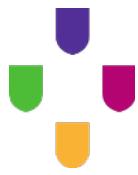




The Abbey

Gateway

18 June 2021



Athletics Success - Lollipop Land - Upper VI History Trip

Nursery visits Little Street

On Monday, the Nursery pupils had a wonderful time travelling by minibus to Little Street in Frimley.

The Little Street venue is a scaled down version of a typical town and provides a little world for big imaginations.

The children loved visiting the different role play areas, including a supermarket, construction site, police station, theatre and vets, and many chose to dress up before getting into character.

We even had some superheroes saving the day.



Heads: Connected

[Take a walk in my shoes](#)

Cambridge Dictionary's definition of the noun Empathy is "the ability to share someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation".

Through our morning assemblies in the Junior School, we have been reflecting upon why empathy matters. With impressive clarity, our students express how empathy is one of the most important aspects of creating strong relationships, as well as reducing stress and enhancing emotional awareness.

[Read more](#)

Textile Cushions



This year, Upper IV have been inspired by the textiles artists Bisa Butler, Craig Redman and Karl Maier.

They have created personal portrait pieces using applique and block printing techniques to produce these colourful, creative cushions.

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

This week's Heads Connected: [Take a walk in my shoes](#) by Nisha Kaura



UV German Cookery Lesson

As part of the preparation for the Sixth Form studies, the Upper V (Year 11) German students have been studying the topic of food.

This week, they went to the food room to learn to cook Kaiserschmarrn - an Austrian dish named after Emperor Franz Joseph.

They also made two sauces and everyone agreed that Kaiserschmarrn tastes lecker! (Yummy).

As a result, we think the students could now enter the German version of The Great British Bake Off - das große Backen.

Frau Byrne



Lollipop Land



Reception have been on a musical adventure to Lollipop Land this week.

After learning the song, 'An Old Man Lives In Lollipop Land', Yasmeen was inspired to draw a picture of Lollipop Land at home.

We used Yasmeen's picture, along with some inspiration from Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, to explore instrumental sounds to reflect the colourful images of Lollipop Land. The students had great fun investigating their ideas and next week, we are going to listen to their performances to discuss what works well when you compose music about a land full of sweets.

Building a Computer

Over the last week, our current Lower VI (year 12) and Upper V (Year 11) Computer Scientists have been given the opportunity to build a computer.

Lower VI completed this during lesson time and Upper V were invited to attend as part of their post-GCSE enrichment activities - we had a great turnout.

Each stage of the build was discussed and demonstrated by Mr Brown from IT and Mrs Hitchings from Computer Science, and then students selected the hardware

required and successfully built their computers from the constituent parts.

They were then able to turn on and see their computers running. Students thoroughly enjoyed taking part and who knows... maybe they will go on to build their next home PC.

Mrs Hitchings



Athletics Success

Congratulations to Izzy and Carys in Upper IV (Year 9) who competed at the recent Berkshire Schools Track and Field Championships.

They did superbly against some of the best athletes in the county.

Carys ran a tough and fast 1500m and was awarded with a new personal best of 4:58.0 coming 3rd.

Izzy chased down the boys in the 300m also in a new personal best coming 1st and was crowned County Champion.

Well done to both girls on these fantastic results and it was great to see some Athletics in action.



Alumna of the Week: Ceri Leeder (nee Wiles) (1967)

Ceri Leeder (nee Wiles) left The Abbey in 1967. Ceri is an artist and book illustrator and runs Art groups and Exhibitions in North Wales. The photo is of a self portrait that Ceri painted recently.

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

I left the Abbey in 1967 after having been educated there since 1954. Astonishingly, I am in touch with a friend with whom I started in 1954; and still have friends who went through the Junior School at the same time.

Nowadays I am working as an artist in a small village in North Wales. I graduated with a BA in Modern Languages; but succeeded in changing my career path to my first love: Art. I spent the next 40 years teaching Art. This turned out to be, though I hadn't realised it at the time, the very thing I was most suited to do and most good at. During this time I added to my academic qualifications with a BA in Fine Art, and an MA in Art and Archaeology.

Today, I continue with my Art and help run various Art groups, Art Exhibitions etc. in the area. Additionally, I have been a Community Councillor for the last 8 years. The post is made more interesting by the fact that all proceedings are conducted in Welsh, and I have had to learn the language to be able to take part.

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

I miss the rigour of the Abbey. Several teachers did not let us get away with lazy or inaccurate thinking; and I miss those curbs, which, in fact, gave us freedom. Many times, in my subsequent life I have been grateful for the tight rein that was placed upon us in so many areas: learning how to construct a sentence clearly; viewing a painting critically; evaluating a political position and in my case, above all, teaching the value of critical, disciplined observation. At the time, it often felt tedious and pointless, but in fact, we were assimilating techniques for our later lives.

I miss some of my former teachers. They were intelligent, far-seeing, wise and dedicated women; we were privileged to have been taught by them at the Abbey;



and I didn't appreciate it at the time. Equally, I miss those wonderful opportunities for friendship; I am still in contact with several of my old friends, and cherish the enormous fun we had during those seemingly endless years.

3. What would you say is your biggest achievement?

In 1984, I contracted a virus which left me for a while in a wheelchair. I subsequently developed ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) a post viral syndrome with similarities to Long Covid.

I feel that one of my biggest achievements is to have been able to continue working and have a family despite the clamp of this insidious illness.

4. What advice would you give to current students?

I'm pretty certain that a person of my age, 71, has very little useful advice to give to current students. Times are changing quickly and like Generals in a War, you need to be fighting the next war, not the last one.

However, here is a general observation quoted from Bill Bishop's 'The Big Sort', 2008. He insists that we all need to understand that there are lots of people "who aren't just like you. They don't live like you, they don't have families like yours, and they don't think like you. They may not live in your neighbourhood, but this is their country too."

Advice that is, I think, always timely.

Upper VI History Trip

On Friday 11 June, students from Upper VI went to visit the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, with the history department.

We were lucky enough to have Alumna Elizabeth Rowe (1984) as our tour guide. She was highly knowledgeable and we really enjoyed her talk on Benin. The museum is a fascinating one, with a collection of over 500,000 objects, all organised by type, rather than provenance or period, in what they refer to as a 'democracy of things'.

However, the collection we were most interested in was one of the few not organised in this way. In a corner of the first floor gallery, above the museum's seemingly cluttered ground floor - though, upon later inspection, we found each crowded display case to be meticulously labelled and curated - there was a case of objects which proudly displayed, in large letters, the title 'Court Art of Benin'.

We've been studying Benin in our history classes; it was a kingdom in what is now Nigeria, and existed from the 11th century to its annexation by the British in the late 1800s. What happened to its many treasures, or rather what should now be done with them, has become a subject of debate recently. Many items once belonging to Benin are now displayed in museums around the world. The Pitt Rivers Benin case, containing plaques, decorative tusks, and ceremonial



swords, among other important cultural artefacts, is one such display.

Now, the question has arisen of whether these items should be returned.

The Benin case provided an important window through which to view the other items in the museum's collection. The museum is, at its own admission, a collection of objects from Britain's colonial past, and that origin is something that museum staff are currently tackling.

Seeing evidence of this was a cause for reflection during our visit, and led us to consider how museums should deal with historical artefacts taken without the consent of the original owners. We were able to learn more about the histories of other cultures, while still considering how that history should be imparted. This reflection made the trip an incredibly valuable experience.

Emily and Freya, Upper VI

Parent Webinar - 'Reducing Anxiety in Teenagers'

This parent webinar will be taking place on Tuesday 22nd June from 7 - 8.30pm and will be led by Dr Maryhan Baker who is a clinical psychologist specialising in children and young people's wellbeing. The Webinar will be held via zoom and the details are below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87451558835
?pwd=WDdJdIIUekJDRGQ0V29PNZ2WW
RMQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87451558835?pwd=WDdJdIIUekJDRGQ0V29PNZ2WWRMQT09)

Webinar ID: 874 5155 8835

There will be a recording of this webinar available for 30 days for those who may have other commitments.

We look forward to seeing you online.

DofE Awards

Over the past few days the following students have achieved their DofE Awards. Congratulations.

Silver: Amelia Chew

Gold: Amelia Danbury

Be Inspired by Yasmin Ahmed

For Yasmin Ahmed, the media is a strong tool to influence people's minds. Yasmin Ahmed is a senior law student in the University of Hull, a broadcast journalist and digital activist that represents the views of minority women in the media and on panels across the world.

She is making great strides towards diversifying the media in the UK. She is writing on topics concerning inclusive laws for minorities and also about issues minorities face in the sphere of law industry. Since her first university year she has been an author for world-famous newspapers like The Guardian.

Be inspired!