on their first circuit, two activities from each board on their second circuit, and three activities from each board on their third circuit. A high energy, progressive workout, to build endurance!

As if that wasn't enough, they finished off with a plank, and box jump, challenge. Our plank challenge winner was thrilled with his time – a new club record! 🏆 Will he be able to beat it next time, or will someone else steal the crown? 🏰

If you haven't been along yet, it's not too late! Why not come and give it a try? Wednesdays, 3.15 – 4.15pm. Don't forget to bring your PE kit and water bottle. We look forward to seeing you there! 💪



Making Waves With Our First Ever Virtual Rowing Team!

We are so proud of our students who took part in our school's first ever virtual rowing competition, competing against six local secondary schools! The event, held in our fitness suite, showcased not only their physical strength but also their incredible teamwork and communication skills.

Using our brand new rowing machine, our students showed determination and great support for each other and their competitors. The event organiser even praised our team for being a truly supportive and community focused group, making the occasion an absolute pleasure to be part of.

This was a landmark event as it marked the first schools virtual rowing competition and we are thrilled to have been part of it!

Well done to all our rowers for their hard work, sportsmanship, and team spirit. You've done us proud!



Big News For Our Sports Enrichment Team!

They recently received their official hooded tops and t-shirts, proudly representing their senior roles.

A huge thank you to "Sporting Billy" for these amazing pieces—we absolutely love them! These tops not only look fantastic but also symbolise the leadership and commitment these students bring to our school community.



International Women's Day At Abbeyfield



To celebrate #InternationalWomensDay, we hosted an epic House Competition, bringing fun, energy, and a bit of friendly rivalry to the pitch!

We were lucky to have the incredible Isabel Wilkins join us, showcasing her record-breaking freestyle football skills and inspiring everyone with her talent!

The House Competition is always a highlight—full of team spirit, exciting challenges, and lots of laughs—and this year was no exception! A huge well done to everyone who took part and made it such a fantastic event!

Thank you, Isabel, for making the day even more special!

Lucia – The Face And Voice Of Girls' Football

We are beyond proud to share that our very own Lucia is the face and voice of a brand new video campaign, launched recently to celebrate International Women's Day!

Lucia's passion for girls' football and the incredible work she does to inspire the next generation has been captured in a powerful video, showcasing what it means to be a Game Changer in women's sport.

The full video was released on Friday 7th March, and we couldn't be prouder to see one of our own leading the way in growing the game.

Lucia – you are an inspiration to us all, and we know this is only the beginning of your journey 🙌⚽

<https://we.tl/t-pShYYemlHi>



#LetGirlsPlay #GameChanger
#IWD2024 #AbbeyfieldProud

The Biggest Ever Girls' Football Event In Wiltshire

The day was packed with excitement as the girls took part in:

⚽ **Match play** – competitive games showcasing teamwork and skill.

🎯 **Skills & drills** – developing their technique and confidence on the ball.

★ **Freestyle football** – an incredible session with record-breaking freestyle footballer Isabel Wilkins, who wowed everyone with her amazing tricks!

What An Unforgettable Day!

Over 400 girls came together for our biggest ever girls' football event, making it one of the largest girls' football events in Wiltshire!

We Were Also Joined By Wiltshire's Game Makers.

Inspiring the next generation of players and showing them how football can open doors to so many opportunities!

This was more than just an event—it was a celebration of the power of girls in sport! Who's ready for next year?! 🙌⚽★



A special moment of the day was launching our brand-new Abbeyfield girls' football kit, designed by Sporting Billy, and celebrating our Pledge Wall, where girls committed to staying active and playing more football! 🏆🌟



A huge thank you to 'Apple A Day' for sponsoring our new football kit and supporting the growth of girls' football! 💙

Celebrating Inclusion In Sports

Recently, some of our students had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Youth Sport Trust Wiltshire Inclusion Event run by Rachel Bown, working alongside the amazing para-athlete and Sports Presenter Kate Grey!

The day was all about promoting inclusivity in sports and exploring how we can create environments where everyone feels valued and supported. Through engaging activities and inspiring discussions, our students learned how to adapt sports for individuals with diverse needs and gained a deeper understanding of teamwork, empathy, and resilience.

Kate Grey's powerful message about the importance of inclusivity left a lasting impression on everyone.



We are so proud of our students for their enthusiasm and dedication. They represented our school beautifully and took away some truly meaningful lessons that will impact not just their sporting journeys but their lives as a whole.

A huge thank you to the Youth Sport Trust, Kate Grey and Rachel Bown for such an inspiring day!

Congratulations - First Aid Trained



Congratulations to Our Year 12 Sports Ambassadors and Sports Enrichment Coordinators!

A huge well done to our amazing Year 12 team who have all achieved their First Aid Qualification! This important milestone complements their roles with the Youth Sport Trust, where they continue to shine by:

- Supporting events and sports clubs
- Engaging with the local community
- Leading and inspiring others in the world of sport

A massive thank you to our active partner @WASP for making this happen – your support is invaluable!

Your dedication and hard work make such a positive impact – keep up the fantastic work!

Dance Festival Celebration

What an incredible time at our Dance Festival! 🎵🌟 This event was all about inclusion, energy, and fun, bringing together people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to celebrate movement and joy through dance.

We were thrilled to welcome students from 15 local primary schools, local secondary schools, and Silverwood Special Needs Community School, making this a truly inclusive event for everyone! ❤️



A huge thank you to our amazing Sports Ambassadors, who helped create such a welcoming and exciting atmosphere! 🙌 Their enthusiasm and dedication ensured that everyone felt part of the experience, no matter their ability or confidence level.

This festival would not have been possible without the incredible support of WASP (Wiltshire and Swindon Sport) and Apple A Day. 🍏💙 Your dedication to promoting physical activity and inclusion has helped us bring this event to life and make a real difference in our community.

This festival proves that dance is for everyone – no matter your skill level, it's all about having fun, being active, and moving together! 🥰🎉



She Can Be Active. What A Term!



What an incredible time it's been in the fitness suite with our "She Can Be Active" sessions! The Chippenham community has truly embraced the journey, and it's been amazing to see so many women and girls coming together, supporting each other, and growing in confidence. 💪🌟

This group has been nothing short of brilliant—empowering, inspiring, and full of energy! So many friendships have been made, and the progress has been fantastic to watch.

A huge thank you to our amazing active partner @wasp for helping make this happen! Keep an eye out for the next round—you won't want to miss it! 👁️



She Can Be Active Football

Abbeyfield School is thrilled to support the She Can Be Active Football initiative, empowering women and girls in our community to embrace football and stay active!

Join us every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM for our women and girls Recreational Football Sessions. These sessions are perfect for all skill levels, whether you're new to the game or looking to get back into it. It's a fantastic opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and enjoy the beautiful game in a supportive environment.

No prior experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm, £3.50 and a pair of comfortable shoes! Let's come together, break barriers, and show that She Can Be Active!

For more information and to stay updated on upcoming sessions, visit the [She Can Be Active Chippenham Facebook page](#)

See you on the pitch! ⚽🎉



Official Opening Of Stanley Park's New 3G Pitch



We're thrilled to share that Abbeyfield School had the incredible opportunity to be part of the official opening of Stanley Park's brand new 3G pitch!

This is a huge moment for grassroots football in our community, and we're especially proud of how this links with our commitment to growing girls' football.

With our biggest ever girls' football event and ongoing initiatives to inspire young players, this new pitch will provide even more opportunities for our students to play, develop, and enjoy the game.

A huge thank you to Stanley Park for inviting us to be part of this special day. We can't wait to see the impact this pitch will have on football in our area!

Attendance Matters!



Attendance really does matter! Regular school attendance is crucial for any child's academic success and overall development. The Department for Education (DfE) emphasises that consistent attendance enables students to fully engage with the curriculum, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop essential social skills.

Attainment-Attendance Link

Research on the link between attainment and attendance has demonstrated that, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school).

It's also important to understand what the different percentage bands mean as a total of missed time in school over the academic year; the table below shows the impact of this.

Attendance Band	Number of Lessons	Range of days missed	Range of weeks missed
95 - 100%	0 - 48	0 - 9.5	0 - 1.9
90 - 95%	48 - 95	9.5 - 19	1.9 - 3.8
85 - 90%	95 - 143	19 - 28.5	3.8 - 5.7
80 - 85%	143 - 190	28.5 - 38	5.7 - 7.6 (approximate a term)

Poor Attendance - Future Low Earnings Link

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education - it can impact future earnings too. Persistently absent pupils (below 90%) in secondary school could earn a minimum of £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with high attendance.

We know that good attendance leads to good outcomes and bright futures for our children here at Abbeyfield. We want to continue to work with you to support your child's learning journey and to prioritise regular school attendance. If there are any barriers that may impact your child's consistent attendance, please do get in contact with the pastoral team for further support.

Celebrating Good Attendance

It is always good to have healthy competition amongst tutor groups and below are the top three tutor groups attendance year to date.

Congratulations to the top three tutor groups as their attendance is well above the national average; they will all receive rewards in the last week of Term 4.

In addition to this High Attendance, 100% Attendance and Improving Attendance Letters will be sent out to students who have achieved this standard.

Attendance Challenge

Good attendance continues to be one of our top priorities here at Abbeyfield School and we will continue to strive to ensure all children attend school all, of the time.

It is important for us to remind our community of how we challenge a fall in attendance.

- If a student's absence falls below 95% their tutor will speak with them to understand and support them in moving back up to the 95-100% band.

- If there is a continued decline in which the attendance falls below 90%, the student is in the persistent absence category and we are duty bound to inform parents/carers of this. Parents carers will be contacted for a School Attendance Meeting in which the absence/s can be discussed and support can be offered to help improve the attendance.
- Please note that further absence below 90% will no longer be authorised.
- The school will monitor this for the next two weeks. If there is a further decline or no significant improvement we will contact parents again for a School Attendance Review Meeting.
- Beyond this, if absence continues the school will then refer to the Education Welfare Service for further support.

If and when a student's attendance begins to improve the school will monitor this increase until they are working above and beyond the school average of 95%.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and hope that this overview is helpful to understand the impact of poor attendance and the role we all play in ensuring our children can access learning in school for a better future.

Mr Cutler
Deputy Head

Top 3 Tutor Groups Attendance Year to Date

	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
	Tutor	Ave %	Tutor	Ave %	Tutor	Ave %	Tutor	Ave %	Tutor	Ave %
1st	7LSH	96.4	8LDS	94.73	9TJS	95.02	10AGR	96.13	11JNB	96.09
2nd	7GVC	96.25	8LXS	94.54	9ASH	94.09	10JLJ	93.56	11PJG	93.29
3rd	7MXP	95.79	8ECC	92.67	9NXH	93.56	10CJS	92.77	11ELP	92.03

Pupil Premium At Abbeyfield

The Pupil Premium is a form of funding provided by the UK government to schools in England to help improve the academic outcomes of disadvantaged pupils. It is intended to reduce the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their peers by providing additional financial resources that schools can use to support these pupils.

Who Qualifies For Pupil Premium?

Secondary schools receive Pupil Premium funding for students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- **Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM):** Students who are currently eligible for FSM or have been eligible at any point in the last six years (this is known as the "Ever 6 FSM").
- **Looked After Children (LAC):** Students who are currently in local authority care or have been in care at any point.
- **Children Adopted from Care or Under Special Guardianship:** This includes children adopted from care or those under a guardianship or residence order.
- **Service Children:** Students who have a parent serving in the armed forces or who have had a parent serve in the past six years.

If you have any questions regarding pupil premium, then please do not hesitate in emailing Mrs Edwards (left) on jme@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk or Mrs Farrell (right) on jmf@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk.



All year 10 pupil premium students have been given subject specific revision books to help them with their revision for their mocks. These are valuable resources, so please make sure students are using them wisely.

We have supported academic trips, enrichment activities, reading programmes and are now working hard on ensuring the offering for PP students in the next academic year will ensure every child who qualifies from PP can get the best support both pastorally and academically.

Attendance Counts.

It has been on the news lately about the importance of attendance. As we head nearer to the exam period, I would like to remind all pupil premium students the importance of attending all your lessons.

This is a crucial time, and 100% attendance makes a significant difference to overall attainment. If you are struggling to get your child into school, please email Mrs Edwards or Mrs Farrell to get support.

The FUEL Programme

The FUEL Programme is a bespoke provision for school-aged children from reception to year 11 who receive benefit-related free school meals. Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to eligible pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits and have a claim verified by their school or local authority.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/3833/FUEL-programme>



TeenTalk – Counselling And Support For Children And Young People

TeenTalk provides a confidential counselling service to young people aged from 10 to 25 within North and West Wiltshire.

<https://teentalk.org.uk>



Wiltshire Children And Young People Emotional Wellbeing Service

Our team of experienced emotional wellbeing professionals supports children and young people who face emotional health issues. Providing support, advice, and practical tips, we aim to help transform young people's lives and face the challenges of emotional health difficulties.

This website gives you a parent or carer and young people access to plenty of helpful advice and support with facing and understanding emotional health issues. We also provide many activities and therapy options for children and young people in Wiltshire who have developed emotional health difficulties including group work, community activities, and counselling.

We understand that sometimes you may need help and support, and we are here for you. As a parent/carer or young person, you can reach out to us through our single-point access. Our team is here to provide you with the necessary support and a listening ear. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

<https://www.onyourmind.org.uk>



Anna Freud

Anna Freud is a world-leading mental health charity for children and families. Our mission is to close the gap in wellbeing and mental health by advancing, translating, delivering and sharing the best science and practice with everyone who impacts the lives of children and families.

Resources for under fives, children and young people and families: <https://www.annafreud.org>



Wiltshire Parent Carer Council

The WPCC is Wiltshire's Parent Carer Forum that represents and supports parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 resident in Wiltshire.

https://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Home_Page



Adolescence – Links To Misogyny And The Meaning Of 'Dark Emojis'

Richard Pomfrett from The Stay Safe Initiative, who we have worked very closely with over the last few years, has very kindly shared with us a overview into the meanings of 'Dark Emojis' that were referenced in the recent Netflix tv series.

Whilst this obviously must be taken into context, we think it is important to share the possible potential meanings of these emojis with our parents.

Emojis have evolved beyond simple pictograms, often serving as coded language among youth.

To help everyone, www.boyz-2-men.org.uk have created a short glossary. Before reading on, context is everything here, all of the below can be used in multiple ways, and do NOT always signify harm or concern.



Sexting And Sexual References:

- 🍆 (Eggplant): male genitalia
- 🍑 (Peach): buttocks
- 🍒 (Cherries): breasts or testicles
- 💧 (Sweat Droplets): sexual arousal or ejaculation
- 👅 (Tongue): Suggests oral sex

Drug-Related Emojis:

- 🔪 (Plug): Refers to a drug dealer
- 🌿 / 🍁 / 🍃 (Herb/Maple/Leaves): Marijuana
- 💊 (Pill): General drug ref or prescription pills
- ❄️ (Snowflake): Cocaine
- 🏔️ (Snow-Capped Mountain): Cocaine
- 🐎 (Horse): Ketamine
- 🎈 (Balloon): Nitrous oxide (laughing gas)
- 🍄 (Mushroom): Psilocybin mushrooms (hallucinogens).
- 🚀 (Rocket): High potency drugs.

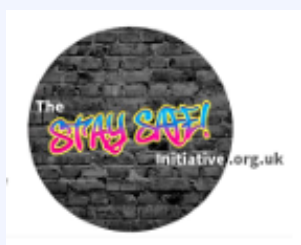
Incel and Radicalisation Emojis:

💊 (Red Pill): Represents adopting beliefs associated with the "manosphere," often linked to misogynistic ideologies.

💣 (Dynamite): Signifies an "exploding red pill," indicating extreme incel views.

100 (Red 100): Refers to the "80/20 rule," a belief that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men, used within incel communities.

🫘 (Kidney beans): Used to self-identify as an incel.



Colored Heart Emojis:

❤️ (Red Heart): Love or deep affection.

💜 (Purple Heart): Signifies sexual attraction or a casual relationship.

💛 (Yellow Heart): Indicates friendship or a platonic interest.

💖 (Pink Heart): Represents a crush or infatuation without sexual intent.

🧡 (Orange Heart): Offers reassurance or support. Other Notable Emojis:

🤡 (Clown Face): Used to label someone as foolish or to indicate self-deprecation.

👁️ (Eyes): Suggests the desire to see nude images or indicates being watched.

💀 (Skull): Can denote something dangerous or deadly, sometimes used in drug contexts.

👻 (Ghost): May refer to someone who is elusive or has disappeared from communication.

Important Considerations:

Context Matters: The meaning of an emoji can vary based on the conversation. It's essential to consider the surrounding text and the relationship between the individuals communicating.

Evolving Language: Emoji meanings can change over time and may differ across communities. Staying informed about current trends is vital.

Open Communication: Engage in discussions with children and teenagers about their online interactions. Creating an environment where they feel comfortable sharing can help in understanding their digital language.

Upcoming Courses




Art & Photography Portrait Workshop

TUESDAY 27TH MAY
BRADFORD ON AVON
9.30 - 3.30 AGE 8-11 £39

- Plan & Take Part in Your Own Photoshoot
- Create Monoprints & Collages of your Photos to Take Home
- Develop Creative Skills, Build Confidence, Challenge Body Image Stereotypes & Explore Healthy Friendships.

A Fun, Creative Day to Celebrate You!

Further details visit www.mightygirls.co.uk

Partially funded by: Working in partnership with **Wiltshire Council**





Self Defence half day workshop

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY
TROWBRIDGE
1.30PM - 4.30PM. AGE 11-18
COST £25

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

www.mightygirls.co.uk or QR Code to book

The club is offered at a discounted rate for all & free to some thanks to the support from: Working in partnership with **Wiltshire Council**



Duke Of Edinburgh Award

Duke Of Edinburgh Gold Award



Year 12

Three Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award teams completed their practice expeditions on Exmoor over the weekend of 21st to-24th March. The students were able to practice their teamwork, navigation and campcraft skills. After they have recovered the students will start their preparations for their qualifying expedition in July. We were all grateful to have good weather!

Year 13

A number of our Year 13 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award students are now completing the final section of their award and will then be waiting for their invitation to Buckingham Palace as part of the celebration of their achievements. Well done to all involved. To achieve the award takes determination and commitment and is a highly regarded achievement.



Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award



Year 10 Update

We currently have 30 Year 10 students working hard towards earning their Bronze DofE Award. Outside of school the students are working towards their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections of the award – we have a wide range of activities students are taking part in, such as baking, drawing, young leader with a local cub pack, working in a charity shop, football training and gymnastics.

In our school based DofE sessions we are busy planning for our practice expedition which will take place in May – students have been working on their map reading and route planning skills, have learnt how to put up tents (some more successfully than others!), use a gas stove to cook their dinner and we have discussed some basic first aid they may need out on expedition. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us when we are out on expedition!

Current Year 9s – please keep an eye on emails towards the end of Term 5 as I will be sending out more information on what taking part in DofE involves, and how students can sign up to take part in the programme when they are in Year 10.



Trampoline Club

Year 8 girls have been working on their trampoline skills after school this term. They've mastered new skills such as swivel hips, front drops, back drops and somersaults. They've also been performing sequences linking the skills together. Well done to all the girls for their commitment and great progress made.



Year 11 Netball

The Year 11 netball team had their final games of their school years last term. They had two closely matched games against Hardenhuish and Corsham with only one goal between teams in the end. Then a tougher game against Sheldon where they had lots of club players, but they showed great resilience and team spirit. The camaraderie between local schools was lovely to see and the standard of netball was really high.

Special well done to Emily Rains who was nominated as player of match by the other teams and also for being a great captain over the years. Also thank you to Phoebe Sage and Sophia Beatie in Year 10 for stepping up to play for the Year 11's. The girls were treated to a trip to McDonalds on the way home to celebrate five great years together as a netball team. It's been a pleasure working with them!

Year 7 Girls' Football

Year 7 Girls Triangular Tournament - Abbeyfield vs Sheldon and Corsham

A fantastic evening of football with great performances from all our players who took part! The girls showcased determination, teamwork, and skill throughout both matches and are improving with every game. Players of the Match were Bella Gregory and Quinn, with a special mention to Ava Rose and Bella Gregory for some phenomenal saves in goal, keeping us in the game when it mattered most! Well-done, team – your commitment to training every Monday, hard work and effort shone through!



Year 7 Boys' Football

Abbeyfield School is thrilled to support the She Can Be Active Football initiative, empowering women and girls in our community to embrace football and stay active!

Join us every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM for our women and girls Recreational Football Sessions. These sessions are perfect for all skill levels, whether you're new to the game or looking to get back into it. It's a fantastic opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and enjoy the beautiful game in a supportive environment.

No prior experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm, £3.50 and a pair of comfortable shoes! Let's come together, break barriers, and show that She Can Be Active!

For more information and to stay updated on upcoming sessions, visit the [She Can Be Active Chippenham Facebook page](#)

See you on the pitch! ⚽🌸

Year 8 & 9 Boys' Football



Abbeyfield School is thrilled to support the She Can Be Active Football initiative, empowering women and girls in our community to embrace football and stay active!

Join us every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM for our women and girls Recreational Football Sessions. These sessions are perfect for all skill levels, whether you're new to the game or looking to get back into it. It's a fantastic opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and enjoy the beautiful game in a supportive environment.

No prior experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm, £3.50 and a pair of comfortable shoes! Let's come together, break barriers, and show that She Can Be Active!

For more information and to stay updated on upcoming sessions, visit the [She Can Be Active Chippenham Facebook page](#)

See you on the pitch! ⚽🎉

Year 10 Boys' Football

The Year 10 Boys' Football Team Are The North Wiltshire Champions!



This year, Abbeyfield School were drawn in a league group alongside Corsham, Sheldon and Devizes.

The season started with a fixture away to Corsham School on Wednesday 12th February. Abbeyfield dominated this game from the start and showed some quality football that we all knew they were capable of. The game finished in a convincing 7-0 win.

Next up was Sheldon. A local derby, played on the brand new 3G pitch over the road at Stanley Park. The boys were confident from the start, despite this being against one of our local rivals, but the boys raced into a 5-1 lead at half-time. We took our foot off the gas at the start of the second half and let Sheldon right back into the game. They were back to 5-4 win the first 15 minutes of the second half. Thankfully, the boys dusted themselves off and settled down and began to play some much better football, running out comfortable 9-5 winners at the end. Mr T found himself with a few more grey hairs, but was pleased with the final result.

The final game in the league was against Devizes School. The boys were aware of how the other results had gone in the group, so we were guaranteed a semi-final place. However, this game was to decide who topped the group and who came second, so it was important to put in a good performance.

From the start, it was clear that this was going to be a much tighter game than the two previous game we had played. Both teams played out a great game of football, with the final result being a 2-2 draw.

Unfortunately, this meant that Devizes topped the group, on goal difference and would therefore have the 'easier' semi-final, against Kingsbury Green Academy. We were up against League one winners, Malmesbury.

The semi-finals were played at Beversbrook on Wednesday 19th March. Abbeyfield started the game strongly, and had several good opportunities to take the lead, but a good goalkeeper kept us a bay. It was only a matter of time though, and we took the lead and never looked back. Malmesbury couldn't handle our intensity or quality at the top of the field, and we strolled into the final with a comfortable 3-0 win.

The final, again played at Beversbrook, took place on Wednesday 26th March. It was no major surprise to see us up against Devizes again. Clearly, the best two teams had made it through to the final.

This time, we started slowly, and maybe nerves and the occasion got the best of us. We could and perhaps should have been 2-0 down inside the first 3 minutes. However, our dogged defence and a little bit of luck, kept the game at 0-0 and we grew into the game. Unfortunately though, a slight bit of hesitation just before half-time meant we went into the break 1-0 down.

We were still very much in the game, and knew that we were the better team, we just had to believe in ourselves and take our chances. They were bound to come, and they did. A penalty kick and a wonderful finish, just two minutes from time sent the whole team and the spectators into jubilation.

Year 10 Boys' Football Continued...

The team weren't finished there though! As North Wiltshire Champions, the boys then went on to the Mid-Wiltshire Finals on Wednesday 30th April and...

THEY DID IT!!!!

On the hottest day of the year so far, the Year 10 Boys Football team won the double and became the North Wiltshire and Cup Champions.

Playing on the number 1 pitch at Beversbrook against Kingdown School, our Year 10 boy's football team played their socks off. With temperatures in the high 20s the boys played some superb football and, despite going 1-0 down to an early penalty, they dominated and created plenty of chances. Early on in the second half, our continuous pressure paid off and an own goal was quickly followed by a penalty that put us 2-1 up. Kingdown continued to battle and although they didn't have many chances, they took the ones they created and were soon back on level terms. Another quick counter attack put us 3-2 up before Kingdown levelled again. With just one minute to go, we had to defend deep, and an online goal clearance meant the game would go to penalties.

Our penalty takers held their nerve, slotting each one home whilst the Kingdown 'keeper had his penalty saved by our shot stopper T. Hobson. Kingdown therefore had to score their 4th penalty to stay in the game and victory was ours when the kick went wide. The celebrations began!

Thank you to all staff and parents/carers who have supported the boys this year!

An incredible achievement boys! We are very proud of you all!

Undefeated and North Wiltshire and Cup Champions – 2025!



House Updates

Our four houses continue to go from strength to strength with more competitions, student and staff involvement and thousands of house points awarded. In January, we hosted a retro gaming tournament to raise money for our house charities.

Nearly 30 students from the four houses battled it out playing Street Fighter until Elijah in Year 9 emerged as the ultimate winner. We were amazed at how good students were at a game made decades before they were born! All that training on Fortnite must have paid off... A staff vs students tournament is earmarked for later in the year.

Also, a congratulations to 10CJS who won the competition for best tutor board with their creative design, well done!

The House standings at the end of Term 4 were:

- 1) **Wilson**
- 2) **Brunel**
- 3) **Elizabeth**
- 4) **Talbot**

Recently we had a non-uniform day and bake sale to raise money for Comic Relief. This, along with the money raised for our four house charities (Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Dorothy House, Teenage Cancer Trust and British Heart Foundation) shows us once again the generosity of the Abbeyfield community towards these deserving causes.

You will have no doubt heard about the recent phone amnesty. Well done to the students who proved they could go without a phone for the day - it wasn't so bad after all! We have had positive feedback from students and parents about this and discussions have started about holding another one later in the year.

As we near exams for Year 13, the student leadership teams hand over to Year 12. Congratulations to all of our promoted Sixth Formers and a huge congratulations to Erin Hiscock and Natalia Urbaniak who will take up their posts as our two new Head Students. Sophie Marchant was appointed as Deputy Head Student - Pastoral and Lara Paddon was appointed as Deputy Head Student - House system. Well done all.

ELIZABETH Head of House: Mr Roadhouse	WILSON Head of House: Mr Pinnell	BRUNEL: Head of House: Mr Russell	TALBOT: Head of House: Mrs Lee
SENIOR STUDENT HOUSE LEADERS Neve Jackson	SENIOR STUDENT HOUSE LEADERS: Hannah Lannigan	SENIOR STUDENT HOUSE LEADERS: Umar Farooq Hayden Prewer	SENIOR STUDENT HOUSE LEADERS: Sam Balloch

School Reports Explained!

Each academic year, parents and students will receive three reports – two interim and one progress.

Interim Reports

Each academic year, parents and students will receive three reports – two interim and one progress.

Interim reports are designed to give parents a general overview of their child's academic progress. Comments are only added to interim reports against subjects where a student's progress is T- (under target).

The comment is intended to give clear and explicit advice about what your child needs to do in order to get their progress back on track quickly. Comments are not added for T (on target), or T+ (exceeding target) subjects, however, generalised comments are always provided on how your child can best develop further outside the lesson and how they can support their learning further.

A comment on your child's progress in every subject regardless of progress grade will be made on the Progress Report.

Progress Reports

In the progress reports, comments are added for every student in every subject studied as we feel strongly that each child deserves individual feedback on their progress and attitude in each subject.

The comment is intended to give clear and explicit advice about what your child needs to do in order to progress. In addition, the additional, generalised comments are provided on how your child can best develop further outside the lesson and how they can support their learning further.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress in any of their subjects or their progress in general, please contact their tutor or relevant subject teacher in the first instance.

This can be done via email abc@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk where 'abc' is replaced by the teacher's initials. The initials of the teacher can be found on the report under the subject name.

Reports Schedule For The Rest Of The Year

Year Group	Report Type	Month
7	Progress	June
8	Interim	July
9	Interim	June
10	Progress	June
12	Interim	May

Revision Tips

Exam Season – Tips For Parents And Students

Create A Realistic Schedule:

- Encourage students to plan their revision time, allocating specific periods for each subject and task.
- Emphasize the importance of balancing revision with other activities and downtime.
- Suggest using a planner or calendar to stay organised.

Break Down Tasks:

- Advise students to divide large topics into smaller, manageable chunks.
- This helps prevent feeling overwhelmed and makes revision more achievable.

Use Active Recall Techniques:

- Encourage students to test themselves regularly, rather than passively rereading notes.
- Suggest using flashcards, practice questions, or teaching the material to someone else.

Focus On Areas Of Difficulty:

- Advise students to identify their weak areas and dedicate extra time to those topics.
- Suggest seeking help from teachers or classmates when struggling with specific concepts.

Prioritize Self-Care:

- Remind students that good mental and physical health is crucial for effective revision.
- Encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, and sufficient sleep.
- Advise students to take breaks and engage in activities they enjoy to reduce stress.

Stay Organised:

- Encourage students to keep their revision materials organised and easily accessible.
- Suggest using folders, binders, or digital tools to store notes and resources.

Seek Help When Needed:

- Reassure students that it's okay to ask for help if they are struggling.
- Provide information about available resources, such as tutoring services or study groups.

Positive Mindset:

- Encourage students to maintain a positive attitude and believe in their ability to succeed.
- Remind them that revision is a process, and it's okay to make mistakes.

Take Breaks:

- Encourage students to take regular breaks during revision sessions to prevent burnout and maintain focus.
- Suggest short walks, listening to music, or engaging in a hobby during breaks.

Review And Reflect:

- Encourage students to review their revision materials regularly and reflect on their progress.
- Suggest identifying areas where they need to focus more attention and adjust their revision plan accordingly.
- Please see the link below for more information:

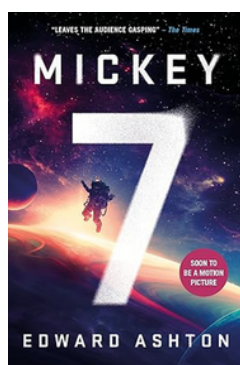
<https://giveusashout.org/search/?q=exams>

We wish all of our students the best of luck in the build up to their exams. If they require any further support, please direct them to their tutor, Pastoral leader or Raising Standards Leader.

Exciting Read & Books

Middle Grade - Years 7 & 8

In **The First Year** by **Matt Goodfellow**, eleven-year-old Nate has just finished Primary School and is facing a bright future after a tough final year. With his brother recovering from a serious heart condition and support from his family, Nate is ready to start Secondary School with his best friends. However, as he navigates new friendships, a strict teacher, and his old enemy Turner, an unexpected event threatens to disrupt his life. As Nate struggles to control his anger, known as The Beast, he must find a way to hold his family together.



Adult & 6th Form

In **Mickey7** by **Edward Ashton**, Mickey7 is an "Expendable" — a disposable crew member on a human mission to colonise the ice planet Niflheim. Whenever a mission is too dangerous, Mickey is sent in, with his body regenerated and most of his memories intact after each death. After six iterations, Mickey7 understands the grim nature of his role and why it was the only position left unfilled. However, when he goes missing and is presumed dead, Mickey8 takes his place, setting off a chain of events that leads to even greater challenges.

Check out the new Abbeyfield School LR's & Literacy Newsletter:

<https://sites.google.com/view/abbeyfieldlrc/abbeyfield-lrc-literacy-newsletter>



Advanced Readers - Years 9 To 11

In **All Better Now** by **Neal Shusterman**, a deadly virus spreads, but those who survive it experience unexpected long-term effects: complete contentment. As people embrace this newfound happiness, those in power fear the collapse of productivity and business, leading to campaigns against the virus. While the race for a vaccine intensifies, a growing movement of "Recoverees" aims to spread the virus further, believing it will save the world. Three teens, each from different backgrounds, find themselves at the heart of a conflict that could alter humanity's future forever.



Meet The Governors

Being A Governor At Abbeyfield

I began my career in education as a Biology teacher in Surrey and took on a number of roles including being a Head of Year for 300 students before becoming a Deputy Headteacher in a large secondary school in Bristol. Moving to work in the education department at Wiltshire Council provided me with the opportunity to reconnect with Wiltshire schools as I grew up and went to school in Chippenham.

I now work part-time as an education consultant, and this gives me some time for voluntary work. I became a governor at Abbeyfield in 2022 and currently am the link governor for SEND and with a fellow governor, the link for the quality of education. With the national and school priority on improving student attendance the Governing Board decided to create a new role – so I have also picked up attendance.

No longer working in a school, one of my reasons for becoming a governor was to keep connected with the reality of school life. I think the knowledge and expertise I have gained during my career helps with many aspects of my role as a governor especially when meeting staff. However, the best part of my role is engaging with students, and I have thoroughly enjoyed sitting in the audience for concerts, productions and awards evenings seeing them excel.



Liz Banister

Vacancies

Please see below for a list of our current vacancies:

Examination Invigilators

No close date

For more information on this role, please follow the following link to the vacancies section on our website:

<https://www.abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk/vacancies>

Alternatively, please call us on **01249 464500** or email us at **contact@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk**