



The Abbey



# Gateway

26 March 2021

'Banksy' Break In? - Alumna of The Week - Cricket Star

## 'Dream On' production by Upper II



Lights, camera, action! Preparing for a school production is often a lengthy and time-consuming process, so imagine trying to pull one together inside three weeks. The magnificent Upper II students achieved just that with this week's production of 'Dream On' - a modern day adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

With costume and character changes aplenty, the production showcased the fabulous acting, dancing and singing skills of the entire year group. Miss Pinchbeck, Mrs Mackworth-Praed, Mrs Yendley-Johnson, Mrs Shepherd, Miss Steele and Mrs Adams worked tirelessly with the students since their return at the beginning of the month to put together the show.

Well done to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.



## Heads: Connected



### On reflection

Since the first lockdown began a year ago in 2020, and as the nation reflects on the collective loss of this pandemic over the past twelve months, we came together as a school community this week to pause and think.

Our minds turned to supporting those who have been bereaved, and to be thankful for those critical workers who, early on, put their lives in jeopardy and worked tirelessly day after day for our health, our transport, our food and our security.

[Read more](#)

## BAFTA Shortlist

You may remember reading about Mrs Cornford's short animation where she wrote the music being nominated for a BAFTA.

Great news - this piece, 'The Fire Next Time' has now been shortlisted, and the results will be announced on Sunday 11 April.

<https://www.bafta.org/film/awards/2021-nominations-winners#british-short-animation>

Fingers crossed, and good luck.

For weekly events and reminders, please go to your [My School Portal account](#)

This week's Heads Connected: [On Reflection](#) by Nisha Kaura



## Baroness Brigstocke Public Speaking Competition

The Junior and Senior Baroness Brigstocke Public Speaking competitions were held in School on Tuesday 23 March. They were judged by Mr le Fleming and Miss Butler, who were both very impressed by the high standard of performance, especially as the students had so little time to rehearse in school rather than on the screen.

The Upper III teams performed in front of their year group. The winners were Emily and Hannah, representing Carrington House. The runners-up were Matilda and Isabella, representing Ducat.

The Lower V competition was held after school for members of the Public Speaking Club. Four teams took part and the winning team members were Devanshi, Harriet and Amelia. Devanshi and Amelia also won the awards for the Best



*The Winning Team from Carrington - Hannah and Emily with the judges*

Chairperson and Questioner, and Anna won the award for the Best Speaker.

Congratulations to all of those who took part in the competitions this year.

**Ms Quant**

## Cricket star

Madeleine in Lower III (Year 6) has been playing at Wargrave Cricket Club since Upper I (Year 4). She's a great advocate for this increasingly popular game amongst girls.

"Cricket is a fun sport, that's inclusive and as soon as I started playing I knew I liked it" Madeleine declares. The Abbey now has cricket on the curriculum throughout the School, and has a noteworthy former pupil in Claire Taylor who represented England more than 150 times, who has been back to speak and share her experiences.

Madeleine would love to see more of her friends & other Abbey girls joining clubs too. Wargrave is a strong club, which is keen to recruit girls from the junior and senior age groups. Starting with softball, the coach, who Madeleine obviously admires, can quickly get the older girls up to the standard for hardball matches.

Madeleine enjoys the training, "which is fun and relaxed", as well as matches, which in comparison, "are competitive, and exciting". Playing cricket has also helped Madeleine's strength for throwing events in athletics and rounders.

Before lockdown, she regularly played in boys' teams and although she would rather there were always enough girls of her age she's not deterred and feels confident in facing the bowler and showing him she's no pushover! Madeleine obviously loves the sport and intends to go far with it. She is enjoying developing

her skills and is looking forward to training restarting straight after the Easter weekend.



There are other local clubs with girls teams such as Henley, Kidmore End, Binfield and Warfield, and having previously written about coming out of lockdown being the perfect opportunity to branch out and try a new sport - what have you got to lose? Madeleine is definitely keen to play more girls' matches, so come on down to Wargrave Cricket Club if you'd like to give it a go – they need you.

**Mrs Orr**

## Virtual Race Across The Alps



Rosa in Lower Prep was thrilled this week to receive her medal for completing a virtual Race Across The Alps Marathon.

She did this in just five stages within two weeks, which included two 6.22 mile (10km) runs.

What started as an activity "to be with Mummy" and boost her mental health during lockdown has become a sport she enjoys and intends to keep up.

**Rosa, Lower Prep**

## Alumna of the Week: Lydia Murphy (2010)

BBC Countryfile recently visited and featured Colne Valley Regional Park on their show. The Presenter Charlotte Smith met up with the River Manager and Lydia Murphy (2010), Wetlands Officer for two back-to-back days of filming. So what Lydia has been doing since leaving The Abbey?

### 1. When did you leave The Abbey and what are you doing now?

I left the Abbey in 2010. My main interests at school were natural history and music, so I ended up doing my undergraduate degree in Music, and then an MSc in Conservation Science.

My first job was monitoring flows in rivers in East Anglia – who knew you could be paid to wear a pair of waders and stand in a river?! I've moved around a bit job-wise – after the rivers I did a spell at an international NGO, then moved back to my first love of British natural history and worked as an ecologist for a couple of years. Again, being paid to grub around in the undergrowth looking for badgers is my idea of a good deal.

Currently I work at Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, where I work with anglers helping them to manage their fishing sites to be better for wildlife.

This harks back to the subject of my MSc dissertation, where I worked with gamekeepers in Aberdeenshire to help them manage forests for red squirrels and pine martens. I really enjoy working with these guys – they are not seen as conservation managers in the traditional sense, but they and the Wildlife Trusts

have more in common than we have differences to divide us.

### 2. What do you miss the most about The Abbey?

I have very fond memories of my time at the Abbey. There was a really lovely sense of community and togetherness which I remember being a wrench to leave. But I needn't have worried, over 10 years on and with everyone having disappeared off to opposite ends of the country (in some cases the world), you can still meet up for a reunion and it's like you were in a classroom together yesterday.

### 3. What would you say is your biggest achievement?

In the summer I did my MSc dissertation in Aberdeenshire, I set up a folk group with a few locals and we ended up playing gigs in pubs and even recording an album.

Evenings playing folk music followed by early mornings tracking red squirrels and capturing footage of pine martens on camera traps, all in the fantastic setting of the Cairngorms, felt like a perfect marriage of my interests!

### 4. What advice would you give to current students?

For anyone interested in getting into a career in conservation, more important than having the right degree is getting practical experience.

Aside from that being the key thing employers look for on CVs in this sector, getting started early with volunteering and gaining practical experience through volunteering gives you the opportunity to



Photo courtesy of Frieda Rummenhohl, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

work out what it is you're most interested in and suited to.

Some roles are completely desk-based, some you are more likely to see real mice than computer mice. There is something for everyone, but it's important to work out where you fit in.

And some general advice - the current education system assumes that by the time you're 18 or 21, you know exactly what you want to do.

This is true for some people, but for the majority of us who aren't sure, don't panic. You have your whole life to work out how to fit in everything you are interested in.

## 'Banksy' break-in?



This week in Lower I, students have been learning all about the artwork created by Banksy and using similar techniques to re-create his work.

Shortly after the Art lesson, with Mrs Munton, Banksy artwork appeared around the School overnight leading to many wondering who the School's Banksy might be.

Sophia and Mayowa both enjoyed learning the stenciling and painting techniques which Banksy would use "obviously we didn't use spray paint, but sponging the paint is similar."

Lower I have enjoyed seeing the other students around School discuss who they think might have done it. Let's hope that these Banksy look-a-like paintings don't get visited by Team Robbo!

Mr Gunbie



## Inquiring about Materials

This week Lower Prep students have been inquiring about Materials.

Understanding how different materials react with water was of great interest to these inquisitive minds. Lara, Jojo & Kanvika commented, "We have been thinking and learning about materials that are waterproof, or not. The fabric we tested didn't work - it protects you but not for long."

Mrs Yeo

## Lower IV German students hand paint Easter eggs

The Easter hare or "Osterhase" came early to Lower IV German students this week as they followed the age-old "Osterstrauch" (Easter bough or bouquet) tradition.

Germans decorate their houses for Easter each year by hanging hand-painted eggs on vases of spring branches or twigs in bud.



Painted or dyed hard-boiled eggs regularly feature for breakfast in German homes on Easter Sunday and hens eggs are almost as likely to be the treasure in Easter egg hunts in gardens across Germany as chocolate eggs.

After appropriate health and safety instructions, Lower IV were invited to blow out eggs (at home) ready to paint (or decorate with felt-tips) in School.

Plastic eggs were also provided as a back-up,

but we were keen to keep the environmental impact to a minimum. The resulting Osterstrauch looks amazing and will be on display in the Senior School Reception. We look forward to seeing pictures of any Osterstrauch which students make at home over the Easter holidays.

Student also learnt you can't have two classes of Abbey students make an Osterstrauch without breaking eggs.

**Mrs Seabrook Moore**

## Globe Theatre Cake



Here is my cake that I baked in the shape of the Globe Theatre for my homework.

It is a chocolate cake with vanilla buttercream covered in white fondant. I made the timber framing of the theatre with brown fondant.

The roof is made out of milk chocolate and shredded wheat to look like thatch. I wish that you could taste it!

As you can see in one of the pictures, the playmobil people inside are rehearsing a play.

**Nona, Lower III**

## Be Inspired by Gloria Steinem

*Be inspired!*

Aptly referred to as the "Mother of Feminism," Gloria Steinem led the women's liberation movements throughout the '60s and '70s—and continues to do so today. Co-founder of the feminist themed Ms. Magazine and several female groups that changed the face of feminism including Women's Action Alliance, National Women's Political Caucus, Women's Media Center and more. All of her efforts led to her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and in 2013 she was honored with the USA Presidential Medal of Freedom.